

# Sierra County Advocate.

VOLUME IV.

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## A SEPTEMBER VIOLET.

For day the peaks were hoods of cloud  
The slopes were veiled in chilly rain;  
As said: "It is the summer's shroud,  
And with the frosts we mean to slay—  
Will smother us never come again!"  
At last the west wind brought us one  
Serene, warm, cloudless, crystal day,  
As though September, having blown  
A blast of tempest, would bring down  
A gannet to the favored May.

Backward to Spring our fancies flew,  
And, ere the sun had risen, we were  
The bloomy days began anew,  
Then, as a happy dream comes true,  
Or as a poet finds his rhyme—  
Half wondered at, half unbelieved—  
I found they, friendliest of the flowers!  
Then summer's joys came back, green leaves,  
And its warm sun, and white repressives,  
First learned how truly they were ours.

Dear violet! Did the Autumn bring  
Thee vocal dreams, till thou, like me,  
Hidest thine in the morning?  
Or was it that the thought of Spring  
Did come again in search of thee?  
—Robert Underwood Johnson, in Century.

## AT THE HOSPITAL.

### How Men Act When They Are Under the Knife.

Some, Who Look Brave, Whimper, While Others, Who Seem Weak, Prove to Be Heroes—An Old Soldier's Tardy Word.

"If you are desirous of studying mankind," said the surgeon the other day to a *Tribune* reporter in the operating room of the Alexian Brothers' Hospital, "just be seated for a little while and you will have a good opportunity." The reporter accepted the proffered chair, and as they were waiting for the first patient to be brought in the doctor remarked: "Nothing will strike you more than the way in which some patients behave. Men who, to judge from their looks, you would judge to be the most capable of bearing pain, are of the worst, and on the other hand, men who look as if they would shrink at the very sight of the surgeon's knife are just the opposite.

The first two patients brought in fully corroborated the doctor's remarks. The first one was a big German saloonkeeper, weighing fully two hundred and fifty pounds. He had to be resisted to the table, although the doctor remarked that he could get along quite well without assistance.

"Now, then," said the surgeon, "up you get on the table."  
"O, doctor, doctor, vast ist you going to do to me? You will not hurt me?" and the big, strong man, who looked so fierce began to whimper.

"No, no," replied the doctor, "you won't be hurt. Put, put, be a man. Don't cry."  
The German lumbered onto the table, and it was found that a very slight incision would be necessary. It would be over in a second, and would not hurt more than cutting one's finger. The moment the victim saw the knife he began to bellow: "O, doctor, give me the other, O, nein, nein!" As he saw the knife getting ready, and when the point touched him, he gave a yell loud enough to waken the dead.

The next in order was a boy not more than sixteen years of age. He was so weak that he had to be carried to the table by the Brothers. He was suffering from disease of the hip joint, and tubes had to be inserted in order to drain off the pus. The operation was a painful one, and no ether was administered, but never a moan or groan escaped the boy's lips from start to finish, and only a slight tremulous shudder when the incision was made.

"There's a brave lad," said the doctor when he had finished, and the boy smiled, seeming to appreciate the compliment.

The next brought in was a funny one. It was that of Sam Jones, a colored runaway, who had been hit on the head with a brick by a white man in a "dive" row. Sam had the top of his skull stove in, and the blow would have killed any one but a negro. The brain could be seen through an aperture about one and a half inches in diameter. The blow had quite taken away his power of speech, all he could say being simply "yes" or "no," and he sat on a chair and grinned idiotically. The present operation was to dress the wound and fit on a plaster of Paris skull cap. It would have made Sam's fortune as a "nigger" minstrel man if he could have been seen with his black face grinning under the white cap.

The next case was an extraordinary one. The Brothers had in a short, stumpy German, who had just been admitted. The doctor had not yet examined him, so he asked him what was the matter. The reply he received was a shake of the head, and then he put up his hands and said, "Too, too!"  
"Too, too what?" said the doctor.  
"Are you an esthetic?"

The German, again shook his head and made a motion with his hands as if playing a trumpet, again saying, "Too, too."  
"Now I catch on," said the doctor. It appeared that the man was a musician in an itinerant German band, and suddenly lost the power of speech. It was a case of aphasia, but it was remarkable from the fact that on examination no apparent injury could be discovered. The man had also lost his memory. He tried to write his wife's name, but could neither do that nor could he remember his own.

The next patient was also somewhat

remarkable. A tall, good looking man, dressed in the uniform of the G. A. R., was laid in with a bandage over his eye. His name was George Werner, and his present occupation is that of a farmer down in Indiana. Werner's life has been an adventurous one. He began in the Russian navy and went through the Crimean war. He then came to America and enlisted in the United States navy in 1856. He voyaged all over the world, being attached at one time to the Pacific squadron, and during the war, witnessed the fight between the Monitor and Merrimack in Hampton roads. He was discharged from the navy, enlisted in one of the Pennsylvania regiments and took part in several battles. Shortly after the war he came to Chicago, where he was some time an undertaker. "What's the matter with you, George?" queried the doctor.

"Got shot in the eye during a sham battle in Indiana," was the reply. And, sure enough, Werner, who had gone through all sorts of real battles, had at last succumbed to a sham one. He had been hit in the left eye by a wad, and on examination the doctor decided that the only means of saving the other eye was to take the damaged one out.

"All right, fire away," said the old soldier, taking off his coat and stretching himself on the operating table. The doctor was administered and the damaged eye removed. Right behind the eye was found a piece of wad about the size of half a dollar. How it had not killed him was a miracle.

