

Crimes Committed in Sleep.

The recent case of a Paddington hunchback who, when apparently asleep, after attacking his sister, ended his sown life, also when asleep, calls attention to the remarkable condition called somnambulism, or sleep-walking.

In ordinary dreams there is no concentration of ideas upon something to be done or an objective to be reached. When a sleeper makes this mental effort, he passes right out of the region of dreams and enters that of somnambulism.

In this state actions of extraordinary difficulty, such as could not be performed by the sleeper during his waking hours, are carried out with perfect ease. Walking on the extreme edge of a precipice, climbing dangerous heights, getting out of a house through a top-story window, are examples. In such cases the danger is incurred only by the sleeper; but in the type of sleepwalking, instanced above the results may prove tragic to others besides the dreamer.

TRAGIC DREAMS.

Many indeed are the criminal acts, other than suicide, done by men and women sleep-walkers. In the case of the suicide already mentioned, the victim's sleeping thoughts—his dream ideas—were probably wrapped up with the notion of self-destruction after accomplishing a murderous attack on some other being, who, in this case, happened to be his sister.

Thus dreams, merging into those various muscular movements characteristic of somnambulism have produced the most tragic results.

A doctor relates how a man sleeping beside his wife believed that she was a robber whom he must kill. He accordingly attempted to suffocate her with a pillow, and it was only with great difficulty that she succeeded in waking him and so saving her life.

In 1843, a young man was tried for attempted murder of an innkeeper at Lyons. He had arrived at the inn towards nightfall, and was allotted a room. In the dead of night loud cries were heard proceeding from this room, and the landlord, rushing to see what was the matter, was set upon by his guest and so seriously wounded that he died. It was ascertained that the young man was a somnambulist, who had dreamt that the landlord was murdering the occupants of the room near his own, and that he was defending them. He was acquitted.

A case is also recently recorded by Drs. Gray and Ferrier in their "Forensic Medicine." Two men, being in a place infested by robbers, engaged that one should watch while the other slept. But the watcher falling asleep, and dreaming that he was pursued, shot his companion through the heart.

UNCONSCIOUS MOVEMENTS.

These automatic movements, made altogether without the sleeper being in any way conscious of them, are not unlike those occurring in epilepsy, or subsequent to epileptic fits. Such actions are usually the caricatures of some normal movement that is habitual to the sleeper in his waking hours.

It is a caricature inasmuch as it is wanting in some essential element in the normal action. The sleep-walker finding a pen in his hand will go through the movement of writing with it, but will neglect to dip it in the ink, or if he goes through the movement of dipping it in the ink, will not hit the paper, but dip it anywhere.

A woman will go through the movement of sewing, but her needle will not be threaded; or of cutting out, but she will cut her material into useless fragments.

How closely normal and sleep-walking actions resemble one another is shown in the instance of the woman who, in the habit of cutting bread and butter for her children's tea, used a knife while sleep-walking in such a way as to cut her child's arm. The act was proved to have been done automatically; but in another case, in which a woman had thrown her child into the water, the suggestion that the act was done during somnambulism should never have been made; for the act of throwing a child into the water, or even of throwing away a bulky object, is not habitual with anyone.

A terrible case that occurred at Manchester many years ago was that of a devoted mother of three children who was a somnambulist. She had a favorite cat, which had kittens at fairly regular intervals. The duty of drowning these unwanted animals devolved on the woman. The mother was exceedingly fond of her two little boys and girl, whose ages ranged from six months to four years.

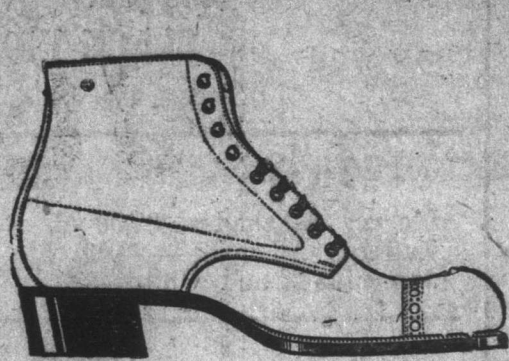
One night her husband awoke suddenly, and missing his wife, guessing that she had had another of her sleep walking attacks, made a search for her.

He discovered her in the scullery, where, in a large tub full of water, two of the younger children had already been drowned in their sleep, while the eldest was being held under the water and was all but dead. The latter was resuscitated.

Equally tragic was the case of the wealthy Englishman, who, in the early eighties took his bride to Las Vegas for their honeymoon. Amongst

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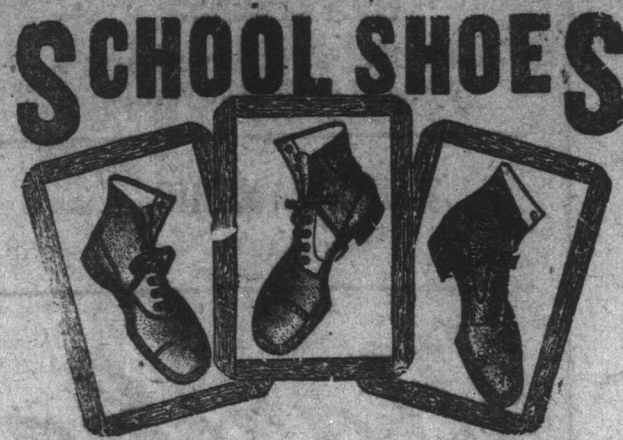


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his gifts to her had been a rich pearl necklace, with a somewhat complicated clasp.

During the fortnight they had been putting this necklace round her neck and clasping it every evening when she donned her dinner dress. It was just a little whim of his. Unfortunately, he was an occasional sleep-walker. Getting up one night while she slept after a fatiguing expedition into the mountains, and picking up, as he thought, the pearl necklace, the husband placed it round his wife's neck as she lay asleep, fastening the clasp with some difficulty.

