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MILL SURGERY.

BY JONATHAN TORREY.

SOME things have been said about surgery, or more properly dressing wounds in the mills. I had hoped to see some plan developed by which men getting hurt might receive immediate attention, and not as is often the case, be obliged to wait and suffer a long time before medical aid comes. Very many, if not the majority of cases, are wounds which common sense and good judgment will care for without the aid of a physician.

A few things should be kept in common by the men, and each one should contribute from time to time a few cents to keep a little treasury, and a little medicine chest amply supplied even for the most complicated wounds. Very often where it is necessary to call a skilled physician he often fails to bring the most needed things with him, such as lint, bandages and surgeon's plaster, and much delay is caused by hunting them up. The medicine chest should contain a pair of scissors, two or three knives, a knife made especially for spreading a plaster, needles, a good supply of bandages, alcohol, five per cent. solution of carbolic acid, arnica, and with the rest a flask of whiskey, and a roll of good surgeon's plaster. A cut, even quite a saw cut, can be drawn together with strips of surgeon's plaster, sticking it fast on one side and drawing the parts gently together until they are nicely in place, and then fasten the other side. These strips should be about three-sixteenths-inch wide, and long enough to reach over the wound and stick firmly on the skin each side of the wound. After covering the wound properly in one direction, cross them in the other, and you will find with a little care that the cut will be nicely done up. Don't be particular and cover it over tight, for it will do as well in that way. This does very well for small cuts, but for large, clean cuts made with some knife, I advise sewing up with white silk.

A bruise must be treated differently. If the skin is not broken, and no bones broken, a pail of hot water is the very best application in the world. Strip the parts immediately, and with a towel bathe the bruised parts with water as hot as it can be borne, till the intensity of the pain is gone, and often a continued bathing will free the person from all pain, and the bathing continued frequently, will be all that is needed to make a permanent cure.

For a common cut, which needs only a little immediate attention, a roll of Griswold's salve, or any good sticking plaster will be all that is necessary; and the part properly done up with this treatment will get along well enough without further trouble.

For complicated cases, however, the first thing to be done is to call the best surgical aid known. In the meantime keep the injured person as comfortable as possible. The whiskey will often be found a good assistant, for often the nervous system needs sustaining by some stimulant, and this is as good as anything for the purpose, and it is so hard to get a pure brandy of any kind, whiskey is usually the best thing to depend on.

One thing should be always borne in mind, and that is, if the person is so badly injured that he must be taken to his home, it is better to take him there before any operation is performed; not taking him to the surgeon's and then home. Ordinarily, however, it is quite as well to have the surgeon come to the mill, for here any convenience can be improvised for the operation, which can not be provided at home. It is always best to give the injured person the benefit of a doubt, and have the surgeon at hand, rather than let the wound go uncared for. Often a person is made a permanent cripple by not attending to the injured part at once.

SOUTH AFRICAN TREES.

IN the Spring, in the year when rain has fallen for two months, the Karoo is a flower garden. As far as the eye can reach stretch blotches of white and yellow and purple fig flowers. Every foot of Karoo sand is broken up by small flowering lilies and wax flowers; in a space of a few square feet you may sometimes gather fifty kinds. In the crevices of the rocks little, hard leaved, flowering air-plants are growing. At the end of two months the bloom is over, the bulbs have died back into the ground by millions, the fig blossoms are withered, the Karoo assumes the red and brown tints which it wears all the rest of the year. Sometimes there is no Spring. At intervals of a few years great droughts occur when no rain falls.

For ten or thirteen months the sky is cloudless. The Karoo bushes drop their leaves and are dry, withered stalks: the fountains fail, and the dams are floored with dry-baked mud, which splits up into little squares: the sheep and goats die by the thousands, and the Karoo is a desert. It is to provide for these long rainless periods that all the plant life in the Karoo is modified. The Karoo bush itself provides against drought by roots of enormous length, stretching under ground to a depth of many feet. At the end of a ten months' drought, when the earth is baked brickdust for two feet from the surface, if you break the dry stalk of the Karoo bush three inches high, you will find running down the centre a tiny thread of pale green-tinted tissue, still alive with sap.

The air plants, which are fastened by the slenderest roots to the ground or rocks, live entirely upon any moisture they may draw from the air, and will grow and bloom for months in a house without any water. In other ways the intense dryness modifies vegetation.

