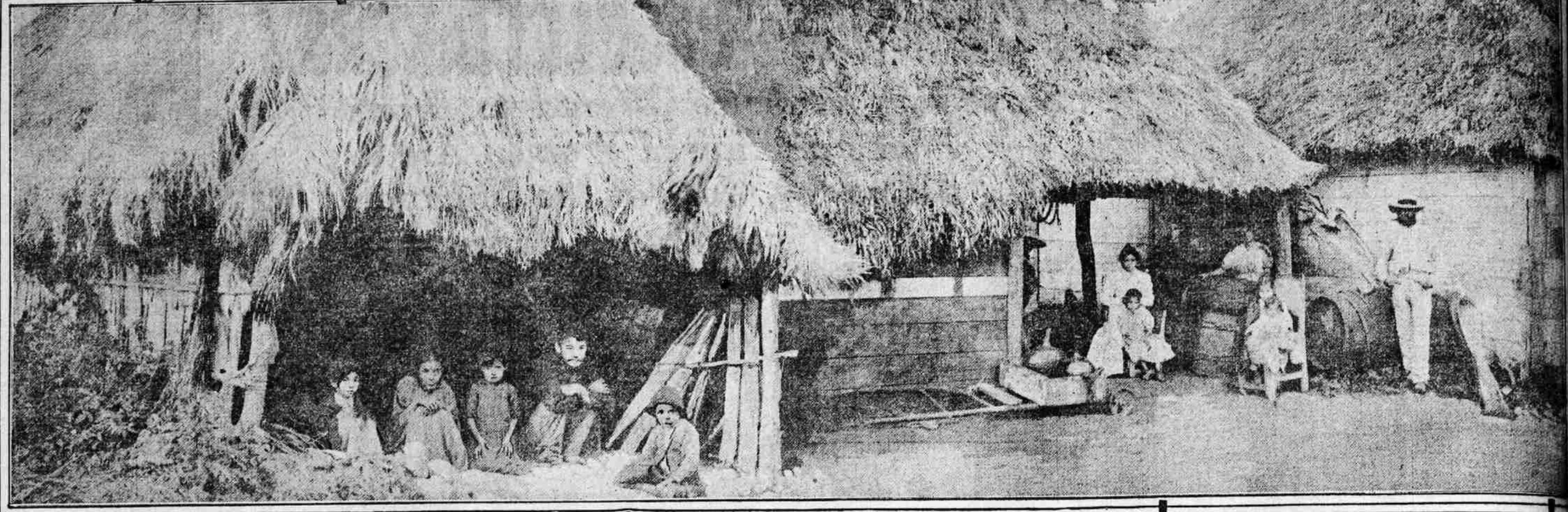


# Trying To Stop The 'VOODOO' Human Sacrifices In Cuba



Picturesque Huts of the Poor White Natives of Cuba, Whose Children Are Stolen by the Negroes for Human Sacrifice.

## Two Voodoo Priests Caught After Weird Ceremonials and the Murder of a Little White Girl

THE police authorities of Cuba are greatly pleased with the capture of two Voodoo priests, Jose de la Cruz and Eugenio Cardenas. If these two negroes can be convicted and executed for the human sacrifice of Eugenia Hernandez, the six-year-old white girl, it is hoped that it will be the entering wedge in breaking up the wicked Voodoo ceremonials which are practiced all over the island.

It has always been extremely difficult to prove a case of religious murder, because the negroes are in great fear of revealing what goes on during the rites. White children disappear with distressing frequency, and now and then the mutilated body of a little white girl is found, after the Voodoo ceremonials are over.

In the case of the two Voodoo priests there seems to be sufficient evidence to secure a conviction. It was on the night of November 25 that Cruz and Cardenas took little Eugenia. It is claimed that the negroes obtained permission of the parents of the child to draw a small amount of blood from the child's body, for the purpose of curing a sick woman named Salvadora Arojana. They went through the usual weird ceremonies and incantations, in the presence of the parents, preparatory to taking the blood.

