

by no means of dangerous import, are inflicted and kept open and inflamed by means of irritating pledgets and setons; malignant growths are simulated by the corroding action of Vienna paste and arsenical plasters, tumefaction being induced by injection or inflation of the sub-cutaneous cellular tissue, and the desired degree of inflammation or redness by strong ammonia water or an infusion of capsicum. "They do these things better in Paris," however, for here is located a factory for the production of wax imitations of all forms of tumors and other morbid growths, warranted to defy detection, and to keep *in situ* upon the sound flesh by means of bandages. There are good reasons for believing, moreover, that children are deliberately deprived of vision—made blind by an operation unnecessary to describe, but in which the insertion of red-hot needles into these organs figures prominently. Only a few years since a mumping hag was convicted of this very crime, performed upon her own babe, in a British metropolitan court, and she even admitted the intent was to more successfully evoke the sympathies of the public in her behalf. The transmission of contagious ophthalmia to children and infants with a view of producing permanent blindness is a most common procedure.

The Romany or Gipsy tribes are accredited with originating the most nefarious practices peculiar to the mumpers of Europe; and be this as it may, the history of this strange people in Great Britain evidences that they were the original mumpers of the island, though there were mendicants innumerable before; also that they now constitute a considerable portion of the British body. Likewise, they are admittedly possessed of unusual experience and expertness in kidnapping and making cripples of young children, and the latter in ways that evince considerable practical knowledge of regional and sectional ana-

tomy; but it is notable that their own offspring, or those of others imbued with Romany blood, are never thus maltreated.

Recently, evidences of the existence of this peculiar and atrocious form of villainy were discovered in a hitherto unsuspected district of Austria-Hungary, and strange to say, it tends to confirm the impressions regarding the Gypsies, as it occurred in a part of Croatia that is the very heart of a region supporting an overwhelmingly large Romany population. It seems an organized gang was discovered in Biskupitz, who made it a special business to kidnap and mutilate children for purposes of mumping, trafficking therein with professional tramps, more especially those haunting the Atlantic coasts of Europe. Usually the innocents thus stolen are of such tender years that want and suffering can be relied upon to cloud their faculties and obliterate memory; but in this instance two of the nine victims had just entered upon their teens,—presumably the ignorance of the people of Western Europe regarding the barbarous tongue peculiar to Croatia was expected to serve as a shield to all villainy.

Some of these unfortunates had been stolen outright; others coaxed or misled into the den of the harpies, and there bound and confined. Even in case of organized search, detection would be next to impossible, since the dwellings occupied were possessed of subterranean connections, for purposes of hiding and communication, and moreover situated in the most depraved quarter in the outskirts of the town, in the midst of a population that, to the last man, woman, or child, could be depended upon, on general principles, to thwart any overt act of the authorities. Indeed it was only by accident that the police stumbled upon this sink of demoniacal iniquity.

The two girls before mentioned were found suffering from broken legs, evidently the result of deliberate