

A BLACK MAN TURNING WHITE

Ebony Mr. Hurburt Is Growing a Beautiful Baby-Like White Skin.

A DISTINGUISHED colored citizen of New York is turning white with great rapidity. He has no doubt that he will soon be entirely white.

Rufus A. Hurburt is the man who is undergoing this surprising transformation. He keeps a large cigar store at No. 231 Seventh avenue. He makes cigars and has a number of Cuban colored employees.

Mr. Hurburt is very prominent in the public affairs of his race in this city. He is quartermaster of the Veteran Guards, a Free Mason and a member of the Knights of Pythias. He has been actively engaged in politics in his district. Eminent politicians have referred to him as "my distinguished colored fellow-citizen."

Mr. Hurburt is a remarkable man physically in other respects beside his variegated skin. He is just sixty-two years of age, but no one would take him to be more than two or three years over thirty. He is straight in figure and very active and able to make five hundred cigars in a day. His father, who was born in the West Indies, lived to be 108.

It is just two years since Mr. Hurburt began to notice that he was turning white. The whiteness has now spread over a large part of his chest and back, over the entire back of one hand and over part of the other. It is beginning to appear about the neck and chin.

The transformed skin is exactly like that of a white man in appearance, but remarkably youthful and healthy. Few men of sixty-two can show a skin as soft and wholesome. It is almost like that of a child.

The immediate cause of the change of color is the absorption into the body of the dark pigment which lies beneath the negro's skin. What causes this absorption is a mystery. The phenomenon, which cannot properly be called a disease, is known to science as leucoderma. A good many cases have occurred, but Mr. Hurburt's is one of the most remarkable. One important feature of his case is the thoroughly normal appearance of the whitened skin, which is just like that of an ordinary American.

For the information of some ignorant persons it may be necessary to state that nothing comes away externally when the change of color takes place. There is absolutely nothing unpleasant about the process. Mr. Hurburt is merely the possessor of a skin which is in places that of a healthy colored man and in other places that of a healthy white man.

Another very remarkable feature of this case is the rapidity with which the change is taking place. He showed the reporter perfectly white spots the size of a dollar that had appeared in the course of a month. Other spots of the same size, but not quite white, had been visible for a week.

Mr. Hurburt is hastening the natural process by a lotion supplied by a well-known dermatologist of this city. He is sure that this preparation is advancing his whiteness greatly.

He has used it freely on his chest and back, and in those regions he is practically white. Until recently he hesitated to use the lotion on his face, because he did not wish to present a mottled appearance to the world. Now he is so convinced that it is his destiny to become white that he is willing to hasten the end by every means in his power. Already he has large white places on his chin.

Mr. Hurburt has intelligent features, a straight nose and fairly thin lips. If he had a white skin there would be no signs of negro about him.

Slaves and ill-mannered persons flock into his store by the dozen merely to see his skin. It is notable, and perhaps not surprising, that the majority of them are women. Therefore they are not customers. They interfere unwarrantably with Mr. Hurburt's business, but they satisfy themselves that he is turning white in a very pleasing manner.



The Man who is turning white

Doctors Hang a Man So as to Save His Life.

PITTSBURG can boast of a man who has been hanged and who will remain hanged for some time in order that his life may be saved. This paradox is a medical one and relates to the case of John Malbrick, a Polish miner, now in the South Side Hospital in the Smoky City. He has been there for about a week now, and the doctors say that he will have to stay another month before he can be his old self again—if no unforeseen circumstances interfere and end Malbrick's earthly career.

The case is one of the most remarkable in the annals of surgery, it being one of the few instances recorded where a man with a back broken in two places survived long enough to be operated upon. In this instance the doctors not only performed a remarkable operation, but by means of the heroic treatment of hanging—not by the neck, but by the shoulders—they hope to save the man's life.

He was employed in one of the numerous mines about Pittsburg and was injured on June 15 by a mass of slate falling upon him. When taken out of the tunnel in which he had been working it was found that the last dorsal and the first lumbar vertebrae were shattered and that the sections between these two breaks had been forced forward into the abdomen.

It was at once taken to the operating room of the hospital and there Drs. George P. Rossman and John Milton performed the operation known as laminectomy. They cut into the back part of the spinal column and removed the crushed bone, relieving the pressure on the spinal cord and averting paralysis.

