NEEDLES IN HER BODY.

TORTURES WHICH SURGEONS CAN'T EXPLAIN.

Needles Seem to Grow in Body of Melvina Morford—For Three Years They Have Been Cut Out of Her, and More Are Yet to Come.

FROM THE BODY of Melvina Morford, a nineteen-year-old girl living at Sharon, Pa., physicians have extracted within the past three years over eight hundred needles and fragments of needles. How many are still imbeded in her flesh they do not pretend to say, but operations to remove the sharp pieces of steel are still going on.

This story is true in every detail. The surgeons say it is without precedent for the extraordinary number of needles her body has contained. There are several well-known cases of a woman carrying a needle in her body for years, and the needle has kept constantly moving from one limb to the other. When, not long ago, the surgeons cut out from twenty to forty more needles they thought their task was finished. But it seems not.

If, as some surgeons contend, the case is one of voluntary self-torture, then the patient, a fragile young girl, possesses wonderful endurance and a stoical indifference to pain which far surpasses that of the New Mexican Indian priests, who, once a year, in the performance of a religious penance, flagellate themselves with sharp cacti branches, filling their backs with thorns, which are afterwards drawn out.

The girl, however, strenuously denies that she fills her skin with needles. She says that she has no idea where they come from. Her parents corroborate her. They have even kept close watch over her movements to detect, if possible, whether the physicians' theories are correct, but they say they have learned nothing.

The operations for the removal of the steel pieces are exceedingly painful and cause the girl to writhe under the cut of the surgeon's knife. She is, in fact, unusually sensitive to pain.

AMERICAN DIAMONDS.

A Few Choice Specimens of Them Are Found Here.

Diamonds have been found occasionally at different places in the United States, but never in sufficient quantities to render systematic mining profitable, says the New York World. The largest authenticated diamond ever found in this country was picked up by a laborer engaged in grading the streets of Manchester, Va. Its original weight was about twenty-four carats and after cutting a twelve-carat stone resulted. On this stone, called by Capt. Dewey, its owner, the Oninoor, John Morrissey once loaned $6,000, but Mr. Kunz, the diamond expert, appraised its value at less than $1,000, as it is poorly colored and imperfect.

Next to this stone comes a sixteen-carat diamond found in 1884 at Waukesha, Wis. A stone over four carats came from Dysartville, N. C., in 1886, and one weighing just a little less was found in Dane County, Wisconsin, in 1893. In Georgia and North Carolina, itacolumite or flexible sandstone is found. This stone, so elastic that a slab of it can readily be bent into a curve by the fingers, is found associated with diamonds in Brazil, and this fact led to a search for the gems in these southern states. Quite a number of small stones were consequently found there, mostly in the gold washings of Hall county, Georgia.

In California's gold diggings, diamonds have also been found in some numbers. About seventy stones have been obtained from one locality at Cherokee flat, the largest weighing about two and one-half carats, and the colors varying from rose through various shades of yellow to pure white. The largest price ever paid for a California diamond in the rough was some $600. There are twenty diamond-cutting establishments now in this country, handling during each year about $1,250,000 worth of stones.

A Misunderstanding.

Suitor—Beg pardon for interrupting, but I—er—have just come—er—that is, I have just been speaking to your daughter, and she referred me to you. Old Gentleman—Gee crickets! I wonder if that girl thinks I am made of money. You are about the fortieth bill-collector she has sent in to-day. If she doesn't marry pretty soon, I'll be bankrupt.

Ethics of Journalism.

New York Recorder: "His mind wanders," gravely remarked the medical man, gazing down at the unconscious editor of the Weekly Blast.

"That's all right, doctor," hopefully commented the editor of the Bugle, who had been called in to watch by the bedside of his sick and rival contemporary; "he always had that kind of a mind."

BATTLING WITH A RATFISH.

A Queer Marine Monster Killed Off the California Coast.

The Italian settlement at the foot of Franklin street was agitated this morning by the capture of a monster of the deep, says an Oakland correspondent of the San Francisco Examiner. An Italian fisherman gave battle to the queer fish, and he says he will long remember the encounter. The capture was made near Goat Island. It took several hours to land the fish and during the contest two boats were nearly wrecked. The Italians call the monster a "ratfish," because it has somewhat the appearance of a rat. The fish weighs 245 pounds and measures eleven feet from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail. The tail itself, which was used by the fish as a means of defense, measured six feet in length. The story of the battle was told by a man named Lagoria, who employs the fishermen to go out every morning and fish for him.

"There is one old man in my employ," said Lagoria to-day, "who seems to have particularly bad luck in catching freaks. Several days ago he got a man-eater while fishing near Goat Island and had an exciting encounter. This morning the same old fisherman had his lines out near Goat Island when he captured the ratfish. He was alone at the time and was somewhat excited when the monster came to the surface of the water and made straight for his little boat, lashing his tail in all directions. The fisherman had to devote his efforts in getting away from his catch. He shouted for assistance, and three companions, who were fishing in the vicinity, came to his rescue. After a long struggle they succeeded in drowning the monster and towed him to shore. A fish that weighs 245 pounds and is eleven feet long, and a tail almost like a rod of iron, can do some fighting when it gets mad. That is what my fishermen found out when they tried to land the monster. The man who made the capture has given up the sea for a few days. He is a little superstitious about his captures and does not want to do any more fishing for awhile. The Italians call it a 'ratfish,' but that is not the proper name. We have been in the fish business for a great many years, but we have never had anything like this before. It is not a shark. The tail is very peculiar and has great strength. That is its weapon of defense. The men who captured the fish tell me that the monster can work terrible havoc with its tail."

