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The features marked with a star (*) are based entirely on material taken straight from standard research (and other Official and Therefore Always Correct) literature. Many of the other articles are genuine, too, but we don't know which ones.

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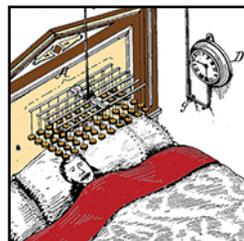
On the Front Cover

Geoffrey Haddock, author of the study "Do I Get Better Looking Each Day?" See page 22.



On the Back Cover

Detail from the patent "Device for Waking Persons From Sleep." See page 27.



Some Coming Events

See IMPROBABLE.COM for details of these and other events:

September 14, 2017

27th First Annual Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony

September 16, 2017

Ig Informal Lectures

October/November 2017

U Manchester, UK

EMBL, Heidelberg, Germany

January 21, 2018

Princeton U, USA

February 2018

SLAS Conference, San Diego, CA, USA

Salk Institute, La Jolla, CA, USA

AAAS Annual Mtg, Austin, TX, USA

March 2018

Ig Nobel EuroTour

April 26, 2018

Portland, Oregon, USA

Where There's More

There's always new improbable — it's not what you expect! — stuff on the **Improbable Research** blog at IMPROBABLE.COM

STRANGE CASES OF USMANI

Research Reports from a Discerning Medico

compiled by Stephen Drew, Improbable Research staff

Javed Ahmad Usmani, M.D., is a professor of forensic medicine at Aligarh Muslim University in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, India. His career is chock-a-block with strange cases, some of which he kindly shares with others of his profession. Here are some of those cases.

Coffee vs Tea: Left Versus Right

“Laterality: Coffee vs Tea — Is It Forensically Relevant?” Munawwar Husain, Arshad Anjum, Jawed A. Usmani, and Mubarak Alshariam, *Indian Internet Journal of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology*, vol. 11, no. 2, 2013, pp. 33-34. The authors, at Aligarh Muslim University, India, and the Department of Pathology, Abha, Saudi Arabia, report:

The question of laterality is discussed in this paper pertaining to use of the right or the left hand. Interestingly, some amazing cue is derived which though do not confirm to the projection, yet demonstrate conformity to deviant reasoning leading to promising forensic lead.

Dowry Cannibalism

“Dowry Cannibalism,” M. Hussain, S.J. Rizvi, and J.A Usmani, *Journal of Clinical Forensic Medicine*, vol. 3, no. 4, 1996, pp. 179–181. The authors report:

The term dowry cannibalism is used in this article to describe a unique case where the motive for cannibalism was the non-fulfilment of a husband’s dowry demands from his wife. The husband was accused by the wife of regularly using a syringe to withdraw blood from her, with the intent of causing her death, and drinking it. Intriguing as this is, it is also medicolegally important: this method of killing might leave no trace suggesting murder. It is postulated that this form of abuse may also significantly alter the psychological state of the victim and hasten death. The case is not yet concluded, and may never be.



Javed Ahmad Usmani. Drawing by Nan Swift, Improbable Research staff.

Dowry cannibalism

M. Hussain, S. J. Rizvi, J. A. Usmani

Department of Forensic Medicine, J. N. Medical College, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh 202 002, India

SUMMARY. The term dowry cannibalism is used in this article to describe a unique case where the motive cannibalism was the non-fulfilment of a husband’s dowry demands from his wife. The husband was accused the wife of regularly using a syringe to withdraw blood from her, with the intent of causing her death, and drinking it. Intriguing as this is, it is also medicolegally important: this method of killing might leave no tr

High Frequency Ultrasound Torturer

“High Frequency Ultrasound Torturer,” Munawwar Husain, Shameem Jahan Rizvi, and Javed Ahmad Usmani, *Journal of the Indian Medical Association*, vol. 107, no. 12, 2009, pp. 884-886. The authors report:

The discernible aim of torture as everyone believes — and rightly so — is to destroy the personality of an individual in a way that would render his compliance in future. But to destroy a personality is easier said than done.... Ultimately the personality may not be destroyed much to the chagrin of the torturers, and an unexpected resilient rebounding may take place. Therefore, with the repertoire of modern knowledge, the strategy may well change in the 21st century. Discreet methods may be employed to selectively destroy areas in brain by high dosage and high frequency ultrasound.... the personality will change — from rightful aggression to slavish submission. The aim of this article is to put forward the theoretical perspective and cofounded projection of the darker and menacing side of ultrasound technology so that future generation could be saved from sin of omission.

continued >

STRANGE CASES OF USMANI [CONTINUED]

Snake-Bite on Scrotum

“Snake-Bite on Scrotum — A Case Report,” Arshad Anjum, Azfar Mateen, Munawwar Husain, and Jawed A. Usmani, *Indian Internet Journal of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology*, vol. 9, no. 2, 2011, pp. 49-50. The authors report:

A 22 year old man was bitten by a snake on his scrotum.... The uniqueness of the case lies in the fact that scrotum is a very rare and unusual site for snake bite.... The authors realised that the case may be brought to the notice of the readers because the scrotal bite by the snake with no local signs of envenomation is the first reported case.

