

PERIL IN FILM POSING.

Real Tragedies That Mark the Product of Moving Pictures.

Acting in front of the camera for moving pictures isn't quite so soft a job as people are apt to imagine. Grave risks have to be taken and more or less serious accidents are common. Sometimes these result fatally.

The other day, for example, a man named Bittner descended in a parachute from the Column of Victory in Berlin with a view to being cinematographed as he was falling, but something went wrong with his apparatus and the parachutist was dashed to death.

Similarly, a picture player named Dunne was killed on the railway while acting a part. The unfortunate man was only supposed to be run over by the approaching train, it being the intention to substitute a dummy at the last moment. But the rails were slippery, the driver was unable to pull his engine in time and the actor was mangled to death beneath the wheels.

Not long ago an actor playing the part of a cowboy in Chicago fell and was killed during the rehearsal.

Miss Alice Hollister, whose face and figure are familiar to frequenters of picture shows, nearly lost her life while rehearsing in Egypt. Attired in the voluminous draperies of an Arab peasant woman, she was seated on a primitive wooden wheel which brought up from a deep well water for irrigation purposes.

At a certain moment she had to bring the camel which worked the wheel to a halt and descend from her seat. Unfortunately the camel resumed its walk too soon, the wheel started revolving again and Miss Hollister was jerked into the well, which was more than 100 feet in depth.

Luckily her cumbersome garments caught a projecting stone in the side, and, being of athletic build, she managed to hang on until she was rescued by means of a rope in the hands of her dragoman. But it was a narrow escape.

No one viewing on the screen the superb riding of Alice Joyce, exponent of "cowgirl" parts in Western drama, would suppose that any horse could ever succeed in throwing her. As a matter of fact, however, she has met with several accidents.

Miss Gene Gauntler a moving picture company's leading woman, has been exceptionally unlucky. Only recently she was attacked by Bedouins in the Sahara and had to fight hard to get away. In Florida she was nearly engulfed in a quicksand. In a battle scene she was kicked by a horse and nearly killed. In another war scene there was a premature explosion of a caisson that hurled her high in the air, and the fall made her unconscious, but it made a great picture.

Once when she was to be rescued from a burning house, the company bought an abandoned farm house in the country and set it afire. The fire burned more rapidly than had been provided for in the rehearsal, and Miss Gauntler was unconscious and almost dead when the rescuers chopped a hole in the roof and pulled her out. They had intended to take her out through a window, but the real thing made a much better picture.

A naval lieutenant is another picture player who has had many narrow escapes, his latest exploit in this direction being a fall from a high cliff near Brighton, England. Once, too, he was badly wounded in a sword duel with a picture player antagonist. Of course, the injury was quite unintentional and accidental.

Alfred Brighton, a young American picture player, lost his life in the Hudson river, a year ago. He had to leap into the water and rescue a girl who was supposed to be drowning. While swimming toward her he was observed to throw up his arms, sink once or twice, and struggle frantically on coming to the surface.

The spectators on the bank applauded, imagining it to be part of the performance, and the operator kept turning the handle of the machine, while shouting to the drowning man, "Keep it up!" Only when he had sunk for the third and last time did anybody suspect that anything was wrong.—Chicago Tribune.

"No Pure Whiskey."

In an address to a men's meeting in Chattanooga last Sunday the distinguished Methodist Evangelist, Dr. Munhall, declared that there was not a glass of pure whiskey in the United States. "The time was," he said, "when I was a boy, no matter how hard a man drank, or how full he got, he did not want to whip his wife or mother, and then tear up the town. He simply was everybody's laughing stock until he got sober, and then he was all right. That was because he drank pure whiskey. But to-day the whiskey is not fit for a dog to drink."

FIRESHIP IN SEA FIGHTS.

Blazing Craft Caused Much Destruction in Naval Battles.

Nothing in the thrilling adventures of many old sea fights appeals more strongly to the modern imagination than the doings of the fireships, says the London Globe.