THE BANGLE AGAIN.

It Came Into Fashion with Elbow-Sleeve and Is Very Costly.

One of the features of this year's fashion in jewelry is that the bangle is very different from the old. It came into fashion along with the elbow sleeve now so much in vogue, and is a flexible affair, comfortable to the arm and entirely unlike the stiff bangle of a few years ago. At one leading jeweler's there are a variety of these new bangles. They consist of a narrow flexible gold band, set with jewels, alternating with one another. Six to eight gems are used, and the effect is very beautiful. Diamonds alternating with emeralds are the most in vogue, though exquisite bangles show diamonds and rubies and diamonds and sapphires. Another bangle novelty has the same flexible band, but with the jewels arranged in a cluster instead of the separate gems alternating with one another. A turquois surrounded with diamonds makes valuable one of these new bangles. Strings of pearls are the fashion to wear with low-necked evening gowns. The latest show four pearl strands caught together in three places by flat diamond clasps. Nothing could be more beautiful for a debutante's "coming out present" than one of these new pearl necklaces. The fashionable hat pin of the moment has for its top one large gem framed in diamonds or tiny pearls. An amethyst set in pearls is, perhaps, the most correct.

True Realism.

Dramatic Author—I understand that you are looking for a new play.

Manager—Yes, but I am very hard to suit. I want a play which shall combine all the elements of tragedy, comedy, farce, pantomime and spectacle.

"That's it. That's what I've got. Chock-full of tragedy and human suffering, tears and smiles, joy and woe, startling surprises, unheard of mishaps, wreck and ruin, lamentations and laughter."

"What's the title?"

"A May Day Moving."

"What's the plot?"

"Hasn't any plot. Just an ordinary May day moving."

Real Devotion.

"Are you sure you love him?"

"Am I sure! Do you see this dress?"

"Of course I do. What of it?"

"Will you kindly tell me if it bears the slightest resemblance to the present fashion?"

"Well, really, it—er—it—"

"It doesn't?"

"No."

"Well, I am wearing it because he likes it."—Tid-Bits.

Professor Pilcher's Flying Machine.

Professor Percy I. Pilcher, assistant lecturer in the normal architecture and marine engineering class at Glasgow University, has achieved considerable success with his soaring machine. His machine consists of five parts, a body piece, a triangle, wings and rudder, the whole giving an appearance quite similar to an enormous butterfly; the area of the wings being 150 square feet. The occupant of the machine rests within the body of the structure, his legs free to touch the earth. On the day of Mr. Pilcher's most successful experiment the wind was blowing at the rate of fifteen miles an hour; it is reported that having adjusted the machine the inventor ran down a long declivity, taking without any forced effort, leaps of up to sixty feet in length, being, during the leaps, from two to four feet from the ground. During one of these leaps, however, the wind getting under one of the huge wings, tilted and disabled the machine. The efforts of Professor Pilcher in this line are considered as among the most successful in the A B C's of aerial navigation. A new machine of slightly heavier pattern, but with correspondingly larger sail area, has been constructed to replace the other, and with this machine better results are expected.

The "Shocking Indiscretion" of a Zulu.

The editor of the African Critic tells a good story of his barrister days. He was retained on one occasion to defend a Zulu, charged with stealing a gold watch from his master. "The evidence against the accused was," writes the editor, "only circumstantial, and I made the most of it, with the result that he was discharged without the proverbial 'stain on his character.'

"On the same evening I was sitting on the stoop of the Criterion hotel conversing with Mr. Hugo, the magistrate who had heard the case, when my client of the morning approached and asked if he could speak to me. Without rising I asked him what he wanted.

"Not noticing who my companion was he blurted out in English: 'Master, can I wear the watch now?' producing at the same time the identical article for the theft of which he had been tried and acquitted. Mr. Hugo roared with laughter. I felt somewhat embarrassed, and in the meantime the boy, recognizing the magistrate's voice, had bolted."—New York Journal.

No one has ever had a correct idea of the estimation in which he is held by his fellow creatures until he attempts to borrow a ten-dollar bill.

There are no cats in Greenland, but they have a native dog that can howl a hole into the side of an iceberg, so the natives dont miss the cats.

It is sometimes unfortunate to be a rich man's son.

There is no premium on fashionable scandal this summer.

One can be a gentleman without really owning a steam yacht.

What is done cannot be undone, especially if it is a hard-boiled egg.

The size of a man has nothing to do with the size of a lie he can tell.

Many people enjoy a musical refrain better than its execution.

A dress does not make a woman, but often breaks a man.

Youth paints the circus bills for old age to tear down.

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