The little girl was seized, but managed to free herself and ran to her mother, clinging to her skirts. This action was reported by the child each time she saw the knife in the "wisero's" hands. This interference with their ceremonials prompted the negroes to try to start the child's blood running by an explosion of powder, but the explosion proved so violent that it killed the child.

This explanation is discredited by the police authorities, who expect to show that little Eugenia was bled to death purposely.

The practise of voodooism in the Western Hemisphere is some 250 years old. It was brought here with the first cargo of human flesh from Darkest Africa, which landed on the

shores of Cuba in the middle of the seventeenth century.

From the start the illiterate Spaniard and the illiterate white Cuban became fascinated by the wonderful doings of the African fanatics, and to-day voodooism is almost as prevalent among the West Indian whites as it is among the negroes. Indeed, the white fanatic is said to be even more hopeless than his negro co-worshipper.

During the years the revolting belief has flourished in the Western continent it has undergone many superficial changes, although the foundation of the sacrifice has remained unchanged. Many sects have developed, and to one of these called the "Bembe," the two prisoners belonged.

The sect of the "Bembe" makes a strong point of pyrotechnic displays at its ceremonials, and is the leading "curative" faction of the worship. That is, where other sects specialize on the satisfaction of revenge, of hatred, unsatisfied love and so on, the "Bembe" are the medicine men of voodoo.

The temple and abode of Jose, where the child was killed, is a long, narrow, low roofed hut on the outskirts of the town. Religious meetings were regularly held there twice a week. Both Jose and Cardenas are full blooded negroes, as all the priests of voodoo must be.

What actually occurred at this meeting is involved in a mass of contradictory stories, but the following authoritative account furnished by a well-informed Cuban of the usual programme followed at orgies of this kind is enlightening:

"It is a fact well known to every Cuban and to everyone who has resided in the island for any length of time," he declared, "that these fantastic orgies take place right in the heart of the city of Havana.

"At these meetings 'el baile del Sante,' or the dance of the Saint, is a regular feature.

"The high priest sits on his throne, a certain prayer is offered, and, at a nod of his head, the drums begin to

beat. He picks out three or four girls—the best-looking ones, as a rule.

"These girls strip to the waist, pick up their skirts and tie them in a manner that leaves them bare thigh and leg, and the dance is on. They perspire, they snort, the stamping of their feet goes on with ever increasing fury; the priest hits them now and then with the sacred stick, to urge them on; he watches them with a keen eye, notices that one of them is near the point of exhaustion and then gives the word that 'the saint' is coming.

"The ring around the dancers widens. A way is made open for the priest to come to the door and welcome the saint; the exhausted dancer falls in a fit. The priest rushes to her side and carries her tenderly to an inner room fitted with an altar. She is now in a trance and 'possessed' of 'the saint.'

"The faithful come in one by one and state their cases; the priest interprets her sighs and moans as answers. The sick get his prescription, the jealous husband learns whether he is right or wrong in his suspicions, the lovesick obtains a recipe for the attainment of his ends. Little by little consciousness comes back, the trance is over, the saint is gone and the orgies are on.

"That little Maria was nude at the time of the explosion is established not only by Jose's admission, but by the fact that her clothing was found intact.

"Jose declared that she was dancing nude in accordance with the rules of the ritual ceremony, but he claims that the girl's death was due entirely to the explosion which was caused by the ignition of a bottle of alcohol. Against this, however, it is pointed out that the injuries sustained by the others were of the most superficial character.

"Whether the explosion was the real cause of the child's death, as the voodoo priest said, or whether the incision went too far and the frightened priest decided to cover the whole thing by the explosion, which

Cuban Negro Children. These Children Are Not Sacrificed. It is the Blood of the White Children Which Is Valued for Religious Ceremonials and for the Cure of the Sick.