The last case to be brought in was an instance of how much is done in a charitable institution, like the Alexian Brothers', for poor patients. It was the case of a young German who had been run over by a street car and had his leg fractured. His leg began to slough, and he has been an inmate of the hospital since last December.

There is very little hope, if any, of his leg being saved, and even if it should be, he will be a cripple for life. The chances are he will die soon, but he steadily refuses to have his leg cut off. If this had been done some time ago, the leg would have been about now with an artificial leg, but he won't allow it. In his case it is sheer cowardice that prevents him giving his consent, and unless he does it the doctors are unable to operate on him. Meanwhile he receives the best of the hospital affords in the way of food and surgical dressings, and he must have cost the Brothers at least five hundred dollars since his admittance. While he was being dressed he bellowed like a bull and began the bellowing before he was even touched.

The doctor was just putting up his instruments after this case when the clang of the bell of the patrol-wagon was heard, and two policemen shortly afterwards entered supporting between them a respectable-looking lad about nineteen years of age. The boy gave his name as Joseph Tobias, and said he had attempted suicide in Lincoln Park by taking poison, the reason being that he had no home, no friends, no work and no money. He was attended to, and there is some chance of his recovery.

The reporter and the doctor then walked through the hospital and visited some of the private rooms where "pay" patients are treated. In one room was poor Kelly, the fireman, who was so badly hurt by the upsetting of the chemical engine some time ago. Kelly's injuries are very severe and he will never be an efficient fireman again. His leg is fractured, but the worst injury is to his arm, which is badly burned to the wrist, all the muscles being exposed. He will never be able to use the arm again. Another remarkable case in the hospital is that of a man who is being treated for inflammation of the inner membrane of the heart. He is an anatomical curiosity in his way, his heart being on his right side and his liver on the left.

The curious part of the case is that the man when admitted did not know of this peculiarity.

The Alexian Brothers' Hospital is one of the best conducted and most deserving charities in the city of Chicago. Not a single individual in the institution receives a cent of salary, and the Brothers lead a life of the greatest self-denial, rising at daybreak, winter and summer, and devoting the entire day to the nursing of the sick. Their vows bind them to poverty and obedience and all they do is for the good of others, trusting for their reward in the hereafter. They are at present building an addition to the hospital to cost about twenty-five thousand dollars.—*Chicago Tribune.*

## The Press of Japan.

Interesting statistics are just published in connection with the Japanese press, the newspapers and periodicals being arranged in accordance with the subjects with which they deal. It appears that there are thirty-seven publications devoted to educational matters, and these have a total circulation of 42,639 per month. There are seven medical papers, with a monthly circulation of 13,514; nine relating to sanitary matters, with a circulation of 8,195; two on forestry and two on pharmacy. There are seven journals devoted to the various branches of science, with a circulation of 2,428, and these must be added twenty-two papers engaged in popularizing science, with a total circulation of 20,666.—*Christian Union.*

The system of public distribution of food or grain among the people was not abandoned till the seventh century after Christ.

## A PRINCE'S BREAKFAST.

One of the Phases of Education at the Court of Prussia.

Until Prince William, the oldest son of the Crown Prince of Prussia, had arrived at the age of fifteen, he had to study daily from nine to twelve a. m., a pause of a quarter of an hour being allowed at eleven for breakfast. The Prince got regularly a piece of white bread, with such fruit as was in season. Dr. D., his tutor, got beefsteak, etc., for breakfast. The savory smell of the meat always seemed to raise a feeling of longing in the Prince's breast, and his eyes would often wander from his own modest repast to the smoking plate of his tutor. The latter also felt a certain amount of embarrassment in thus raising envy, or a similar feeling to it, in the heart of his pupil. The stern discipline which regulated even the meal times and recreation did not, however, allow of the slightest indulgence. One day the lesson, both in German and Latin, had been done in splendid style, and Dr. D. felt the laudable satisfaction of an instructor when his pupil does honor to his teaching. "Casar de bello gallico" had been rendered with spirit when eleven o'clock struck. A servant entered with breakfast on a silver tray—a smoking beefsteak for the doctor and a basket with bread and grapes for his princely pupil, who, as usual, did not fail to cast stolen glances at his tutor's plate. "Prince," said the Doctor, carried away by his good humor, "I'm a great lover of grapes; suppose we exchange—you eat my steak and I your—"

The doctor had not time to finish his speech before his pupil had taken the steak, with the brightest of faces. Both teacher and pupil were enjoying their exchange when the Crown Prince entered the room. Perhaps both eaters blushed, but the father made no remark, but merely inquired as to how his son had learnt, and was rejoiced to hear the doctor's good report. At twelve o'clock, as the tutor was about retiring, a message was brought that the Crown Prince desired to speak with him. "Doctor," said his Highness, "explain to me how it was that the Prince ate beefsteak and you a cold breakfast?"

The tutor put the matter in the best light, as a joke which his satisfaction with his pupil had caused him to make. "I allow the joke for this once," said his Highness, "but I wish the Prince to accustom himself to see these arrangements for your comfort without envy, and also that he should be satisfied with the food given him, which allows of an alteration in future years. What will he require at twenty if he longs for beefsteak for breakfast now? Bread and fruit are wholesome and fully sufficient for a boy of his age." When breakfast was brought next day, the Prince did not look away from his plate. "A splendid bunch of grapes!" said his Highness, "but I wish the Prince to accustom himself to see these arrangements for your comfort without envy, and also that he should be satisfied with the food given him, which allows of an alteration in future years. What will he require at twenty if he longs for beefsteak for breakfast now? 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