

FAMOUS SYSONBY DEAD OF BLOOD POISONING

**Illness of James R. Keene's
Champion Ends Fatally.**

WON 14 RACES AND \$179,000

**Eczema, Developed Two Months Ago,
Resulted Fatally—His Lungs Twice
the Size of Those of an
Ordinary Horse.**

Sysonby, possibly the greatest race horse of the American turf, certainly as a three-year-old its champion money winner, died yesterday afternoon at 1 o'clock at the training stable of his owner, James R. Keene, on the Sheepshead Bay race course.

The cause of death was declared to be septic poisoning by the two veterinary surgeons, Drs. McCullagh and William Sheppard, who were with the horse for several hours before his death, in company with James Rowe, trainer of the Keene racing stable. An autopsy made soon after death showed that Sysonby's lungs were nearly double the size of those of an ordinary horse, an explanation in part of his wonderful powers. The autopsy verified the diagnosis of septic poisoning.

The great English bred and American born four-year-old had been ill for about two months with a disease at first regarded as a simple skin trouble, but which increased in severity for several weeks, and was variously diagnosed by veterinary surgeons and horsemen, and was at one time declared to be eczema by a regularly practicing physician. Dr. Charles C. Barrows, who at Mr. Keene's request undertook the management of the case.

The trouble with the horse also was reported to be a specific blood disease, but the veterinarians connected with the case at various times were all of the opinion that the chief cause of the serious course of the disease was the irritating sores which covered Sysonby's body and legs and which the horse in his fever and agony bit and tore. Sysonby was taken sick in the first week of racing in New York, about April 16, and though many alarming rumors were circulated concerning his condition, was regarded by Mr. Keene and his trainer as fast recovering, and late last week was said to be practically convalescent.

Sysonby Fretted Constantly.

On Saturday Sysonby was resting easily at the Keene training stable, and his condition then was said to be favorable by Mr. Keene and Trainer Rowe, who were both at the Gravesend races. An alarming change in the horse's condition was noted yesterday morning, and the veterinary surgeons who were with Sysonby when he died were called promptly. From the statements of the attendants there was hardly a hope for the horse from the time that his relapse was discovered. In the weeks of his sickness Sysonby had wasted greatly from fever and fretting, and his vitality was about exhausted when the septic poisoning reached the dangerous stage.

Every means possible was employed by Drs. McCullagh and Sheppard in the several hours they were with Sysonby yesterday, but the case was regarded as hopeless before noon, and through the last hour of Sysonby's life the veterinarians could do little more than stand by and witness the end of the most valuable thoroughbred horse in America, possibly the most valuable in the world.

Mr. Keene Receives Bad News.

Mr. Keene in his apartments at the Waldorf-Astoria was notified of the serious turn that Sysonby's sickness had taken yesterday, and received the news of the horse's death a short time after 1 o'clock. Mr. Keene said last night:

"I have received no particulars beyond the fact that Sysonby is dead and that the veterinary surgeons say the cause of death was septic poisoning."

Mr. Keene was greatly shocked by the news of his loss, as Sysonby was his favorite above all the great horses that he had ever owned, and his dearest ambition was to save Sysonby for the stud, the horse already having achieved almost every possible success in racing.

Sysonby Was Insured.

The fact of Sysonby's death was not generally known, but the few friends of the veteran turfmen who heard of the loss condoled with Mr. Keene last night. Aside from the blow to Mr. Keene in its sentimental aspect, the financial loss through the death of the greatest race horse of his time, and a horse that many turfmen have declared to be the greatest ever seen in America, is a severe one, Sysonby's value having been estimated to be between \$150,000 and \$200,000. Mr. Keene had refused to place any valuation at all on the horse, and turned aside as a jest an offer of \$100,000 for him at Saratoga last Summer. Mr. Keene, in response to a question as to the insurance carried on Sysonby, said:

"The horse was insured, but just at this moment I cannot state what was the amount. I will not be able to ascertain until to-morrow, when I will have the opportunity to look over my papers."

It has been Mr. Keene's custom to carry insurance for a fair part of their value on his notable horses since the death of his brilliant young stallion Domino, the greatest money winner of his time and an unbeaten two-year-old. After Domino died in the year of the first realization of his promise as a stallion Mr. Keene adopted the practice of insuring his blood stock through the Lloyds of England, and the wisdom of the custom has been demonstrated in the case of Commando, which died early in his stud career, a year ago.

It is said that Mr. Keene carried \$50,000 insurance on Commando, and it is reasonable to suppose that on a horse so highly prized as Sysonby the insurance would be proportionately greater. Sysonby is the horse of which Mr. Keene said at the Sheepshead Bay race track last Fall, after he had won the Annual

Champion Stakes, "The world has never seen his like," and horsemen generally agreed with the proud owner at that time.

