

anywhere about the premises. Greatly alarmed, he called in the aid of the police, and all day long there was a most energetic search for the missing housewife, but without avail. At length, towards evening, a peasant came forward and said that shortly after daybreak he had seen a woman in her night clothes wandering about near the village of Bonenknype. At the time he was inclined to think it was an apparition, for in the uncertain light the figure had a most unearthly look, but perhaps, after all, he was mistaken. Upon hearing this tale, the farmer at once started off in the direction indicated, and finally succeeded in finding his wife at the house of her sister, which is distant three leagues from Heerenneen. The wanderer had arrived there at about seven o'clock in a dazed condition and half dead with cold. She had no recollection of leaving her home and could give no account of the journey she had undertaken in such extremely light marching order. Before reaching her sister's place she had to cross a score or more of narrow bridges, some of them mere planks, and was likewise obliged to jump several formidable ditches. The fact that under these circumstances she escaped an accident is looked upon by the simple peasantry as well-nigh miraculous, but seems to bear out the general supposition that people in a state of somnambulism are able to perform gymnastic feats which they could not attempt in their waking moments.—*Indian Medical Record.*

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SUICIDE AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE POLICIES.—A short time ago the question of liability for payment of £1,000 in a case of drowning came before the Scottish Court of Session. The case entirely depended on probabilities. A seafaring man, who had for some time been employed on shore, threw up his place, alleging that his health was not in a good state. He consulted a doctor about himself, and was told that he was run down and required a holiday. He went up to a place in the Highlands, and the same afternoon walked twelve miles to a loch, where, after taking a very light meal, he rowed about in a boat from 6 p.m. to 8.30 p.m., when he was last seen. This was in the month of April. Next morning the boat was found, with his clothes left in it, but his body was never discovered. The chief question, of course, was: Had he committed suicide, or had he been drowned while bathing? A great point on the side of the defenders was made of the finding of the clothes, while three medical witnesses for the company gave it as their opinion that, although they knew of no exactly similar case, a suicide might very reasonably be suspected of removing them, as their acts before the actual deed were often very unreasonable. On the other hand, anyone who bathed after sunset from a boat on a rough night did not seem to be very rational. The court decided that probabilities were against suicide, and gave the relatives the benefit of the doubt. Shortly afterwards a striking confirmation of the truth of the evidence of the medical witnesses was supplied by the details of the suicide by drowning in a well-known case in England. As this is now common property, it may be mentioned that the lady who drowned herself took off almost all her clothes before entering a shallow pond. In this she showed a much clearer appreciation of the part played by clothing when a person is in the water than the medical witness called for the relatives in the first case. Clothing undoubtedly