

St. Croix Avis

76TH YEAR.

CHRISTIANSTED V.I. U. S. A., TUESDAY 16TH AUGUST 1921.

No 191.

THE ST. CROIX AVIS

is printed and published daily (Sundays and Holidays excepted) by G. Johansen at the Avis Office

TERMS—50 cents monthly in advance
2 cents per single copy.

Entered as second-class matter May 26th 1917 at the Post Office at Christiansted, St. Croix, V. I. of the U. S. A., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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SEVEN STITCHES IN HEART, YOUTH FIGHTS FOR LIFE

Doctors Who Operated Say Patient Will Live

With seven stitches in his heart, Frank Farino, seventeen, 558 Union street, Brooklyn, is said by physicians at Holy Family Hospital, Dean street Brooklyn, to be on a fair way to recovery.

The youth accidentally stabbed himself with a stiletto-like knife while at work yesterday as a paper sorter for Joseph Morrone on the city dock at Sixth street.

Admitted to the Holy Family Hospital at 10 o'clock in the morning the surgeons immediately decided on an operation as the sole chance of saving his life. Forty minutes later the youth was back in the ward.

A Delicate Operation.

The seven stitches had to be taken with the utmost care, the doctor plying the needle only when the organ was contracted, that is, at the end of each beat.

Dr. James Downey performed the unusual operation, with the assistance of Dr. Frank Leder and Dr. George Doyle. The three surgeons remained at Farino's bedside until a late hour last night. They expressed confidence in the ultimate recovery of their patient.

The youngster's will to recover is aiding the hospital authorities in the fight for life.

Only Thought of Mother.

"I cut myself while working to support my mother, and I will live, for she must have my help," the spartan-like boy told the nurses attending him.

He was feeling so well last night that he insisted on sitting up. His courage and recuperative powers have won the admiration of every one connected with the hospital.—*Daily News, July 19th.*

BOY WITH HEART SEWED UP "MUST LIVE TO KEEP FAMILY"

Youth Who Survies Operation That Seals Wound in Heart Will Soon Recover.

Frank Farino, the Brooklyn boy who had four stitches taken in his heart yesterday, is reported in a good condition today by Dr. James Downey of No. 381 Clinton Street, Brooklyn, the operating surgeon. The surgeon is devoting most of his time to the remarkable case.

The boy, who is very chipper in the Holy Family Hospital, is able to take nourishment in a liquid form and his recovery is soon expected. Because of his youth, Dr. Downey says there is every likelihood of his outgrowing any ill effects of the wound in the heart.

The only danger to be feared at present is that some complication such as pneumonia might develop, the lungs having been exposed at the time of the operation.

Because of the great loss of blood, between the time of wounding himself and reaching the hospital, it may be necessary to have a blood transfusion. In addition to the four stitches taken in the pericardium, the membranous sac of the heart, three stitches were taken in a heart muscle.

Frank is only sixteen years old, but for all that he is the sole support of his family, consisting of himself, his mother, Maria, and his small brother Luigi. The boy works as a paper sorter on the city disposal pier at Sixth Street Brooklyn. His work is to cut open bundles of papers to make sure there are no explosives or other things in them that would wreck or damage the garbage incinerator on the wharf.

Yesterday he was sharpening on a grindstone a long knife which he uses. The knife slipped and the blade penetrated his chest. For twenty minutes after that the boy kept at his work, but when he discovered his shirt was saturated with blood he collapsed.

An ambulance took him to the hospital, and Dr. Downey found he had cut a gash in his heart. A quick consultation by Dr. Downey, Dr. George J. Doyle of No. 287 Clermont Avenue,

Brooklyn, and Dr. Frank Leder of the hospital staff, resulted in the decision to operate.

The boy's fifth and sixth ribs were severed from the breast bone and through the aperture in the chest wall the heart was disclosed. It was found that the wound in the heart proper was an inch long and half an inch deep. The stitches were quickly made. Then the pericardium was sewed up, and the severed ribs were joined together.

Half an hour later the boy was eagerly asking Dr. Downey if he would recover.

"I don't care so much," he said, only my mother is a widow and she and my little brother have no one to look after them but me."—*The Evening World July 19th.*

NOTICE.

WE regret having to notify, that the worldwide economic depression also is reflected upon our island and makes it imperative that changes in the economic conditions of the island are effected if the chief industry, the growing of sugar canes, shall be preserved for the future.

With the elimination of the high exchange on U. S. currency and the reduction in price on food from this and other causes, we find it but reasonable under the circumstances, that the present scale of wages brought about by the exchange situation and the high cost of living a couple years ago, be adjusted.

However, in order to enable the willing and efficient worker to earn a fair day's wage, we the undersigned sugar concerns on and from August 22nd, will readopt on our estates the schedule of task work embodied in the agreement of August 15th, 1917, worked out in co-operation with the Government, the laborers and the planters, with the exception, that the day's task be based on 65 cents instead of 50 cents for 9 hours work. When this schedule is not applied the day's wage shall be 50 cents for 9 hours work.

WEST INDIAN SUGAR FACTORY.

ESTATE LA GRANGE.

ST. CROIX SUGAR FACTORY.

August 12th, 1921.