What he actually did, as a matter of fact, was to pick up a narrow strap, used to fasten some guide-books, and quickly encircled her neck with it, buckling it so tightly and so suddenly that his bride, unable to cry out, was strangled where she lay. At the trial it was proved that the bridegroom had been a somnambulist from boyhood, and that it had lately been a habit of his to fix the necklace as described.

DANGERS OF SUDDEN AWAKENINGS.

Dr. Charcot, of La Salpetriere, Paris, records the case of the ship's riveter with whom his wife was wont to hold conversations while he slept (for he was a somnambulist, or sleep-walker as well as a sleep-talker), and one of his somnambulist trips, trips, dreaming that he was at work, attacked his wife with a hammer which, unfortunately lay handy, fatally fracturing her skull.

If a person be suddenly aroused from a deep sleep—somnolence, or sleep-drunkenness—he may unconsciously commit a crime. If a person be suddenly aroused whilst

dreaming, he may, and as a matter of experience, does, commit acts, the outcome of his dream, which unless the possibility of this condition be realized, may entail severe punishment on him.

Such a case occurred at Edinburgh some years ago, when a harmless and inoffensive old man, found asleep in a public park was roused by a policeman, whom the dreamer immediately attacked with the utmost fury and fatally stabbed with a clasp-knife. Medical evidence was forthcoming of the attacker's sleep-walking habit, and an acquittal followed.

Ocean-Beds Paved With Gold.

Gold, silver and precious stones, valuable enough, could they be found, to pay off Great Britain's national debt, and Canada's as well, lie sunken beneath the waters of the ocean or buried below the surface of the

little islands that stud the Southern Seas.

The treasure lies in the holds of sunken Spanish galleons, great ships that from the days of Queen Elizabeth sailed every year from South America to Spain bearing the almost fabulous booty captured from the Aztecs of Mexico and the Incas of Peru.

In "The Book of Buried Treasure," by Ralph D. Paine, we are told that in Vigo Bay lies "the greatest treasure ever lost since the world began." Here, in 1702, a fleet of British and Dutch vessels destroyed a number of Plate ships, which went to the bottom carrying with them nearly \$125,000,000 worth of gold.

In Tobermory Bay is the Florencia, known to have carried \$30,000,000 worth of gold; and in Mount's Bay, Cornwall, there is the Saint Andrew, a treasure ship which carried "blocks of silver bullion, silver vessels and plates, precious stones, brooches and chains of gold, cloth of Arras, tapestry, satin, velvet, and four suits of armor for the King of Portugal."

But if you think of going on a treasure-hunting expedition, it is a pirate gold that will attract you most, and there are millions upon millions of dollars' worth of it awaiting discovery.

The buccanniers of old harried the great ships of France and Spain, and collected from them amazing stores of wealth. And when Britain and other Powers set about clearing the seas of pirates, these rovers buried their treasures and ran for it. Many of them were hanged at the "Pirates' Dock" in Wapping, London, and in

most cases their secrets died with them.

Cocos Island alone is known to be the hiding place of twelve million dollars' worth of gold and silver booty. Then there is Trinidad, off Brazil, where repose the vast booty of sea-rovers who plundered the richest cities of America. Dozens of expeditions have sailed there and dug in vain. Some day, perhaps, the key to the mystery will be found, and those who hit upon it will become possessed of wealth beyond all dreams.

THE MANDARIN'S HOARD.

Another vast hoard waiting for the pick and shovel of the searcher is that of the Chinese mandarin, Chan Lee Suey, who fled when the British captured Manila in 1762, having first buried his incalculable treasure. It lies at Luzon, in the Philippine Islands.

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lands, and the directions we have say that it is concealed "near Calumpit in the swamps of the Rio Grande." In its glittering store are magnificent jewels, including a string of pearls said to be the finest ever seen.

In the Salvage Islands, south of Madeira, is hidden a vast store of gold and silver in great iron-bound chests. We are told that the hoard is guarded by the skeleton of a sea captain, with a dagger-blade through his heart.

On the island of Diego Alvarez we know even the place where digging should be done, for the booty of bygone days lies close to Church Rock, at the western end of the island. Hundreds have searched but in vain.

During the war German submarines sent many millions of dollars' worth of gold to the bottom, and there it lies despite all efforts to recover it. The seas around the British islands are almost paved with gold.

Women Who Hunt Big Game.

Although big game shooting is really a man's game, presupposing a sound constitution, iron nerves, fearlessness, and all those other qualities requisite in the prosecution of an arduous sport, there are many women who think nothing of its rigors, its discomforts, and drawbacks, and, having once tasted of its thrills and delights, remain unsatisfied.

Among English enthusiasts for this fascinating sport is the Countess of Sifton, Lady Sifton, who is a really good rifle shot, has frequently accompanied her husband, an ex-Master of the Horse, on big game shooting expeditions, on one of which two lions, a tiger, a rhinoceros were included in her bag.

Another expert rifle shot is Lady Indiana Gordon, who last winter went out to Nairobi on a big game shooting expedition in British East Africa. She possesses a really splendid collection of trophies, including lion, leopard, cheetah, hyena, buffalo—perhaps the most dangerous of African big game—and antelope obtained on her various expeditions.

Then there is Mrs. Bebb, formerly Lady Carbery. Her trips to East Africa have always been productive of good sport and fine specimens; on one occasion two lions and a rhinoceros fell to her rifle. At that time she was not much more than twenty, and as she is but twenty-eight now, many opportunities may be expected to present themselves to her for increasing her fine collection of trophies while participating in the sport she loves best of all.

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