

but they were so fine that it was impossible to tell whether or not they were those of a human creature. The prisoner accounted for them by saying that, having caught a rabbit that morning in a snare, she had cut its throat with the instrument. The knife was sent to London however, for the purpose of being examined with a microscope. It had been washed previous to its being found, but, on removing the haft, some traces of blood were discerned, which, on being submitted to the microscope, proved to be human blood. Next the microscopist, who was unacquainted with the facts elicited on the trial, examined the hairs adhering to the blade, and unhesitatingly declared them to be those of a squirrel. He could not be deceived, he said, because the hairs of any one species of animal differ so entirely from those of another, when submitted to the microscopic test, that it would be impossible to confound them. They differ not only in thickness and colour, but also in certain physical conditions that peculiarly and surely distinguish them. And as it happened that the girl had worn a tippet made of squirrel fur the morning of her death, the mother was found guilty of the murder, and confessed her guilt just previous to her execution for the crime.

#### THE GOLD CURE FOR INEBRIETY.

By Dr. Crothers

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It is a significant fact that without exception "Gold-Cure" specifics, when analyzed, have been found to contain no gold. The fact is that for several centuries this name has done service as a favorite trademark for quack adventurers, especially as a specific for the cure of alcoholism. Were it true that gold in any form figured in such treatments, the administration of other powerful remedies such as strychnin and atropin would naturally make it impossible to form any judgement as to its curative properties. Gold, as is well known, has always enjoyed a mystic presence in the minds of the pseudoscientific.

The fact remains, nevertheless, that the best chemists of today regard it as absolutely nonassimilable. Why some ambitious charlatan has not yet exploited a diamond-cure is difficult to understand.

The cure of alcoholism or drug-habits is really no easy matter to define. It is certain that no patient can be looked upon as cured on his emergence from a sanitarium, no matter what method may have been employed. Under the influences of changed environment, rest, regularity, selected diet and tonic medication the inebriate in time regains his average health. In addition—and this fact has by no means received due recognition—the force of suggestion operates in many ways towards his recovery. He finds himself in the company of others in various stages of improvement; the changed surroundings constantly impress him with the nature of his condition; and not infrequently the addition of apomorphin or other emetics to the whisky of which he is invited to partake, and which shortly deludes him into the belief that his stomach is coming to its senses—these and a number of minor facts all have a suggestive influence which now and then undoubtedly effect what can be fairly regarded as a cure. But cure and recovery are different terms. To be cured involves that the patient should again be subjected to those conditions under which the so-called habit was acquired. No one acquainted with the subject now believes that the inebriate drinks for stimulation. It is the physical anesthesia of intoxication that the drinker seeks. The painful impression may be due to various causes, for in spite of the common opinion it is established that the purely convivial drinker is a rare specimen. All modern researches tend to prove that toxemia is in most cases the basis of what we falsely term the drink-habit. Indeed, it is difficult to understand the periodicity of the drink impulse on any other basis. Needless to say, the drunkard has always proved an easy victim to the medicocommercial trickster. Apart from the gold-cures, a glance through the popular