

NO LAUGHING MATTER.

A Dentist Who Will Harness His Patients Before Giving Them Gas.

Dr. Maurice B. Smith, a dentist, in future will have an arrangement of straps attached to the operating chair which will prevent patients who are more muscular than the doctor from jumping up and attacking him while recovering from the effects of nitrous oxide gas.

The doctor has had rather a rough experience with at least two of his patients, who before they had fully recovered from the effects of the gas, made things decidedly unpleasant for him. One of the patients, a stalwart man, measuring over six feet in height and weighing about 200 pounds, gave the doctor a good trouncing. It appears that the man had two teeth drawn while under the influence of the gas, and when semi-conscious he made a sudden attack upon the doctor. The latter grabbed the man about the body and told him that the teeth were out and to keep quiet. While in the act of drawing away from the patient the doctor was struck either on the nose or behind the ear.

The patient then sprang out of the chair and struck the doctor about the face, knocking him senseless to the floor, and began kicking him. A lady assistant stood by powerless. The dentist's wife, who was in an adjoining room, heard the noise, ran into the operating room and caught hold of the patient's coat and tried to drag him away from her husband. The wife was struck in the neck twice by the patient. The latter, after coming to his senses, commenced to apologize, and offered to pay for all the damage done. Dr. Ransley, a neighboring physician, was summoned, and upon arriving at the dentist's he found that the latter's nose was broken, both eyes discolored, and he had several bruises on the head and body.

Dr. Smith, in speaking of the affair, said: "I have just come from the harness maker's, where I have arranged for a series of straps to be placed on the chair so that a patient will be rendered powerless in case he becomes unruly while under the influence of the gas. The patient that attacked me was evidently dreaming about fighting, and on account of seeing my face last before taking the gas, and seeing me only while semi-conscious, he thought I was the aggressor and immediately began to pitch into me."

"The patient, when conscious, offered to pay for all the damage he had done, but as the damage amounted to breaking my nose and giving me a pair of black eyes I could not appraise the value. About two weeks ago a patient, while under the influence of gas, imagined he was in a fight and made a dive for his back pocket. I caught his arms and held him while my lady assistant extracted a revolver from his pocket."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Chorus Girls' Requirements.

"It is not an easy task to get good chorus girls," said an operative manager yesterday. "Of course there are plenty of girls—such as they are—ambitious to shine as lyric stars. Something more than ambition, however, is necessary. One of the requisites is a pretty face, another a comely figure, and another, of course, is musical ability. It is not an easy job to train thirty or forty girls, who are unfamiliar with the comic opera stage. Four weeks are required to drill them tolerably well, and then they will need frequent rehearsing after beginning their public performances. A director must have Job's proverbial patience to teach a lot of jabbering, untamed chorus girls how to sing and march in harmony."

The salaries of chorus girls range from ten to twenty dollars a week, although fifteen dollars is about the average. The male members of a chorus get a little more than girls. Some of the smaller road opera companies play throughout the year, and they are hoons to a large class of girls and young men who would otherwise be idle during the summer. Summer opera snaps, though, are becoming the proper thing.

"Several companies are formed in New York for a ten or twelve weeks' engagement every spring. The salaries of the summer companies are considerably less than those in the regular season, however."—New York Telegram.

Uses of the Papaw Tree.

In the West Indies one of the characteristics of an intelligent cook is the care with which he or she will see to it that a papaw tree is growing within a short distance of the kitchen door. The fruit of the papaw, if large and well grown, is not to be despised as a breakfast dish, and its rich golden flesh is to many much more palatable than that of the popular melon. But the attractiveness of the papaw for the cook consists in its leaves, which possess the remarkable property of rendering meat tender. The toughest beefsteak or the most hopeless old rooster can be made soft and comparatively juicy by being wrapped for an hour or two in the large, dark green papaw leaves.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

The Loss in Handling Gold.

By careful experiments made at the United States mint it has been shown that \$5 are lost by abrasion every time \$1,000,000 in gold coin are handled. The experiments were conducted with bags containing \$5,000 each, and it was shown that the mere lifting of the 200 bags making up \$1,000,000 to a truck to be removed to another vault resulted in the loss stated, and that their transfer from the truck again made a second similar loss.—Iron Industry Gazette.

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