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SIMPLE REMEDY FOR SEVERE WOUNDS

[From the Granite (Or.) Gem.]

Every little while we read in the paper that someone has run a rusty nail in his hand or foot or other portion of his body and lockjaw resulted therefrom and that the patient died. If every person was aware of a perfect remedy for such wounds and would apply it, then such reports would cease. The remedy is simple, always at hand, can be applied by any one—what is better, is infallible. It is simply to smoke the wound or any wound that is bruised or inflamed, with a woollen cloth. Twenty minutes in the smoke will take the pain out of the worst case of inflammation arising from such a wound. People may sneer at this remedy as much as they please, but when they are afflicted with such wounds, let them try it.

Note. The woollen smoke cure is no new discovery. It was tested by my mother more than fifty years ago on a young girl living in her family, who stepped on a nail, causing a wound in her foot so painful that lockjaw was feared. A smoke was made in one corner of the old-fashioned kitchen fireplace of woollen pieces, and salt hay from the barn was brought in and placed around on the outside. Whether this was for any supposed virtue in the hay or merely to confine the wool smoke to a narrow range, is not known. A sling was suspended from the end of the crane, in which the foot rested over the smoke until the pain subsided. No further trouble was experienced, and the wound soon healed. Subsequently my parents went to an adjoining town to call on friends, and found the master of the house walking the floor, in great distress from a severe contusion of the thumb. The smoke cure was suggested and at once tried, with such success that the patient slept well all night, went on board his vessel, which was ready for sea, the next morning and set sail.

E. W. H.

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