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When Dreams

Come True

William still believes scientists, if they could solve this mystery, lessons the secrets of success might be found in the curriculum of every child.

"ANSWERS" OWN MEDICAL SPECIALIST.

When writing this article before the late meeting, I cannot say which of all the horses my friends tell me are going to win, in fact, to winners in big races. But I can tell you that one of my friends actually dreamt the name of Lord's colt about a month before the race. She backed it, and so did her husband, and they made money. This is not a case which was referred to me by somebody, who had heard it from somebody else. I know it, and I heard of her dream the race took place. Had I not followed the "tip" she gave me, I might have won money myself.

Hopes For The Ebor.

I didn't do that because I have not convinced myself that such dreams really can be trusted. I have had a second example of the same thing brought before me. The brother-in-law of the same lady named a short time ago that a horse with a small race to be run the day. He is not a racing man; he has put a penny on any horse, however, he is the head of a business, and much occupied. He just for his dream's sake, he had the trouble to find out if the horse was really running in this race, and so he backed it.

These are the only two examples of dream dreaming which I have ever seen in my life, and they occurred in the same family within the same year. Neither of the dreamers had any other "tips" of this kind, and their friends still hope that the Ebor before the Handicap may bring enlightenment. But I'm unable to give you any "sure things".

A Little Talk About Butter

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C. P. EAGAN

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Failed To The Letter.

A doctor acquaintance of mine has been collecting stories of prophetic dreams in other walks of life, and has been making a special study of these. He tells me that he is quite convinced that prophecy in dreams is a real scientific fact.

He has one case in his books in which a girl, living in the country, dreamed that her father's mill in Canada was destroyed by fire, but that no damage was done by water than by the fire itself.

This dream was discussed next day by a large family, and a record of it was actually written down and signed by the dreamer and two witnesses. Three days later, as they afterwards learned, the mill was burned. The fire did not, however, extend very far, and the water pumped in by the fire brigade did more damage than the flames.

Have We A Sixth Sense?

The same girl dreamed that she would die at the time of the birth of her first baby. Unfortunately, this dream came true about two years later.

Another case is that of a doctor now practicing in the Harley Street district. He began his professional life in a small country village, and his prospects did not appear to be very bright. One day a patient, who was supposed to possess "second sight," told him that she had dreamed that he had become a famous man and was receiving large fees in London. He was so much amused at this that he told a great many people about it.

Within five years the dream was fulfilled to the letter, and by means of a series of strange happenings, none of which could possibly have been foreseen.

It is true that these dreams came to people with rather peculiar characters. The girl who saw her father's mill on fire was known to her friends as the "Witch," and the woman who "saw" the doctor in Harley Street, possessed, as I have said, a reputation for having second sight.

But that does not alter the fact that both of them were able to foretell exactly coming events of which nobody, except themselves, had the very slightest suspicion.

They were true prophets, free from any possible suspicion of being secretly aware of the things they prophesied.

In these circumstances it is really no use saying—as people often do say—that the whole thing can be explained as "mere chance." The "mere chance" of any dream coming true is about 1,000,000 to 1 against.

There must be some other explanation, and it is surely better to wait until we know it than to lay down the law while we are still ignorant.

A very distinguished French scientist, who has also studied this subject, thinks that prophetic dreaming depends on the possession of a "sixth sense," which enables those enjoying it to guess the future with uncanny certainty. The same kind of sixth sense, he says, allows a few business men to carry out what seem to be wild and daring schemes with safety and success.

These men know "by instinct" what is coming, and act accordingly. They make vast fortunes, as it seems, by mere chance or good luck.

Nor have they any idea how or why.

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they know what is hidden from all their competitors.

Unlucky Star.

"Good luck" itself is probably of the same nature—an instinctive knowledge of what to pursue and what to avoid. It is a fact that, before almost every big railway disaster, several persons leave the ill-fated train in response to some feeling that they had better not continue their journey. Such people have a sixth sense, which apprehends the future and warns them.

Others know, by instinct, when a share or a horse is going to prove a "winner," and promptly put their money on it. Their friends sigh and declare that "they were born under a lucky star."

It may be that, in the future, science will be able to discover the real character of this strange power. Already, some feeble steps have been taken in this direction.

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Marvellous "Brass Brain" Has 15,000 Separate Parts

The "brass brain" a device that can predict what the tide will be in any seaport in the world at any time—for tomorrow or 100 years from tomorrow—is in constant use in the laboratory of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, in Washington D.C.

The machine is said to do the work of 60 mathematicians, and actual check on the predictions proves it to be nearly 100 per cent. accurate. At present the "brass brain" is being used to predict the tides at 85 ports all over the world. As a result of predictions, the department is able to tell two years in advance what the high-water mark will be at 3500 other ports.

The idea was conceived by R. A. Harris, Chief Mathematician of the department, and the plans and construction were under the direction of E. G. Fischer, M.E. It took 15 years to perfect, and its name is derived from the fact that practically all of its 15,000 parts have been made of brass.

