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THE TRAIN FEVER.

An English Humorist Discusses a Peculiar Disease.
[London Globe.]

Among the diseases of modern life, and one which Dr. Richardson has hitherto paid hardly any attention to, is the train fever, an insidious malady which, if it is not altogether undermining the British constitution, helps largely to make life more miserable to many. Some people escape this disease altogether, but they are the select few. The majority suffer from it in one way or another, frequently without their knowledge. This fever seizes some people every day as soon as their eyes are opened. They have to be at the station at 9:30, say, and life is a yoyo movement till they get there. Every movement is checked off by the watch; if the victim is rather late in shaving, he has to make up time over his hair-dressing; and should there be a debit balance at the hour of breakfast, it has to be liquidated over the coffee.

Then comes the race for the train; there are so many minutes allowed, calculated to such a nicety that if the patient hears the whistle of the approaching train before he gets to the grocer's shop, or the elm tree in the lane, or some other noted mark on his chart, he knows he must run for it. And very often he has to run, for sometimes it is a wet morning, and he can not lay his hand on his umbrella; or his wife has some very important commissions to give him, and can not remember them "if she is hurried so," but will not let him go till she does; or perhaps he must go back over so many yards to kiss the baby, who will cry all day if it is done out of this mark of respect. So by the time he has reached the station the fever has done its full work for the day, has upset his nerves and his digestion, and set him gasping and panting all the way up to town. To be sure, he catches his train. Of course he might have caught his train quite easily if he had got up in good time and thought nothing about it; but the fever will not allow a man to do that. It is astonishing how men will go on day after day, year after year, repeating this sad experience. They can no more shake off the fever by taking time by the forelock than they can by the hand. It would be amusing, were it not grievous, to stand outside a suburban station and watch the race for the morning train. Up come the fever stricken, pale, anxious countenances, some running outright; some, whose dignity will not allow them to run, walking double pace with set teeth and firmly clenched umbrellas and bags; all hurrying and all falling back half exhausted when they reach their carriage.

The fever, as it affects of some ladies, is really too awful to dwell upon. Many ladies to whom railroad traveling was a youthful wonder, cannot even now trust Bradshaw, but are impelled to go to the station to make personal inquiries as to the times of starting. The fever always impedes intended journey is generally dedicated to this preliminary satisfaction of the fever. But there is no peace either to the patient or to their households for hours before the time fixed. The fever always impedes them to the station a full half hour before it is necessary, and sometimes actuates them to hook their umbrellas into porters' neckclothes, or to seize guards as emotionally as if they were recognizing in them long-lost sons. Upon other ladies, however, the train fever has an opposite effect. It fills them with a dull despair. They know that they have always missed the train they have fixed upon, and always will. If the train they want to go by starts at 9 and the next at 10:30, still pursued by the relentless demon, they will start for the 9, and, of course, miss it, and will sit in the waiting-room for the next hour and a half with lack-luster eye and wan countenance. It is their fate, they know, and it is useless to struggle against fate.

Before and After.
[Notice that they are going to tax bachelors in France, murmured Dora, reading from the paper David had just laid down.]
"That isn't right," frowned David, biting nervously at his after-supper cigar; "their lot is hard and unhappy enough as it is."
Dora got up and kissed David at this suggestive remark. They had been married only a few months.
Time swept on in that calm and relentless fashion for which time is celebrated, and Dora is the mother of a 6-weeks-old baby. At intervals, also, David is reminded that he is joint proprietor in this family acquisition, which has a studied ambition for sitting up nights in company with his father.
"I was thinking," mused Dora softly from her easy chair, "I was thinking about that item we were reading last winter. I wonder if they really do tax the bachelors in France."
"I don't know," returned David, who was warming some sort of a mixture in a little tin dish over a spirit lamp; "but," he added malevolently, as he tipped the mixture over just as it got warm, "they ought to make them pay something for the luxury."
And Dora sighed as she asked if it wasn't about time to mix the food.

New Use for the Electric Light.

[Exchange.]
The fruit growers of California have discovered a new application for the electric light. Many bushels of night-flying insects are killed in their orchards near the cities when the electric light is employed.

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FIRST-CLASS LUNCHEONS, COFFEE,
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