They repeatedly touched the tender spinal cord, but so delicate was their trained touch that no injury resulted. Having accomplished this much, the doctors debated as to the best means of keeping all pressure off the injured part. After much discussion it was decided to try the plan of hanging Malbrick with straps beneath his shoulders. The idea was to stretch the body by its own weight, so that the spinal cord and the spinal processes would not shrink or shorten.

Accordingly, a scaffold was hurriedly erected out of ordinary scaffolding. The scaffold is seven feet high and four and a half feet wide, so that the swinging body can have free play. Straps were placed under the injured man's shoulders, and he was swung into the air, his feet being about one foot off the ground.

There he hangs, and will hang until either health or death rewards him and the doctors for their patience and pluck.

"As the gutta-percha finger travels over the body, the differences of sound conveyed by the telephone enable the operator to determine the precise outlines of the liver, heart, lungs, &c. With a crayon the physician marks these outlines on the front of the body, and then, turning the patient around, he marks the same sort of outlines on the back, tracing the spleen, kidneys, and so forth."

There is one phase of the case that deserves mention, and that is the employment in the operation of a dental machine, which was used to cut away the bone. In the mouth of the machine was placed a trepanning saw, and revolved at great speed by foot power. The result of this experiment was eminently satisfactory.

Still another clever use of the discoveries of modern science was the employment of the X-ray in locating the exact spot at which the spine was injured. The negative showed distinctly where the bone was crushed and where it pressed upon the spinal cord. This enabled the operators to avoid spots which might have ended their subject's life.

SIX TONS OF DIAMONDS.

The recent dramatic suicide of Barney Barnato and the extraordinary speculation in South African stocks give interest to the story of the diamond fields which were chiefly responsible for these events. It is told in a recently published book by Professor H. C. Lewis, of Harvard.

The first diamond was found in South Africa just thirty years ago, when a large specimen was picked out of a lot of rolled pebbles gathered in the Orange River. This led to the river diggings in the Orange and Vaal rivers.

In 1870, when perhaps 10,000 persons had gathered along the banks of the Vaal River, the news came of the discovery of diamonds at a point some fifteen miles away from the river, where the town of Kimberley now stands. These were the so-called "dry diggings," which at first were thought to be alluvial deposits, but have proved to be volcanic pipes of a highly interesting character. In 1871 four mines were discovered in close proximity to Kimberley, all of which have since become famous. They are known as Du Toit's Pan, De Beers, Kimberley and Bullfontein mines, all of which could be enclosed by a circle three and a half miles in diameter.

Other mines were soon discovered in the neighboring territory, but none of them has equaled in richness the four great mines first discovered. These four have all the same geological structure, each being a separate pipe, and all are remarkably rich in diamonds. It has been estimated that from the opening of these mines up to 1886 more than six tons of diamonds were extracted from them, being probably greater than the total combined previous production of all the other mines in the world. The quantity since must have been very much more.

The theory now accepted with regard to the origin of these diamonds is that they are part of the matrix in which they lie, and that this matrix is in some way of volcanic origin, either in the form of mud or ashes or lava.

"The instrument is a little telephone, consisting simply of a small cylindrical box of metal, with two rubber bearing tubes attached at the top."



The Man who was hung up alive.

SHEDS HIS SKIN YEARLY.

From away in a remote part of Montana comes the news of one of the most remarkable freaks of nature which medical experts have ever been called upon to treat and explain. John H. Price, of Phillipsburg, has just been affording his annual surprise to the medical world and the world at large by shedding his skin. This novel and freak turn of nature occurs, or has previously occurred, on July 23 for the last forty years, and the sensations and fears of the victim assured him the coming of July 24 would be no exception to the previous four decades.

Wals annual affliction which attacks Mr. Price has baffled all the eminent medical and surgical experts of the West ever since the victim was six months old.

In no year since his childhood has Mr. Price not lost his old cuticle, and acquired a new one, yet the inconvenience and suffering which he is subjected are comparatively slight.

In explaining this remarkable freak of nature Mr. Price himself says that the shedding of his skin causes him very little inconvenience or pain, beyond the fact that for a few days he is disposed to stay at home. This period of confinement is generally about two or three days before and two or three days after July 24.

While incarcerated or exiled Mr. Price attempts to work out new theories as to the cause of his skin shedding, and urges his physicians to study them out. Theory after theory has been exploded by his medical advisers. In 1890 he was taken to the St. Elizabeth Hospital in Chicago for the advice and study of the doctors and surgeons attendant there. He shed his skin in that year in the Chicago hospital just the same as he did in his Montana home.

