POISONED BY AN INSECT.

Strange Incident Recalled by the Death of Scowman Reilly.

The death of Showman James Rilly last Monday from a rattlesnake's bite, has brought to many interesting and curious stories of the effects of poisonous bites and stings. "I remember something of the sort which happened in my own family," said a young man to a Times reporter yesterday. "I was living five years ago this summer with my parents in a little village in Western New York, on Lake Erie. My mother was and is a stout and reasonably healthy woman. She was then about fifty years old. She was very fond of flowers and has a great many house plants. One morning she was going about her household work, with her sleeves pushed back to elbows, when she happened to notice that a calla lily needed some water. The lily was in an earthern jar, and picking it up in her hands, she walked through the house and out at the back door. As she passed into the open air an insect, which she took to be a large fly, of some kind lighted on her left arm, half way between her wrist and elbow. She felt a slight stinging sensation, and as soon as she could set the jar down, she brushed the insect off. Almost instantly she felt a curious pricking all over her body. Her sight grew dim and she began to grow faint.

"The pantry was perhaps twenty-five feet from where she stood. She groped her way through the intervening rooms into that and drank at least a pint of milk. The tingling sensation continued, and as she passed out into an outer room, she sat down, and, drawing her slippers and stockings off, found that her feet, like her arms, had turned to a rosy red. The soles of her feet etched as though she had stepped on nettles. A moment latter she had a fit of itching and directly after she felt better. I was away from the house, and it was half an hour after she was stung that my younger brother found me. When I reached the house and saw her I was terribly alarmed, although she was much better and able to walk. Her face was a deep, livid red, except for a white spot on each cheek. Her eyes were swollen and bloodshot, and she was shivering as though cold. Her skin at the same time was dry and hot. When she tried to speak her voice was choked and it was with difficulty that she could enunciate words. When first stung she could not speak at all. This occurred in the morning. Before night her skin had regained its normal color, and she was very much better. Her arm was swolen and throbbed with pain, and continued to for several days. She has never entirely recovered from the effects of the poison, and is sometimes even yet unable to speak clearly."

"What was the insect?"

"We never knew. Some people thought it was a wasp, and others were sure it was a horsefly. My mother, who always lived in the country and knew all the common insects is sure it was neither, nor any insect she had ever seen. She believes, too, that if she had not drank the milk she would have died then and there from the effects of the poison. I am inclined to agree with her."

How I Broke a Spirited Horse.

N. Y. Tribune. When a young man and breeding horses I found, on taking up a nearly thoroughbred filly to break to harness, that she was very high-spirited and nervous, and that unless I was particularly careful she might take to kicking and rearing during the process, with attempts to run away. I first bitted her well by letting her walk around a short time for several days in succession, in a strong fenced yard of ample dimentions. I then gradually accustomed her to the harness standing in the stable, letting her first look at it piece by piece, and then smell and rub her nose and head against it, then placed it upon her and led her out and around the premises to look at the different vehicles and touch them with her nose.

After a few days of such exercise I hitched her up to a sleigh—in the open road, so nothing could obstruct the start—along side of quite a fast trotting and very gentle gelding. Some snow had fallen the night before, and only a few sleighs had passed over it, just enough to show the track. One man stood at her head to hold her, while another jumped into the sleigh to drive. All ready, he touched the gelding with his whip, and he instantly started at a rapid gait. The filly gave a wild jump and then attempted to kick up behind, but her mate in the harness moved so rapidly she had no time for such action—in fact had to gallop smartly to keep up to the other's rapid trot. After going a couple of miles in this way she began to tire a little, when the driver slacked up the gelding to a slower pace, and she settled into a square trot.

Soon after this he turned the sleigh and returned home, gradually trotting slower and slower, till the last half mile, which he finished in a walk. The profuse sweat caused from her first rapid action had nearly dried up when unharnessed and put into the stable. She was then blanketed, and when well cooled, rubbed down. We used her with this fast horse alone—it being necessary because she herself had a fast natural gait—for over eight months before harnessing her single to a sleigh, and subsequently to a light wagon and buggy, and never had any trouble with her. She retained her high spirit, and wanted to move rapidly on the road, but was always gentle, never offered to kick or rear or run away in harness or under saddle. She rarely shied, and then only slightly, and proved one of the safest and most serviceable horses I ever owned.—A. B. Allen.

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