Even the extra day in Leap Year is given consideration by the wonderful "brass brain."

The Fifteen Best Novels

"Professor William Lyon Phelps, of Yale, who has been writing on the literature of the Bible recently, has made a new list of what he considers to be the fifteen best novels. How many of them have you read?" asks the New Outlook of Canada. "Here is the list:

Robinson Crusoe—Daniel Defoe.
Gulliver's Travels—Jonathan Swift.
Clarissa—Samuel Richardson.
The History of Tom Jones—Henry Fielding.
Eugenie Grandet—Honore de Balzac.
Les Trois Mousquetaires and Its Sequels: Vingt Ans Apres and Le Vicomte de Bragelonne—Alexandre Dumas.
David Copperfield—Charles Dickens.
The Scarlet Letter—Nathaniel Hawthorne.
Henry Esmond—William Makepeace Thackeray.
Madame Bovary—Gustave Flaubert.
Fathers and Children—Ivan S. Turgenev.
Les Miserables—Victor Hugo.
Anna Karenina—Leo N. Tolstol.
The Brothers Karamazoff—Fedor M. Dostoevski.
Huckleberry Finn—Mark Twain.

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THE SIGN OF THE BIG BOOT.

From Pirate to Parson

SLAVE-TRADE'S FAMOUS HYMNS

There has just occurred the bi-centenary—the two hundredth anniversary—of the author of two of the best-known hymns in the language, "Glorious things of Thee are spoken," and "How sweet the name of Jesus sounds." He was the Vicar of Olney, lived next door to the poet, William Cowper, and collaborated with him in the production of the famous Olney Hymns.

Yet the Rev. John Newton had been a turbulent African slave-trader. He began his career as a ship's boy, and later became a naval midshipman, attempted desertion, and was flogged. Eventually he was transferred to a slave ship, did the most menial jobs for a brutal slaver, and gave himself up to every form of dissipation.

Converted By A Storm.

It is said that his mode of life was changed by the strain of steering a water-logged ship through a terrible storm, but it is certain he came under the influence of Wesley and Whitefield, and although he remained at sea for some time, and even in the slave trade, his ship must have been one of the strangest that ever sailed the seas. No swear word was heard on board that craft; nobody ever got drunk, and the Church service was read daily.

But though there was no form of wickedness to which he has not confessed in his autobiography, he was still only thirty when he amazed the Archbishop of York by his request to be admitted to Holy Orders. It took him some time to get his desire fulfilled, but it may be said at once that the Church never had a more faithful minister. He was rector of Olney for fourteen years, and then removed to London to the Church of St. Mary Woolnoth, a few yards from the Mansion House, where he remained for twenty-eight years. He died at the age of eighty-two.

The career of John Newton inevitably suggests that of John Bunyan, who, if his own account may be trusted, was in his early days "a practical atheist, a worthless contemptible infidel, a vile rebel to God and goodness, a common profligate, a soul-despising, a soul-murdering, thoughtless wretch as could exist on the earth."

But Macaulay avers that his own and others' accounts of his extreme wickedness are traceable to Bunyan's exaggerated view of the blackness of his own heart, and that the author of "The Pilgrim's Progress" would have been regarded by the average village rector of his day a model youth and an example to the parish!

But it is fact that Laurence Blackburne, who became Archbishop of Canterbury, had formerly been a pirate. After a wild career at Cambridge it is said that he stole a fiddle from his tutor's room, and played his way to London, where he shipped as cabin boy on a collier.

On abandoning piracy Blackburne returned to Cambridge and restored the fiddle to its rightful owner, together with a silver case. When he was Archbishop, tobacco and punch were always served in his vestry as he performed a confirmation.

"Billy Sunday" and Gipsy Smith are regarded to-day as the greatest evangelists in the world. Each can attract an audience running into tens of thousands. The former was once a famous baseball player, and still uses the language of the game to illustrate his sermons. The latter was a gipsy, born in a tent. His father used to preach on Hampstead Heath, being a product of the Salvation Army movement in its early days.

RICHARD HUDNUT

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Germany and Irish Free State

PROPOSAL TO BUY MINES.

At a meeting of Wicklow County Council, Mr. James Everett, a member of Dail Eireann, stated that the German expert who had been asked by the Government to examine the Avoca sulphur deposits—untouched for many years—with a view to their exploitation, had intimated his desire to return to Germany to report to his firm with a view to obtaining the Government's permission to buy up the mines.

The Government, Mr. Everett added, had promised every assistance, and if the scheme materialized local labour would be extensively employed.

Germany is taking a keen interest in the possibilities of Free State development. Recently the Dublin City Commissioners invited tenders for the erection of 250 houses as an extension of a housing scheme, and the lowest tender of £118,491 was from a Bremen firm.

The acceptance of this tender will be proposed at the next meeting of the Commissioners.

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