

A Rare Case for the Doctors.

In the year 1848 a boy then eighteen years old by the name of Jonathan R. Bass, one evening while on his way to a pasture field, above High street, for the cows, was taken with a severe pain in the bottom of his right foot. He supposed at first that a nail in his shoe was hurting him, but, upon examination, he could find nothing. That night, and for a number of days, his foot was swollen very badly, and was exceedingly painful, and then got better, but was more or less troublesome after that. In the fall of 1849 he went to Avon four months, but did not improve. That winter he attended school at our Union school, and in the spring went to Buffalo for a time, meanwhile getting a little worse. For a few months of the following summer he was able to act as captain of a canal boat. He did no work, however. After that he went to G. G. W. Pastman's commercial school at Waterville, Oneida county, and in 1853 kept books for Hall & Co., of Buffalo, but continuing to grow worse, had to give up his place and come to his home in Cambria. In 1845-6 he did a little writing for parties in Lockport, and in 1855 was very bad and suffered very much, all the joints of the body and limbs becoming more or less affected by this time.

In 1852 he was put on an invalid bed, from which he has never been removed. He could manage, however, with a good deal of difficulty, to feed himself eight years after that; since that time he has been fed with a spoon, which is quite a difficult task, as his jaws are grimly set and nothing thicker than a knife-blade can pass them. Yet he eats almost everything that others do, and is very hearty. Fat pork, fat beef, baked beans, potatoes and milk are his favorites. Being very much interested in the war, reading everything that came in his reach, which he could do by having it placed on a rack before him, he so injured his eyes that in 1859 he became blind, and has remained so since. He talks without difficulty, is very intelligent, and converses freely upon any subject that he has had an opportunity to study up.

The writer of this article called upon Mr. Bass a few days since and made a careful examination of his physical condition, and found every joint entirely ankylosed, or grown into solid bone, with the exception of his fingers and toes. The bones of the fingers of the right hand have been nearly absorbed, and the flesh remaining is puffy and flacid. In the left hand not only the bones of the fingers but the bones of the whole hand have undergone this same process of absorption. The finger nails of this hand are grown out beyond the ends of the fingers three and one-half inches, giving a wired and inhuman appearance to the hand. The arms are straight down by his sides and fixed in this condition, and in the middle of the arm and fore-arm measured only five inches in circumference.

The limbs are straight with a dislocation of the right hip joint, but all firm and solid bone, the thigh measuring only eight and one-half inches around. The bones of the toes are absorbed the same as the hands and the flacid toes droop and hang down like fringe. The spinal column is also perfectly consolidated, thus rendering the body capable of being lifted by one's hand under his head and heels without yielding or bending. The muscles are not paralyzed, but their action seems perfectly under his control as seen by the action of the tendons and cords. The pulse is regular, beating seventy to the minute, strong and full. All the vital organs are sound and in active condition, thus rendering him capable of living many years longer. On the whole, this is probably one of the most remarkable cases on record in this or any other country.—*Lockport (N. Y.) Journal.*

CAUSE OF EXPLOSIONS.—A lamp may be standing on a table or mantle, and a slight puff of air from the open window or door may cause an explosion. A lamp may be taken up quickly from a table or mantle and instantly exploded. A lamp is taken out into the entry, where there is a draught, or out of doors, and an explosion ensues. A lighted lamp is taken up a flight of stairs or is raised quickly to place it on a mantel, resulting in an explosion. In these cases the mischief is done by the air movement—either by suddenly checking the draught or forcing air down the chimney against the flame. Blowing down the chimney to extinguish the light is a frequent cause of explosion. Lamp explosions have been caused by using a chimney broken off at the top, or one that has a piece broken out whereby the draught is variable and the flame unsteady. Some times a thoughtless person puts a small wick into a large burner, thus leaving considerable space along the edges of the wick. An old burner, with its air draught clogged up, which rightfully should be thrown away, is sometimes continued in use, and the final result is an explosion.

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