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# WAS IT HYPNOTISM?

Mrs. Crow Thinks Charles Losee Won Her Daughter  
Through the "Evil Eye."

INTENSELY DRAMATIC CHAPTER FROM REAL LIFE

In Adjoining Cots at the Harlem Hospital Lie the Forger-Husband  
and the Infatuated Child-Wife.

Mrs. Crow, the mother of Mrs. Losee, said yesterday the cause of it all was hypnotism. This adds a remarkable feature to the already dramatic case of the Losees.

Husband and child-wife—ex-convict and alleged victim of his hypnotic powers—they lie in the same ward of the Harlem Hospital, the latter likely to die at any moment.

Last July a tall, good-looking gentleman met Martha Crow, a handsome girl of fifteen. She was only a child, and her skirts scarcely reached the tops of her shoes,

His name, he said, was Charles Losee.

Evening after evening he called at the apartment of the girl's mother, at No. 635 East One Hundred and Thirty-seventh street. His manners were pleasing, and he had a way of insinuating himself into everybody's confidence that completely disarmed any suspicion or ill feeling that her mother might have towards a stalwart young man of thirty who persistently sought the society of such a child.

The girl seemed to be not only infatuated,

but wholly under the will of Losee. Everything he suggested she acquiesced in. She had never heard of hypnotism then.

The mother, looking for the welfare of her little daughter, asked him one evening to explain why he sought the society of such a young girl, and he replied that he was cynical and had seen so much of women that he wished to meet a girl of youthful age so that she might become fond of him as a child and learn to love no one else but him. He told how girls nowadays had many love affairs, and said that he proposed, when he got married to have a bride who had never loved before.

The mother thought his statement peculiar but logical, and she permitted him to call regularly and see her daughter.

## UNDER MESMERIC INFLUENCE.

Previous to the hour of his arrival at the house the young girl seemed to be unlike her normal self. She was uneasy, abstracted and altogether a different person. When the mother would speak to her during Losee's call she seemed to be as though in a trance, and even the other members of the family noticed that where ordinarily she was prompt to obey, the evenings Losee called she moved with the greatest slowness and her eyes seemed to have a fixed look. If Losee spoke to her she moved as though her mind almost anticipated his wishes, as though his brain told her what to do before he spoke.

These visits were regularly kept up for some weeks, and finally Martha, the young girl, admitted to her mother that she had married Losee the week previous. The poor woman was nearly distracted over the news,

for since she had had that conversation with him she had learned that his habits and associations were anything but good. She endeavored to have the marriage set aside, but did not succeed in so doing.

Two months afterwards Losee was sent to State prison a convicted forger, and it afterwards transpired that he had only been released from Auburn prison a few weeks before he first met the girl who afterwards became his wife.

He was a discharged convict when she first met him and a professional swindler and thief, yet he went about among respectable people, who thought him a model of propriety.

## LOSEE QUITE A SCIENTIST.

In Auburn Prison he showed such an aptitude for science that Electrician Davis, who had charge of the Kemmler execution, received permission from the prison Warden to use Losee's services in arranging the dynamo wires that afterwards killed the first man to suffer electrical capital punishment at the hands of the State.

When he had served his time at Auburn the kind-hearted electrician procured work for him at the Universal Arc Lamp Company at No. 40 West Twenty-second street. He repaid his benefactor by forging checks, and when discovery seemed imminent fled the State.

He returned, however, courteous and married Miss Crow, and was finally arrested and sent to prison again, as already narrated, eight weeks after his marriage.

Whether the nervous, dark-eyed Losee exercised his mesmeric powers, which he has since confessed to possess to a marked

degree, on the jury or the Judge can never probably be determined, but his sentence amounted to only three months.

A short time ago he was discharged from the penitentiary and the moment his young wife saw him after his release she went to live with him.

## SHE COULD NOT RESIST HIM.

She had promised her mother to have nothing to do with him, but those mysterious eyes and the alleged hypnotic power seemed to kill all good resolution and she took up again with him.

One evening he got into some altercation with a police officer and received a blow, the effect of which afterwards developed into a tumor. He was admitted to the Harlem Hospital, and assigned a sunny corner in the second section, where he was receiving the best of treatment.