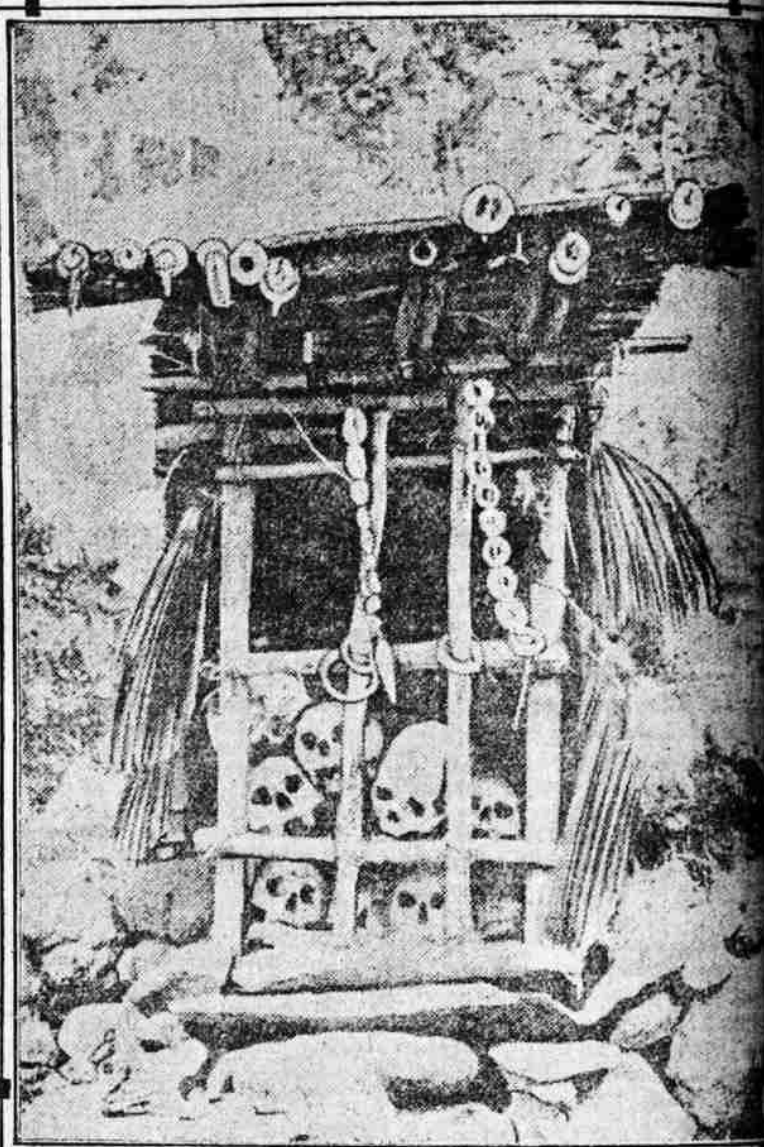


the police say was undoubtedly caused by gunpowder and not alcohol, is still a mystery."

Those who are familiar with the orgies committed in the practise of voodooism declare, however, that if the little girl was really killed by the explosion, whether it was of gun-

powder, as the police claim, or of alcohol, as the fanatics contend, she escaped a death ten times worse than what she underwent.

As already stated, both the word "Voodoo," and the religion, are of West African origin. The word belongs to the Ewe tongue, a language



A Voodoo Taboo House in Africa. It is from Africa That Religion of Voodooism Came Which Is Now Practiced in Cuba.

spoken on the slave coast, in the district between the River Volta, on the West, and the kingdom of Porto Novo, on the East.

The original spelling is "Vodu." It is derived from the verb "vo," to fear, or to inspire fear. The natives do not apply the name to any special god, but to all fear-inspiring supernatural manifestations. The practise of voodooism, however, concentrates the fearsome attributes in a snake—the python. A cult inaugurated a sort of priest community, called "papa" —a priest and a priestess for "mamma"—by means of which a snake deity could communicate with its worshippers and demand murderous sacrifices.