Sysonby Won \$179,000.

Sysonby, winner of \$141,000 last season as a three-year-old, and of \$38,500 as a two-year-old in 1904, was a horse with a rather remarkable history aside from his prowess on the turf. He was by the English Derby winner of 1895, Melton, which was sold out of England into Italy, and later bought and brought back to England by L. Musker, who on July 2 will sell out his breeding establishment, retaining only Melton and two sons of Melton for his own. Sysonby's dam was Optime, a mare now only ten years old, by Orme, the greatest son of Ormonde, second dam an unnamed mare, by Speculum-Nydia. As a yearling Optime was sold to her breeder, H. Ingledew, for 500 guineas to J. McCraig.

Her turf career was not of remarkable note, but her breeding met the approval of the late Marcus Daly, who in 1901, sent a number of American mares to English stallions, and in the same year bought a number of English mares in foal to noted horses for his Bitter Root Stud in Montana. Optime, in foal to Melton, was one of the English mares thus bought, but when Optime landed in America her new owner died before the Melton foal saw the light, and the mare, in foal, was sold to James R. Keene for \$7,000 at the dispersal of the Daly stud. Optime was sent at once to Mr. Keene's Castleton stud, in Kentucky, and there Sysonby was foaled on the same farm where were bred Commando and the English Oaks winner, Cap and Bells.

Sysonby's Great Career.

Sysonby was trained with the Castleton yearlings of 1903 by James Rowe, and was the best tried two-year-old of the Keene stable in 1904, when he made his appearance on the turf. He ran his first race in an overnight event for maidens at Brighton Beach and won, following this by winning the Brighton Junior Stakes, and then going on unbeaten until the race for the Futurity, in which he met the only defeat of his turf career. Then carrying 127 pounds and conceding thirteen pounds actual weight to the winner, he was third to Artful and Tradition. At two years old Sysonby won five times and was third once.

At three years old, last season, he ran his first race in the Metropolitan Handicap and finished in a dead heat with Race King, to which horse he was conceding thirty pounds by the handicap. Sysonby next ran for the Tidal Stakes at Sheepshead Bay, winning easily in fast time, and from that race went on and captured all the great three-year-old events and big weight-for-age races of the year, running nine times and winning straight through, with all weights and against all the best horses that could be brought forward to meet him, his most important victories being the Great Republic Stakes at Saratoga, the Annual Champion, the Century Stakes, and the Lawrence Realization.

At Castleton Farm, where Sysonby was foaled, the great horses Domino and Commando are buried, with a monument over each, but it is not likely to be the privilege of Sysonby to have that honor, as both of the other Keene champions died while in the stud and at home on the Castleton Farm. No arrangements have been made for the disposal of Sysonby's body as yet, the matter having been left to Trainer James Rowe, but it is probable that the greatest three-year-old of recent times, if not in the history of the American turf, will be buried at the Sheepshead Bay race course, near the scene of his last triumph on the turf, in the Annual Champion Stakes.

Sysonby's racing career in detail is as follows:

1904.

(As a two-year-old.)

July 14—Brighton. (First start.) For maidens; five and a half furlongs.

SYSONBY, 107, (J. Martin,) 1; Linda Lee, 2; Gotowin, 3. Eleven horses ran. Won pulled up by ten lengths. Time, 1:07 4-5. Value to winner, \$840.

July 16—Brighton. Brighton Junior Stakes; six furlongs.

SYSONBY, 112, (J. Martin,) 1; Jonquill, 2; Britisher, 3. Seven horses ran. Won galloping by four lengths. Time, 1:13. Value to winner, \$11,730.

Aug. 1—Saratoga. The Flash; five and a half furlongs.

SYSONBY, 125, (Redfern,) 1; Augur, 2; Glorifier, 3. Four horses ran. Won galloping by ten lengths. Time—1:08 4-5. Value to winner, \$4,875.

Aug. 6—Saratoga. The Saratoga Special; five and a half furlongs.

SYSONBY, 122, (Redfern,) 1; Hot Shot, 2; Britisher, 3. Only three starters. Won galloping by ten lengths. Time—1:07. Value to winner, \$12,000, including plate, value, \$2,500.

Aug. 27—Sheepshead Bay. The Futurity; six furlongs. (Sysonby's only defeat.)

Artful, 1; Tradition, 2; SYSONBY, 127, (Redfern,) 3. Sixteen horses ran. Sysonby beaten

three lengths and a neck. Time—1:11 4-5. Value to third horse (estimated), \$2,100.

Sept. 19—Gravesend. The Junion Champion; about six furlongs.