SAWING AND PILING.

ALMOST as much depends on the after care and handling as upon the quality of timber and manufacture. If not very carefully piled it will warp or buckle, especially thin wide stuff. The writer recently visited a band saw mill that makes a specialty of quartered oak, and saw some thin stuff—three-eighths inch panels—piled in a manner new to him. Instead of being piled on sticks out of doors, the sticks were nailed to strips at the ends and middle, forming a sort of frame, and the boards were set up endwise as nearly perpendicular as possible to prevent them falling, and under a shed were latticed sides and ends boarded up. It looked like a good deal of trouble for very little, but the millman said it paid him well for all the additional trouble and expense. He was twelve miles from a railroad, in a very rough country, but had evidently made money. He declined to state for publication the price he asked for three-eighths inch panels—only made prices to those who wished to purchase. "But," he added with it, "I sock it to him on prices, you bet." The fact that he had a well equipped band saw mill of twenty-five thousand feet capacity, plenty of fine white oak timber in sight of it, and less than three carloads of that sort of lumber on hand, was an indication that he did not lack for customers. Another idea of this man's is worth mentioning. He trimmed his lumber as it came from the saw, but did not edge it until ready to ship. This incident is given to show the care necessary in the proper manufacture of quartered oak. When so prepared and handled there is no quoted market price set on it, but it is like thoroughbred Jersey cows or imported Spanish jacks the price depends on how bad the buyer wants it. There is a good demand for it at prices that allow a profit satisfactory to any reasonable man.

HE HAS HAD HIS DAY.

The iceman's look becomes austere,
A frown is on his brow;
The summer's gone, the fall is here —
He isn't in it now.

CAMEL'S HAIR BELTING.

ONE of the latest things in the way of a belt in this country, though it is more familiar in England, is belting made of camel's hair. The first thought of the mechanic who has had experience in buying a camels' hair shawl for his wife, and paying five or six hundred dollars for it, is that it is altogether too expensive a material for belts; but we are informed that this depends upon what particular kind of hair is selected, and that some kinds of camel's hair, that is, hair which comes from certain parts of the body, is not so expensive as to prohibit its use for this purpose. Among the advantages claimed for the belts are, they are absolutely uniform in strength and elasticity at either surface or at either edge, so that they run true and smoothly; have only one joint in them, which can be made as good and smooth as any other part of the belt, it is stronger than leather belting, and more durable; its adhesion is better, and it is adapted to use in exposed places where it is liable to become wet.

A TIMBER STORY.

THERE are timber stories as well as fish stories. A quarter section of timber land that will cut from five to ten million feet is considered a good quarter. Fifteen million is rated extraordinary, but even that is a baby estimate when we place it by the side of a particular quarter section on the Satsop, in Mason county, recently cruised by several competent men who will testify shortly in the United States land office to the quantity they found. One of these men will testify that the quarter section will cut 40,000,000 and the whole section at least 100,000,000. It is a solid mass of fir even in the thinnest spots. When a railroad is built to this land, the quarter section alone will be worth forty to sixty thousand dollars.

AN ESSAY ON TREES.

The following essay on trees was written by a scholar in Standard VI, of a Board School in Chelsea: Trees are very useful. There are all sorts of trees the coker-nut trees and orange, apple and plum trees. Coker nuts are very nice people. In the pacific and foreign nations live on cokernut and many other fruits. Apple trees and orange trees are very nice. Their are trees that do not bloom, oak trees and bay and corn trees and pine apple trees never bloom. Some trees are very tall they stand from the height of 10 to 15 yds. high and some are taller than that. Trees are very useful for the wild rabbits and hares and dears. There is no wild beasts in England only in foreign nations.

PERT BUT LUCKY.

A few weeks ago a 11-year-old lad approached Marshall Field, the noted Chicago merchant, and asked him for a raise of salary.

"You'll have to go to your manager," replied Mr. Field; "he attends to the pay."

"I've been to him, and he won't do anything," said the lad.

"How much do you get?"

"Five and a half a week."

"Well, my boy, that's 50 cents more than I got when I was your age," said Mr. Field, assuringly.

"Perhaps you weren't worth any more," the lad retorted.

The youth is getting \$7 now.