## Using Electrical Treatment for Sick and Rheumatic Dogs, Cats and Horses

"THE electric current is being used with great success for the treatment of many diseases of horses, cats, dogs and other animals," says Dr. W. P. Jenkins, the most fashionable animal doctor in New York.

"The current is particularly useful in curing lameness, rheumatism, diseases of the nerves and the digestive organs. Some very ingenious appliances have been devised for administering the current safely and effectively, as may be seen from the accompanying illustrations.

"Various animals behave very differently when subjected to the current. One horse will kick violently when he feels the current. Another will submit to it with perfect calmness. As a rule it is wise to enclose a horse in a strongly built stall, with four sides, before giving him treatment, as a wild horse is likely to cause serious trouble.

"The dog will usually submit to a light current very easily and will sometimes show pleasure in the treatment.

"In order to treat a cat

electrically it is always necessary to secure the animal firmly, as it is certain to rebel against treatment. The cat will never voluntarily submit to any constraint by man.

"The faradic and galvanic currents are both used to test the sensitiveness of the skin and to find out whether there is any hidden injury to nerves or muscles. The involuntary muscular response to the current will show whether the muscles work together properly. This is very useful with horses, for they are often permanently crippled if they are

worked when one muscle is out of order.

"The faradic current is most valuable in treating lameness and troubles of the external nerves and organs. The galvanic current is more employed for the treatment of the external nerves and muscles. The latter form of current is also used in the treatment of abscess and catarrhal affections.

"The commonest troubles in horses treated by electricity are lameness of the hips, the back and the shoulders. These

troubles often disappear as if by magic under the application of an induction current. Very often one application of the current is sufficient to cure a trouble that has made the poor horse unfit for work. The animals respond to this treatment much more readily than human beings.

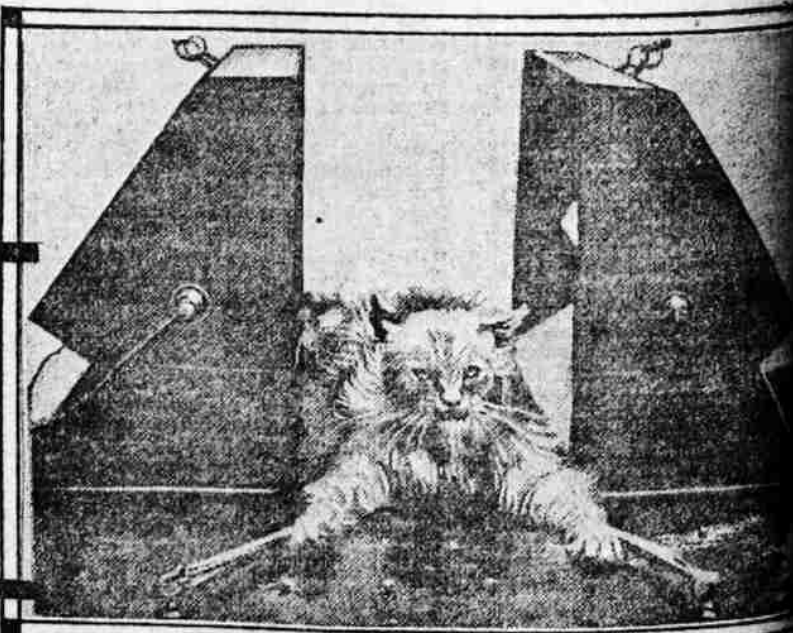
"Stomach and intestinal troubles in cats and dogs are frequently cured with the faradic current. A German newspaper reports that the favorite poodle of a Princess was cured of intestinal catarrh that had threatened his life after three applications of the current."



A Rheumatic Horse Getting an Electric and Vapor Bath.



A Rheumatic Dog Receiving High Frequency Currents of Healing Electricity.



A Cat Being Treated to a Healing Current After an Operation.