SYSONBY, 127, (Redfern,) 1; Wild Mint, 2; Cairngorm, 3. Five horses ran. Won galloping by three lengths. Time—1:09 3-5. Value to winner, \$6,010.

1905.

(As a three-year-old.)

May 4—Belmont Park. Metropolitan Handicap; one mile.

SYSONBY, 107, (Shaw,) *; Race King, 94, (L. Smith,) *; Colonial Girl, 3. (*Dead heat.) Twelve horses ran. Sysonby not up to grueling race, overhauled in last furlong by Race King. Stakes divided. Sysonby's share, \$4,615.

June 17—Sheepshead Bay. The Tidal; one mile and a quarter.

SYSONBY, 126, (Nicol,) 1; Agile, 2; Cairngorm, 3. Four horses ran. Won easily by four lengths. Time—2:05. Value to winner, \$14,550.

July 1—Sheepshead Bay. The Commonwealth Handicap; one mile and a quarter.

SYSONBY, 111, (Nicol,) 1; Proper, 2; Mabel Richardson, 3. Six horses ran. Won easily by four lengths. Time—2:07. Value to winner, \$12,225.

July 4—Sheepshead Bay. The Lawrence Realization; one mile and five furlongs.

SYSONBY, 126 (Nicol), 1; Tanya, 2; Migraine, 3. Four horses ran. Won by six lengths. Time—2:47. Value to winner, \$16,960.

July 20—Brighton. The Iroquois Stakes; one mile and a quarter.

SYSONBY, 126 (J. Martin), 1; Migraine, 2; Pasadena, 3. Only three starters. Won easily by two lengths. Time—2:06 2-5. Value to winner, \$5,850.

July 29—Brighton. The Brighton Derby; one mile and a half.

SYSONBY, 126 (Nicol), 1; Agile, 2; Pasadena, 3. Only three starters. Won easily by four lengths. Time—2:33 1-5. Value to winner, \$11,750.

August 12—Saratoga. The Great Republic; one mile and a quarter.

SYSONBY, 119 (Nicol,) 1; Olseau, 2; Broomstick, 3. Five horses ran. Won easily by three lengths. Value to winner, \$39,465.

September 2—Sheepshead Bay. The Century; one mile and a half.

SYSONBY, 115 (Nicol,) 1; Broomstick, 2; Eugenia Burch, 3. Four horses ran. Won easily by three lengths. Value to winner, \$14,650.

September 9—Sheepshead Bay. The Annual Champion; two miles and a quarter.

SYSONBY, 115 (Nicol,) 1; Olseau, 2; Broomstick, 3. Only three starters. Won galloping by four lengths. Value to winner, \$19,530.

KITTEN IN A 25-FOOT WELL.

Whole Bronx Neighborhood Excited, but Can't Get It Out.

The pet kitten of David Pesky, a shoemaker, of 4,002 Third Avenue, in the Bronx, is walled up between the side of Public School No. 4 and the adjoining apartment house. The space in which the kitten is now howling for relief is only four inches wide, but is twenty-five feet deep, and the creature is unable to get any hold upon either wall for an ascent to safety. All Saturday night the kitten was howling for some human friend to help it out. The neighbors threw bottles and old shoes to put an end to the noise. But the kitten's voice was still uplifted at breakfast time yesterday, and investigation showed that its cries were not intended as a feline serenade.

A crowd soon assembled. A policeman could do nothing but call for an S. P. C. A. agent. Agent Anderson could only suggest either digging a hole through the wall or dropping chloroform on the kitten and ending its misery. Neither had been done last night, and the kitten weak from its long struggle to climb out, moved its legs very feebly.

ITALIANS MOB POLICEMAN.

Fitzgerald Has a Fight for His Life with a Second Avenue Crowd.

An Italian was stabbed in Second Avenue last night, between Forty-sixth and Forty-seventh Streets, and while Patrolman Fitzgerald of the East Fifty-first Street Station was pursuing a man pointed out to him as the assailant the injured man was spirited away.

When he arrested the fugitive Fitzgerald was attacked by a mob of angry Italians and narrowly escaped with his life. His night stick was taken away from him, his helmet knocked off, and his clothes cut by stilettoes.

As things were going badly with the policeman help arrived in the shape of eight young men, among whom were James Fierle and Mark Gallagher. They fought through the crowd and ranged themselves by the side of the policeman. Fierle managed to wrest the patrolman's club from an Italian, and with it kept Fitzgerald's assailants at a respectful distance.

Then Detective Cummings of the East Fifty-first Street Station arrived with the reserves. The Italians kept on fighting until their arrival, when three Italians pointed out by Fitzgerald were arrested. Italians followed the patrol wagon to the station, throwing stones at the wagon. The reserves had to be sent out again to clear away the rioters.