

## DANGERS OF HYPNOTISM.

AN instance of the serious consequences which may follow the incautious induction of the hypnotic state is afforded by a case recently recorded by Dr. Julius Solon. An amateur at a friend's house volunteered to hypnotise another visitor, and after two trials succeeded so well that the subject became extremely excited, lost the power of speech, and then passed into the condition of catalepsy; subsequently he had severe convulsions. He had been hypnotised by being made to look at a diamond ring, and afterwards the sight of anything glittering threw him into a state of violent excitement. The floor of the room in which the physician found him was covered with cushions, as he frequently threw himself from the sofa on to the floor. He performed various odd automatic movements, slept only in snatches, awaking in nightmare, and, in fact, was in a condition to which the French physicians would probably apply the term grave hysteria, with maniacal excitement. He was treated with full doses of sedative drugs—chloral sulphonal, bromides, and morphine—but did not at first show any signs of amendment. After ten days the convulsive attacks were replaced by periods during which he sang persistently; he would sing over song after song, apparently every song he knew, and as long as one song remained unsung nothing would stop him. After about a fortnight of this sort of thing he had an attack of fever, followed by copious perspiration and asthma; a few days later he had another feverish attack, again followed by perspiration, after which he declared himself quite well. From first to last he was seriously ill for three weeks. The cause of the fever is not very clear; his physician believed it was probably due to inflammation of the anterior part of the brain. The case ought to be a warning, both to amateur hypnotisers and the foolish people who allow themselves to be played upon by these dangerous showmen. A demand is arising in France, in America, and in other countries that the practice of hypnotism should be placed under legal restrictions. It is a grave matter for consideration whether the Legislature ought not to be asked to interfere in this country also. There are at the present time three or four persons—some of them, we are sorry to believe, qualified medical men, performing under assumed names—who travel about the country and hypnotise at public or semi-public performances any persons who are foolish enough to submit themselves to the ordeal. It ought to be understood that hypnotism thus recklessly played with is capable of doing very serious mischief, and it is the duty of the medical profession in every town to warn the public of the serious risks that are being run.—*British Medical Journal*.

## ENGLISH AND HUNGARIAN RAILWAY FARES.

ACCORDING to the British Consul at Fiume, English "parliamentary" sinks into insignificance in face of such achievements as those of M. de Baross, by his calling into existence the Hungarian zone-tarif system. "When it is considered," says the Consul, "that you can travel from one end of the country to the other, not by a slow 'parliamentary,' but first-class and by express, at the rate of 3d. a mile, and third-class at one-half that price, and that even these low rates are further reduced by fifteen or twenty per cent. by means of circular tickets; when it is further considered that this has been achieved without a decrease in the receipts, without the necessity of large investments for rolling stock, and that the large increase of passengers has been carried without loss to the State, it is needless to affirm that M. de Baross has every reason to feel proud of the result."

## THE GRAVE OF EDGAR ALLAN POE.

THE grave of the wayward American genius was for many years neglected and forlorn, but, owing to the energy and generosity of the teachers and pupils in the educational institutions of Baltimore, and a princely gift by Mr. George W. Childs, of Philadelphia, the fact of non-appreciation was obliterated in 1875, and a handsome marble monument was erected over the poet's remains in the yard of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Baltimore. "A few days ago," says a correspondent, "I strolled into the old churchyard filled with family vaults and the memorials of a forgotten past. Poe's monument stands in the most conspicuous corner of the yard, where every passer-by can see it. Already the dust of the street and the mould of age have begrimed its fair face. A melancholy bas-relief bust of Poe, modelled after a portrait of him now in the possession of his relatives in Baltimore, adorns the front of the monument, but there is no inscription other than that simple narrative of name, time and place of birth and death of the author of 'The Raven.' At the time of the unveiling of this monument various appropriate epitaphs were suggested by Longfellow, Holmes, Whittier, Lowell, Bryant and Tennyson, but their suggestions were either not approved or characteristic slowness and lack of civic pride has prevented the placing of a proper epitaph upon the monument."—*Ex.*