"The idea of using incendiary vessels for the destruction of a hostile fleet was of great antiquity. They are said to have been employed at the siege of Tyre in 333 B. C. and again by the Rhodians about a century and a half later. By the English, however, they were first used in 1370, and two centuries later had come to be looked upon as a legitimate naval weapon, their attacks being regarded and dreaded in much the same way as are those of the torpedo craft and submarines at the present time.

The explosion vessels, or "infernales," invented by the Italian engineer Gianibelli, were the most formidable. The designer procured two vessels of about 80 tons each and laid along their bottom a foundation of brickwork. Upon this he erected a marble chamber with five-loft walls containing 300 tons of gunpowder, while on the top of this chamber was a six-foot layer of gravestones placed edgewise. A marble roof rose over these, and upon it was piled a quantity of round shot, chain shot, millstones, blocks of stone, iron shod beams and anything heavy which would cause the explosion to take a lateral effect. The effect of this floating volcano was appalling, for the masses of stone and shot, disintegrated and flung skyward by the explosion, fell and destroyed all vessels, buildings or men in the vicinity.

Three years later the Spanish armada before Calais was attacked by fireships prepared by the English. Eight vessels were selected, and so great was the haste that not even their guns or stores were removed. They were ignited and launched, and, with the wind and tide in their favor, advanced straight for the center of the anchored armada. Ship foiled ship, and the cries of terror and the crash of falling spars, and, though the Spaniards finally succeeded in getting to sea the fireship attack completely disorganized and demoralized them, and helped largely to make the eventful Battle of Gravelness the success it was.

The most recent, and at the same time one of the most interesting fireship exploits which ever took place, was that carried out against the French fleet in Basque Roads in 1809 by Lord Cochrane. His explosion vessel, intended to destroy the boom, behind which lay the French fleet, was a truly awful contrivance. Cochrane piloted the vessel and lit the train at the last moment, and on the evidence of a French captain, whose ship was close by, it did its work well, for the air was filled with shells, grenades, and blazing debris, while the explosion tore a huge rent in the boom.

Weird Story of the Wires.

That is a weird story that a correspondent has put on the wires from Lafayette, Ind., to the Eastern papers. As a narrative runs, Evans Jones, who is beginning to recover from a cough that has made his life miserable for the past two years, says the cause was nothing less than a lizard three inches long.

Jones declared that he brought up the reptile while out driving the other day. He had a paroxysm of coughing on the road. At the end of it he choked, he said, and reached down his throat for relief. He seized the lizard and drew it to the light of day.

The lizard seemed to be as happy as Jones to dissolve partnership and was wriggling away as fast as it could, when Jones decided he would capture it and show it to his doctor, Edgar Allen. The doctor dropped the wriggler in alcohol.

Jones got the doctor's theory, which was that Jones must have been drinking at a well or spring and taken a lizard's egg into his stomach. The grateful warmth hatched the lizard.

The agony of coughing that Jones endured is ascribed to the frantic efforts of the lizard to liberate itself.—Augusta Chronicle.

When Whiskey Was Costly.

Best old whiskey at any price nowadays is as cheap as dirt when you come to think how high it used to be down in the Corncracker country, says the New York Press. One hundred and thirty years ago a decree was passed in the court at Jefferson county making the price of whiskey \$15 a half pint. By the gallon it went for \$240, the lowest bargain price. And a dollar was a dollar in those old days in Kentucky.

Usually a man's sense of humor goes lame when the joke is on him.

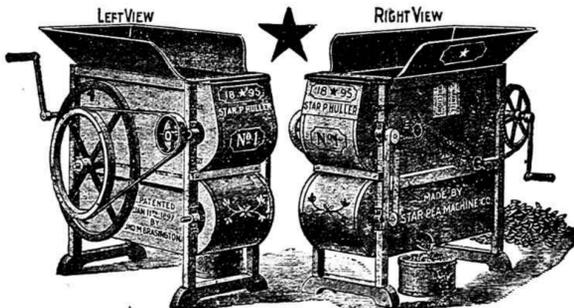
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