

MISCELLANEOUS.

SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION OF DRUNKARDS.

The spontaneous combustion of drunkards is a fact well established in medical science. The following are among numerous instances which have been related by eminent physicians and others.

Dr. Peter Schofield, at a late address delivered at the formation of a Temperance Society in the Township of Bastard, in the district of Johnstown, in the province of Upper Canada, states a case of spontaneous combustion which occurred in his practice. 'It is well authenticated,' says the Doctor, 'that many habitual drinkers of ardent spirits are brought to their end by what is called spontaneous combustion. By spontaneous combustion I mean when a person takes fire by an electric shock, and burns up without any external application. It was the case of a young man about 25 years old; he had been an habitual drinker for many years. I saw him about nine o'clock in the evening on which it happened. He was then as usual not drunk, but full of liquor. About 11 the same evening I was called to see him. I found him literally roasted from the crown of his head to the soles of his feet. He was found in a blacksmiths' shop just across the way from where he had been. The owner all of a sudden discovered an extensive light in his shop, as though the whole building was in one general flame. He ran with the greatest precipitancy, and on flinging open the door, he discovered a man standing erect in the midst of a widely extended silver colored blaze, bearing as he described it, exactly the appearance of the wick of a burning candle in the midst of its own flame. He seized him by the shoulder and jerked him to the door, upon which the flame was instantly extinguished.

'There was no fire in the shop, neither was there any possibility of fire having been communicated to him from any external source. It was purely a case of ignition. A general sloughing soon came on, and his flesh was consumed, or removed in the dressing, leaving the bones and a few of the larger blood vessels standing. The blood nevertheless rallied around the heart and maintained the vital spark, until the thirteenth day when he died, not only the most loathsome, ill-featured and dreadful picture that was ever presented to human view; but his shrieks, his cries, and lamentations, were enough to rend the heart of adamant. He complained of no pain of body; his flesh was all gone. He said he was suffering the torments of hell; and that he was just upon its threshold, and soon should enter its dismal caverns; in this frame of mind he gave up the ghost. O, the death of the drunkard! Well may it be said to beggar all descrip-

tion. I have seen other drunkards die, but never in a manner so awful and affecting. They usually go off senseless and stupid as it regards a future state!

Kingston Gazette.

PARENTS—Consider, thou who art a parent, the importance of thy trust. The being thou hast produced it is thy duty to support. Upon thee also it dependeth, whether the child of thy bosom shall be a blessing or a curse to thyself, a useless or a worthless member of the community. Prepare him early with instruction, and season his mind early with the maxims of truth. Watch the bent of his inclination, set him right in his youth, and let no evil habit gain strength with his years. So shall he rise like a cedar on the mountain. His head shall be seen above the trees of the forest. The soil is thine own. Let it not want cultivation. The seed which thou sowest, that also shall thou reap.

A wicked son is a reproach to his father; but he that doeth right is an honor to his gray hairs.

Teach him obedience, and he will bless thee.

Teach him modesty and he shall not be ashamed.

Teach him gratitude, and he shall receive benefits.

Teach him charity, and he shall gain love.

Teach him temperance, and he shall have health.

Teach him prudence, and fortune shall attend him.

Teach him justice, and he shall be honoured by the world.

Teach him sincerity, and his own heart shall not reproach him.

Teach him diligence, and his wealth shall increase.

Teach him benevolence, and his mind shall be exalted.

Teach him science, and his life shall be useful.

Teach him religion, and his death shall be happy.

SELLING OFF AT COST.—A new York paper says, that this pretence is so common that labels are struck off by hundreds for general use. But the public have a pleasure in being cheated.

'Doubtless the pleasure is as great
Of being cheated as to cheat.'

Otherwise the public would not be so slow to perceive that an honest dealer is willing to thrive in the ordinary way, and that selling off at cost is as little creditable to prudence as honesty.

There is another error into which the country are apt to fall. They think, in the simplicity of their hearts, that the seller has but a standing price for his goods, but a small abatement will be made

as a personal favor to the individual buyer. The trader, therefore, who asks seven dollars a yard for cloth worth four, has offered an advantage over him who sells at four, if he will take off one half dollar, as a securing gratuity. The honest man, who asks but the value of his goods, is thus offered left for others, who asks double, and will deduct a trifle from the one hundred percentum.

N. E. Pall.

LOTTERY FOR LADIES IN INDIA.—In one of the Calcutta newspapers, the following advertisement appeared:—'Be it known that six fair pretty young ladies, with two sweet engaging young children, lately imported from Europe having the roses of health blooming on their cheeks, and joy sparkling in their eyes, possessing amiable manners, and highly accomplished, are to be raffled for next door to the British Gallery Scheme, twelve tickets at twelve rupees each. 'How shamefully they treat young ladies in Calcutta.'—*the World of Fashion*

Marshall Saxe computed that, in a battle, only one ball in 85 takes effect. Others that only one in forty strikes, and no more than one in 400 is fatal. At the battle of Tournay, in Flanders, fought on the 22d May 1793, it is calculated that 236 musket shots were expended in disabling each soldier who suffered.

CURE FOR THE RINGWORM.—Take the root of the common yellow, or wild dock; wash it clean, bruise it, or cut it in very thin slices, put it in a cup, or other small vessel, and add vinegar sufficient to cover it. Let it stand a day or two, then apply the moisture to the ringworm, by rubbing it with a piece of the root, two or three times a day for a few successive days. This it is said, will effect an entire cure.

SLANDERERS.—Slanderers are like flies that leap over all a man's good parts, to light only upon his sores.—*Rule of life.*

CONUNDRUM.

Why is a voter, who has just put in his vote, like the Galloway cattle of Scotland?
Ans. Because he is *poll'd*.

A MILCH COW for sale.

ALSO:

A two year old HEIFER,

Particulars made known on application at the British American Office.

April 20.