No acceptable solution of this skin-shedding problem has yet been advanced, although a multitude of theories have been suggested. Between the hours of 5 a. m. July 24 and 3 a. m. July 25 last Mr. Price shed his coat of skin for the forty-first time.

"The doctors all agree that unless a miracle intervenes she will become an 'ossified woman.'"



The Man who is turning white

TELEPHONE OF DISEASE.

How interesting it would be to see all the internal organs of one's body delineated accurately on the surface of the skin. It can be done, and very easily, with the help of an instrument that has been newly invented.

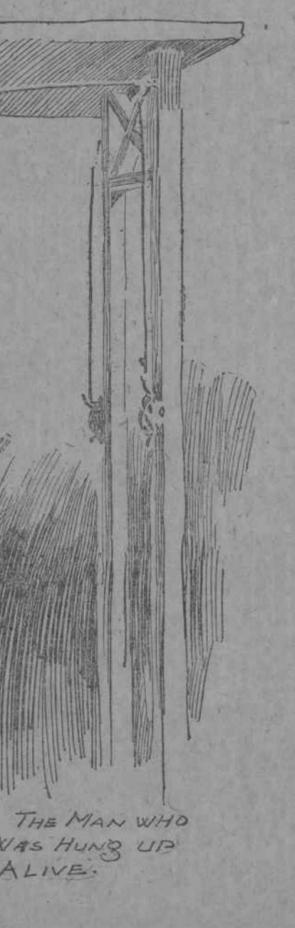
The instrument is a little telephone, consisting simply of a small cylindrical box of metal, with two rubber bearing tubes attached at the top. Projecting from the bottom of the box, which is shaped pretty much like an ordinary pill-box, only somewhat larger, is a sort of finger of gutta-percha.

The physician puts the bearing-tubes in his ears, and holding the metal box in his left hand, places the end of the gutta-percha finger upon the chest of the patient whom he wishes to examine. Then he taps the box lightly, and a vibration is conveyed to his ears. If the gutta-percha finger rests upon the heart, which is a solid organ, the sound will be dull; if over one of the lungs, it will be hollow.

As the gutta-percha finger travels over the body, the differences of sound conveyed by the telephone enable the operator to determine the precise outlines of the liver, heart, lungs, &c. With a crayon the physician marks these outlines on the front of the body, and then, turning the patient around, he marks the same sort of outlines on the back, tracing the spleen, kidneys, and so forth. When his task is complete, the subject's trunk is covered with a sort of map of his internal works.

It may be asked what such a map is good for, and that question can be easily answered. Diseases in the vital organs are not to occasion alterations in their size. If the telephone shows that the heart is enlarged unduly, a guide is afforded for the diagnosis by the physician. Or, perhaps, it may be found that a kidney has shrunk. There may even be a displacement of some organ, shown obviously and conclusively by the body chart. Even if it were not of practical value, the performance of this new medical invention would be of great interest to laymen.

"The doctors all agree that unless a miracle intervenes she will become an 'ossified woman.'"



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Little Girl in Connecticut Is Turning to Stone.

THOUGH it has boasted of many strange things, Connecticut can bring forward nothing stranger than the little girl in Noroton who is gradually turning into stone.

Her name is Annie Waterbury, and she is eleven years old, and the doctors all agree that unless a miracle intervenes, she will become an "ossified woman."

At present she is suffering only from a disease known in medicine as scleroderma, which in plain English means hidebound, but her physicians say that it is only the forerunner of complete ossification. At present there is no remedy for this strange disease, so that little Annie seems doomed to horrible suffering.

She is the daughter of George Waterbury, a well-to-do ice-man, who owns a pretty place in Main street, Noroton, where he lives with his wife and seven children. Both himself and wife are healthy individuals, and none of the children save Annie has ever been seriously ill.

Dorothy, a two-year-old, has a bad habit of eating mud and pebbles and dirt of all kinds, and as a result she suffers from indigestion and colics. She has been repeatedly spanked, but the punishment has not cured her of her strange predilection for earth. Aside from this, the temperament of the entire family is normal.

Annie, who is a bright child, and has taken a number of prizes in school, was perfectly healthy until about a year ago, when her mother noticed that the skin of her face was becoming taught, to use a nautical expression. The child felt no pain, but could neither smile nor give any expression to her face.

It was thought to be only a temporary ailment, but after a few weeks she grew worse. She could not turn her head or use the muscles of the neck without a violent effort, while red blotches, the size of a quarter, appeared all over her body. Then came a period when the spots disappeared again.