## THE CARELESS WOMAN.

SHE is always behind time, always scrambling after the flying hours, and always in a hopeless muddle. She never knows what she has done with her things, neither where she last had them nor where she has laid them down. When she makes hay of all her possessions in looking after these truant articles, nothing is ever by the

remotest chance where she expected to find it; and she lives the life of little Bopeep, vainly looking for the sheep she has so mysteriously lost. Everything belonging to her seems to be endowed with the joint powers of invisibility and locomotion. She has looked ten times in that special drawer—on the eleventh her lost lamb "leaps to her eyes" in the most conspicuous corner, and she feels like one for whose mishap a miracle has been worked—like one who has been hypnotized and then awakened to a knowledge of reality. Her veil falls from her face, and her boa slides off her neck totally unperceived by her. Only when that costly bit of lace and that yet more costly length of fur are gone, does she recognize her loss; and then it is too late to recover it. She leaves her muff and purse in the shop—her card case and umbrella in the cab—her reticule and memoranda at a friend's. And without these memoranda she is as a belated traveller, with never a star in the sky nor a light in the distance, and the road across the common falling off into a bog, for she cannot remember from one hour to another what she has arranged to do, nor where to go; and if she remembers this, she forgets the number of the house where she has appointed to call. She may have been there twenty times, but the Careless Woman cannot carry dates nor numbers in her head, and unless she has a reminder she is lost. Of order, method, or arrangement the Careless Woman knows nothing. On the whole, the Careless Woman is one of the most disastrous of her sex, if in herself absolutely sweet and lovable; and that, as folly works more evil than does sin, so carelessness is often worse than maliciousness in its results to the sufferer, if not in its origin in the soul of the offender.—*The Queen*.

WRITING from Halifax, Nova Scotia, to the *Economist*, Mr. Peter Imrie predicts that Canada will eventually control the shipbuilding industry. It is now practically proved, he argues, that steel mixed with from three to five per cent. of nickel is double the strength of ordinary steel, and that it does not corrode or take on barnacles, so that ships constructed of it will never require scraping. Moreover, as ships of nickelated steel may safely be built much lighter than ordinary steel ships, their engine power and consumption of coal may be safely reduced without diminution of speed. In short nickelated steel seems bound to supersede ordinary steel, and probably also all other materials in present use, in ship construction. Nickel has thus become a necessity, and the nation which is in a position to produce this material must necessarily control the shipbuilding trade. And, for the present at least, there is no known supply of nickel worth mentioning outside that of Canada. Canada possesses nickeliferous pyrites without limit. The entire bleak region extending from Lake Superior to Labrador is rich in it. Experts declare that the Dominion can supply a million tons of pure metal annually, if necessary, for an indefinite period. All the other sources of supply known in the world just now would not suffice to keep even a single first-class shipbuilding concern on the Clyde in full working.

MESSRS. CLAYTON, SON AND COMPANY, Ltd., gasholder and boiler makers, Moor End, Hunslet, Leeds, have just obtained an order for what will be the largest gasholder in the world. It is to be 300ft. in diameter and 180ft. in height, with no fewer than six lifts. The lifts will be peculiar in this respect, that the two upper ones will rise above the tops of the standards. The capacity of the holder will be 12,000,000 feet, and it will require about 1,200 tons of coal to fill it with gas. For its construction 2,220 tons of metal will be needed—1,840 tons of wrought iron, 60 tons of cast iron, and 320 tons of steel. This immense holder is for the East Greenwich Station of the South Metropolitan Gas Company. There were eleven tenders sent in for it, varying in amount from £54,000 to £41,195—that of the successful firm. The cost thereof will be about £3 10s. per thousand cubic feet capacity. The tank, which is being made by the gas company, is of concrete, and the stokers at the works have been employed upon it during the slack periods. The Messrs. Clayton have undertaken to complete the holder by the 1st October next year. It may be mentioned that the largest gasholder existing is some 240ft. in diameter, and 150ft. in height. There is now about to be sent from the Moor End Works the last of three large holders which the firm have made for the South Metropolitan Gas Company, Australia. This is 200ft. in diameter, and has three lifts each of 35ft.

It is a very common assumption among Englishmen that the growth of Canada is paltry when placed side by side with that of the United States. What do the actual figures show? At the time of the Declaration of Independence the population of the United States was about three millions; it is now sixty millions—an increase of twenty-fold. The population of Canada at that time was about one hundred and fifty thousand; it is now five millions—a rate of increase thirty-five-fold. Or take the figures at the time of the war of 1812. The population of Canada was then three hundred and fifty thousand; it is now five millions—a fourteen-fold increase. The population of the United States was about eight millions; it is now sixty millions—an increase less than eight-fold.—*The Canadian Gazette*.

I HAVE also seen the world, and after long experience have discovered that ennui is our greatest enemy, and remunerative labour our lasting friend.—*Moser*.

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