Testimony of the Transected Torso

“A Conundrum of Disbelief: A Remarkable Case Study of Volitional Activity,” Munawwar Husain, Arshad Anjum, Afzal Haroon, Jawed A. Usmani, and Mubarak Alshariam, *Egyptian Journal of Forensic Sciences*, vol. 3, 2013, pp. 61–63. The authors report:

It seems unimaginably unthinkable that a man could talk to the police officer after his body has been completely transected by a running train rendering it into two halves upper and lower torso. But it did happen, details of which are discussed in this paper. What is important and valuable is how the court of law would look into this matter and frame its mind accordingly once the case reaches the trial court. Would the court accept the statement of a dying torso? Though the court reposes faith in medical testimony – provided it is scientifically credible – in many instances it apply its own common sense to reach a conclusion. In this article the authors have evoked common sense, medical evidence and corresponding legal requirement to predict a fair trial. This case has undoubtedly bizarre presentation that would baffle the most experienced and sensitive medical mind.

Detail from the study “A Conundrum of Disbelief: A Remarkable Case Study of Volitional Activity.”

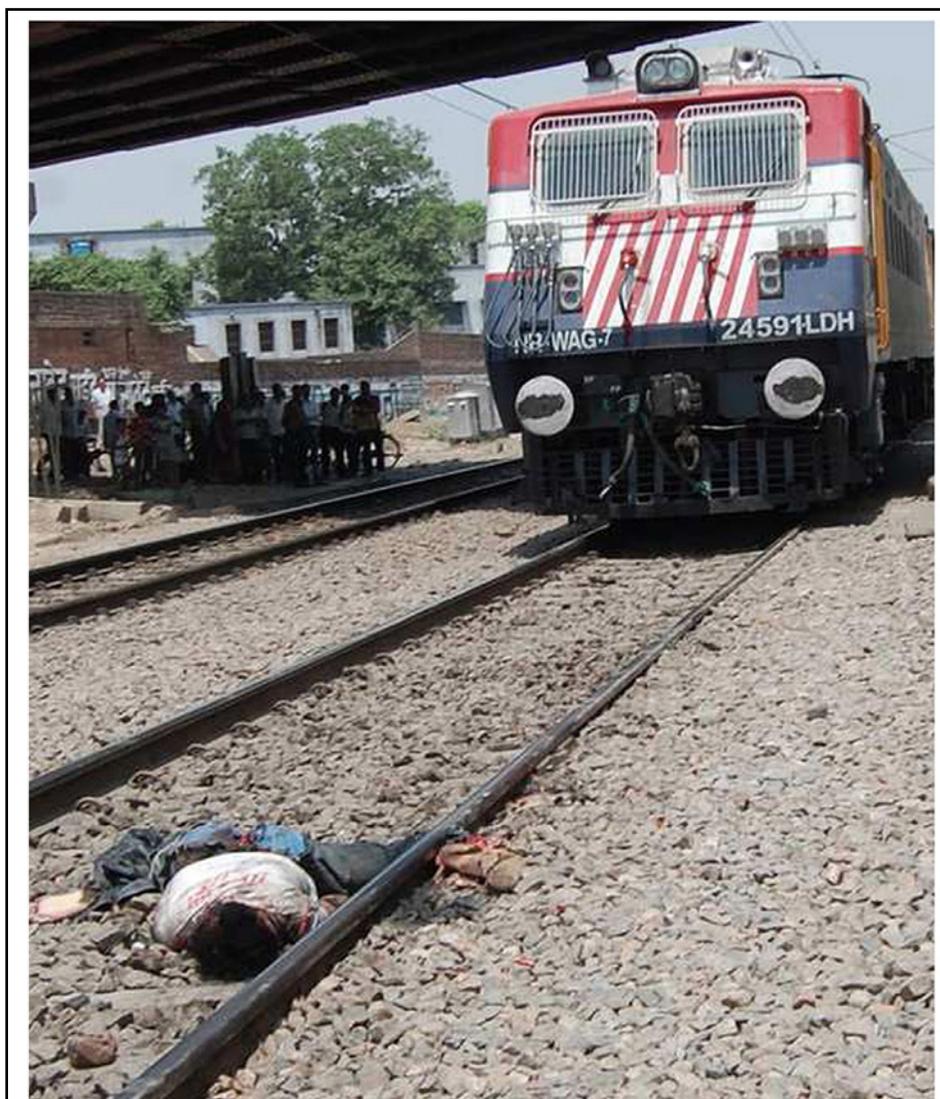


Figure 1 Victim’s body is lying on the railway track and the train is moved backward as per the protocol.