Mrs. Waterbury grew worried and consulted the family physician, who, distrusting his own diagnosis, sent the girl to Stamford, where the doctor advised that a New York authority be consulted.

This was accordingly done and Dr. Duncan Buckley, of No. 4 East Thirty-seventh street, was seen. He treated the girl and took her to the meeting of the Dermatological Society, where her case attracted much attention, and caused more discussion. Dr. Buckley advised Mrs. Waterbury to leave the child in his care, but the girl did not want to part from her mother and returned to Noroton, where she is at present.

She is able to be up and about, but complains of a terrible tightness of the skin. The face is thin and the skin is shiny and cold and drawn tightly over the bones. The sense of touch is still there, but the pores are completely closed and she never perspires.

This throws all the work upon the kidneys and the lungs, and the doctors fear that if the skin across the chest tightens much more that the girl will be unable to breathe and die from suffocation.

Dr. French, the family physician, says that the disease is of nervous origin and that in a previous case his patient lived seven years. He has the vague hope that maturity will enable Annie to shake off the disease and restore her to normal health, but admits that her chances for ultimate recovery are very slim.

The cost for an ordinary vault with the air process will be not more than \$70. There will be richer vaults for richer occupants, but the rich man gets no more mummy than the poor one.



The Man who is turning white

TO MUMMIFY ALL NEW YORK.

A New Concern Has Started In to Preserve You Dead for All Time.

TO a great many people the most horrible thing about death is the idea of decomposition in the dank gloom of the grave. The thought of the flush of a human career is not a delicate one in any of its aspects. But now comes the Sanitary Mausoleum Association and offers for the pithy sum of \$70 to preserve your physical being for all time and give you a home in a marble building where you may be on view for your friends and relatives as long as any of them are left to look.

If you are a millionaire you may arrange it so that your grateful heirs may see you after death. If you are a public benefactor there is no need to perpetuate you in carved image of stone. You may have a resting place on the edge of the town where all who come may see what manner of man you were. It may even come about that in after years your tangible person will be an exhibit in an art museum. Time may make anything of you, but it cannot change. That is what the newly organized association guarantees.

In other words, the association offers to New York citizens an opportunity to imitate the enduring Pharaohs and become mummies.

There is nothing about the proposed process to offend the most refined mind. It has an advantage over the lost Egyptian art in that the Egyptian dead were wrapped from head to foot in grass cloths, and in many cases the human form looked like a bale of cloth, not even the features being visible. The American mummy will be created without removing the burial clothes from the body, and except for the desecration of the face, the mummy will look just as did the subject when arrayed for the final services.

Curiously enough, an American climatic condition suggested the process. Out West there are torrid deserts over which sweep hot, dry winds. Men die in these deserts, and months after death the body lying exposed upon the sands will remain almost perfectly unaltered by the dry air. Cattle die on the trails from thirst and lie in the sun through countless weeks before there is any appearance of decay.

The medical-student-murderer, Theodore Durrant, of San Francisco, knew something of the value of dry air as a preservative. When he killed his first victim, Blanche Lamont, in a church, he carried the body high up into the belfry. The belfry windows were slats like those of an ordinary window blind, and the wind swept through almost unimpeded. Durrant stripped the body and composed it carefully on the floor and left it there. Two weeks later, when it was found, there were small evidences of decay.

The new association will mummify by the dry-air process. It is simplicity itself. The mauseum is the first thing to be built. The plans for it are drawn. It is an immense building capable of giving room to 15,000 bodies. It is to be constructed in the form of a cross. When the funeral services are over the body is taken directly to the mausoleum and placed in an individual vault. There is no disturbance of the remains.

A small hole is bored in the head of the coffin, and a similar one in the foot. At the head is inserted a rubber tube. This tube connects with a fan machine. The machine is set going, and creates a blast of air which is blown over an open vat of sulphuric acid. The chemical action of the acid upon the air is to remove all moisture from it, and the air is conveyed perfectly dry into the tube and through the tube to the interior of the coffin.

The tube at the foot is used to carry the air off. After leaving the coffin the air passes through a hot furnace and returns to the world through a tall chimney. The object of the furnace is to kill any infectious germs which the air might have caught up in passing through the coffin.

For thirty days the human body lies in a breeze! Then the fan stops, the tubes are removed, the coffin is sealed, and there you are, and there you will stay as long as time lasts. Each coffin is assigned to a vault that is sealed or not, as the relatives wish. You may have a vault with glass doors, so that if you desire it you may be on view to solicitous friends. That is entirely a matter of taste.

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