

LETTERS WRITTEN TO THE DEAD.

Great Numbers of Them are Sent—Strange Delusions and Deaths Frequent.

The number of letters written to the dead in the course of a year is enormous. Epistles are sent to people on the assumption that they are still on the earth, whereas they have in fact, passed away. Their 'address,' in official phraseology, is 'unknown' and consequently their correspondence falls into other hands, is sent back to the senders, or is sometimes destroyed in the Returned Letter Office.

A medical man recently told the writer of an exceptional instance of writing letters to the dead. One of his patients, having had a serious illness, cannot now be made to understand that she to whom he was formerly betrothed is deceased. Al though he is otherwise of perfectly sound mind, he writes to her daily, frequently making an appointment for the following morning. At the hour he has named the monomaniac, faultlessly dressed, paces to and fro in the hall, awaiting her coming. Of course, she does not put in an appearance. When he is tired of waiting, he returns to his room with the invariable remark—

'Ah! they are keeping her from me again.'

After that he apparently thinks nothing more about her till night, when he writes to her again. The strange delusion that his lost fiancée is still alive has now possessed him for months, and it will in all probability long continue to do so.

Among the infinitely more common cases in point there are many of a peculiar character. Not long ago a man in needy circumstances received the most welcome of all letters—one from a firm of lawyers announcing a windfall. They had the pleasure to inform him, they wrote that their late client, Mr. So-and-So, had bequeathed to him the sum of £500. Both the lucky legatee and his father—who had died about eight months previously—had been at one time in the service of the testator; so the man had not the slightest suspicion that there was any mistake in this gratifying news. He accordingly returned his house, and in fact, ran into debt to the extent of nearly £100. A little later, however, he had a rude awakening. The legacy was not left to him, but to his father—the Christian name was the same in both cases—and, what was more, it was followed by the qualification, 'if alive.'

Money is not infrequently sent to people long after their death. It is within the writer's personal knowledge that for three or four years a son has received £10 annually intended for his father, now deceased. Whom it comes from is a mystery. The recipient does not know. Every January the postman delivers at the house an envelope containing nothing but a £10 Bank of England note folded in a blank sheet of paper. Strange to say, the postmark on the letter has not yet been twice alike.

In the same way, numbers of men are drawing pensions to which they are not entitled. Practising this swindle recently involved one rascal in an extraordinary imbroglio. Since the death of an ex-soldier a counterpart of himself—he had regularly personated him and received his pension. After this had gone on for twelve months a woman turned up and proclaimed her self to be his wife. The man protested, introducing her to his own lawful spouse. Thereupon she threatened a prosecution for bigamy, an offence which the deceased son of Mars had actually committed.

The upshot was that the fellow was arrested for that crime, and that, on being put on trial, he told a cock-and-bull story, and pleaded guilty. Rather than own he had tricked the War Office he thought it better to avow himself a bigamist! After serving the month's imprisonment to which he was sentenced, he took his own wife under his wing and fled to a distant part of the country. But those who know him intimately believe that he is still "milking" the War Office quarterly.

Great surprises await anybody who reads letters sent to the dead. Some time since a gentleman removed into a house formerly occupied by a mysterious individual of whom very little was known locally. Although he had joined the great majority, the postman kept putting mis sives for him into the new tenant's letter-box. A good deal of the postal packets consisted of prospectuses of new companies, circulars, and so forth. The occupier accordingly got into the habit of opening them, glancing at the contents, and then consigning them to the waste-paper basket. One day he had a severe shock. One epistle addressed to the dead man practically proved that he had committed, or, at least, been a party to, a crime with which the whole country rang many years ago—a crime which is still catalogued among unsolved mysteries. Awkward as was the position of the gentleman, he thought it his duty to communicate with the police. Nothing, however, came of the matter.

Sons at times similarly receive blows on

perusing correspondence addressed to their departed paternal parent. An amazing number of bills, for instance, frequently come to light in these circumstances, though some of them are rendered with a full consciousness that the 'debtor' is dead. In one case a rascally tradesman knew perfectly well that a certain person was no more. Being hard pushed for money, he falsified his books, and then waited patiently in the expectation of seeing an advertisement inviting all who had claims on the deceased man's estate to send in their claims. No such notice, however, was published. So he held his hand for a few months, and then sent in a bill for £11 odd, accompanied by a request for immediate payment. He got the money, too, notwithstanding that his 'creditor' had never at any time owed him a penny. And that there are many precisely similar swindles is beyond doubt.

Lifting the Hat.

The custom of raising the hat had its origin in the days of chivalry when knights never appeared in public except in full armour. When a knight entered a company of friends, he removed his helmet to show that among his friends he was perfectly safe. Helmets have passed away, but the influence shows itself in the lifting of the hat upon meeting friends; though in America, men lift the hat only to ladies.

A TIME OF DANGER!

Thousands in Peril.

Blood and Nervous Troubles Develop Disease.

Paine's Celery Compound. The Great Modern Blood Cleanser and Nerve Builder.

Paine's Celery Compound is the wonder of the age! Its marvellous virtues form themes of discussion amongst interested medical men, and its cures are talked of at every fireside in Canada.

As a spring health-giver Paine's Celery Compound is far beyond competition. Other medicines have been devised by speculators and experimenters to cure the ailments and diseases that Paine's Celery Compound so successfully cures with, but every effort in the direction of deceiving the public has resulted in failure and disaster to the promoters of fraud and deception.

To a large extent the present popularity of Paine's Celery Compound is due to the fact that it has accomplished some of the grandest work in the spring season—a time when men and women usually complain of general ill health, loss of vitality, tired feelings—a time when people feel dull, listless, despondent and aimless. The small ills of life, neglected in the spring season, often beget serious and fatal diseases.

There are thousands of business men, mechanics, farmers, as well as wives and mothers, who, though able to walk around, are nevertheless sadly 'out of health.'

Paine's Celery Compound is the great health restorer and strength-giver for those who are just now perilously near some organic disease.

Paine's Celery Compound quickly and surely removes all impurities from the blood, and gives a fresh circulation power that tones all the organs of digestion.

Paine's Celery Compound, besides producing pure and ruddy blood, will regulate every set of nerves, feed the tissues, and give that true condition of health which makes life worth living.

If you, dear reader, feel that your health is not as robust and vigorous as it should be at this time of the year, let us ask you to make use of that medicine which has given such wonderful and cheering results to others. Be assured that Paine's Celery Compound 'makes sick people well.'

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omeres, has been enabled to estimate the relative values of the different rays. Four hot houses, of red, green, blue and ordinary glass, were built, and vegetables of the same species were cultivated in each. The experiment showed that plants in the red house attained a much greater size than those in the blue house. The light through blue glass stunted the plants, which thrive better under green light, still better under the cheerful chemical influence of red rays, and best of all in white light.

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Montreal's Famous Bridge.

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What a Train of Ailments

Follow in the wake of a stomach that is out of kilter—what a story of suffering can be saved in the timely use of so pleasant and positive a cure for Dyspepsia and Indigestion as Dr. Van Slyke's Pileable Tablets. The pileable is a veritable fountain of vegetable pepsin—Nature's tonic for people out of sorts. One tablet gives quick relief. 35 cents.

High-Friction Oats on Exhibition.

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Suspicious Enthusiasm.

'Was the banquet a success?' 'I guess so; the men all wore each other's overcoats off as souvenirs.'—Detroit Free Press.

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