

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY.—When a few years ago British employers became liable at law for injuries suffered by employees in the course of their work, says the *New York Sun*, cartoonists got busy depicting the hired girl gleefully tumbling down stairs with the tea tray or the coal box, secure in the prospect of a long rest and no loss of wages. Householders, of course, cover their risk by insuring each employee against accidents. English courts as a rule place a liberal construction on the word "accident," and accordingly on the books of the insurance companies may be found many odd claims. Here are a few:—

A cow whisking her tail caused injury to a milkmaid's eye.

A farm hand was stung by a bee.

A manservant sprained his leg through stamping on a rat.

A coachman coming out of a stable was struck on the face by his masters' boot, intended for a caterwauling cat.

A cook was breaking coal and a piece went down her throat.

A curate was scalded through stumbling while carrying a tea urn at a parochial gathering.

A servant was pricked by a rusty needle while sewing on a button on her employer's clothing.

It is somewhat difficult to imagine that success could attend claims like these:—

A servant received a shock through seeing a large Teddy bear when the room was only dimly lighted.

Another servant fetching coal out of a cellar collapsed from fright caused by the silent appearance of a washerwoman, and broke her arm.—*Case and Comment.*

It was the opinion of Sir James Fitzjames Stephen that criminals were excellent critics of sentences and could estimate accurately what was the appropriate punishment for their offence. Mr. Wallace, K.C., perhaps agrees. The other day he sentenced an old gaolbird, who had pleaded guilty to a burglary, to twenty-three months' imprisonment with hard labour. "I wish you'd make it three years' penal servitude," said the prisoner, and the learned judge did, no doubt thinking that the man's own estimate of the best treatment for his case was correct. Probably the "old hand" knew that the life in penal servitude is not so severe as that of a hard labour prisoner.—*Law Notes.*