His child wife attended him every day and took him delicacies which the hospital failed to provide. In vain her poor mother reasoned with her. She said that whether she wanted to or not his eyes compelled her to follow him and to do whatever he wanted. In the meantime her grandmother, a very old lady, died from the shock of learning that her daughter's child had married a criminal.

Attached as night nurse to the ward where Losee lay was a pretty, bright-eyed trained nurse. Her ministering presence seemed to afford food for reflection to Losee. He is a clever talker, a bright fellow and scientific to a degree when he is not an ordinary criminal.

Hypnotism, mesmerism, animal magnetism and the occult sciences were and

are his special favorites. Convalescent patients are usually in one section of the ward, and among the other patients were several clever people, who were vastly entertained by Losee's talk. The pretty nurse seemed to find something in those sunken dark eyes that interested her. She felt no especial interest in Losee that she knew of, but like a needle to a magnet she was drawn towards him.

Last Sunday evening the child wife entered the hospital ward. She saw the cot where her husband lay and she saw the pretty nurse sitting beside it.

There was a scene. Although but a child, the demon of jealousy seemed to arise within her. There was a scene then and there. The poor nurse declares that she was only attending to his wants.

Doubtless such was the case. At any rate the young wife left the hospital and took a suburban car to go to her mother's home on East One Hundred and Thirty-seventh street. She alighted at the One Hundred and Thirty-eighth street station and stepped to the rear of the quaint little ticket office.

## THE ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.

Her agony must have been more than she could stand, for there was a dash, a report, and the trembling, unconscious form of the poor girl sank to the platform, while a stream of blood gushed from a wound in her breast. The ticket-taker must have been slumbering in his little house, for he did not hear the pistol-shot, and the child wife lay there bleeding to death and unconscious, her dainty little gown soaked in blood, when the next train came thundering into the station.

Conductor Squires, in charge of the train, saw the body lying in the dark shadow of the ticket-house, and saw from the nature of the wound how serious was her condition. Tenderly she was lifted into the ambulance, which had been sent for, and carefully driven over the rough pavements to the Harlem Hospital.

"Section Two," said the house surgeon, as he looked at the insensible form, and, shaking his head gravely, gave orders to have the young girl carried there and attended to.

## A BIT OF REAL MELODRAMA.

Charles Losee was not asleep when the stretcher, on which the inanimate form lay, was carried into Section Two. He turned his head carefully and inquired of one of the attendants what the matter might be.

"Woman shot herself," replied the functionary. "Doctor says she can't live."

The attendants paused with their ghastly burden while the door was being opened leading to the female department of the section. The light of the night-lamp shone on the white, pale face.

Losee saw it. "My God! my wife!" he said. And there they lie, almost side by side, husband and wife.

The man will probably get well; with the woman it is a question that even the skillful surgeons cannot answer.

## "HYPNOTISM," SAYS THE MOTHER.

The mother of the young girl sat in her home yesterday afternoon. She had her face in her hands and sobbed as she rocked herself to and fro. "My poor little girl," she said. "Only a child, and yet the opening of her life as black as though she had

done some awful wrong and was suffering punishment for it. Hypnotism—the evil eye—has done it. He boasted of his powers. She could not help doing what she did, for what he willed her to do that she had to perform. Oh! that such men are allowed to exist to do evil to those who have done them no harm! I begged her to have nothing to do with that man, but my will—a mother's love—could not avail against such powers as he possesses. This thing has killed her grandmother and I am nearly distracted."

In commenting on the affair a mutual acquaintance said yesterday: "It is a strange story from beginning to end. Losee is certainly possessed of more than ordinary mental powers. I have seen him put people in such a state that they obeyed him implicitly. He was proud of the possession of this power, and when you add such a dangerous weapon to the ordinary resources of a clever man criminally inclined one cannot but wonder what evil he could do if he saw fit. His wife is only a child, and hardly responsible for her acts, she is under arrest now, and the policeman watches her in the hospital day and night. When she recovers—if she does—she must go to prison, as attempting suicide is a crime punishable by imprisonment. The whole case shows what youth, good looks and talent can bring people to if they are used wrongly. New York has hundreds of cases as sad as this happening every day, yet the lessons taught do not strike as deep as they should, because the inside facts in these cases are hardly ever printed, and people see only the results of crime and ignorance—not the causes."