

## Policemen, Firemen, and Laborers Aid in Work of Rescue.

**Ambulance Surgeon Risks His Life in a  
Brooklyn Trench to Comfort One  
of the Victims.**

By working strenuously for nearly three hours with spade and shovel a small army of firemen, policemen, and street pavers succeeded yesterday in saving the life of an Italian laborer, who had been buried in quicksand while digging a trench at Belmont Avenue and Vermont Street, Brooklyn. Another laborer was also pulled out of the trench, but he had been only partly buried.

The trench, which was eighteen feet deep and ran through a bed of fine sand, was being dug to make a water-pipe connection in a house on Belmont Avenue, a number of Italians being engaged in the work under the direction of Contractor George Luns of 118 Alabama Avenue. When the men started in to work yesterday morning Michael Ambrosia, forty years old, of Essex Street near Liberty Avenue, and Antonio Franca of the same address, were the first to lower themselves into the deep trench. They had hardly landed on the bottom when the sand caved in above them. Franca managed to climb nearly to the top of the hole and was buried only to his waist. Ambrosia, however, was knocked down by the falling sand and was completely buried.

August Schombs of 857 Blake Avenue, who happened along on a bicycle, jumped off, and grabbing a shovel, began throwing the sand out of the trench in lively fashion. The Italians standing near followed his lead as also did a gang of men who had been at work laying a pavement on New Jersey Avenue, a block away. Franca was soon pulled out. Schombs then went to a telephone and sent calls to the police, the firemen, and the Bradford Street Hospital.

Meanwhile because of the falling sand the men who had been trying to rescue Ambrosia had been obliged to get out of the trench after uncovering Ambrosia's face. Without regard to the danger Ambulance Surgeon Edwards dropped into the trench and poured whisky into the mouth of the Italian to revive him. Ambrosia, who feared that he was going to lose his life, began to pray wildly and to quiet him Dr. Edwards administered a hypodermic injection of morphine. The doctor then clambered out of the hole. He had scarcely done so when the sand caved in again and poor Ambrosia was once more buried from sight. The firemen and laborers worked rapidly and soon managed to remove enough of the sand to expose Ambrosia's head and shoulders. A slanting trench was then dug and the man safely taken out and hurried to the hospital, where it was found that he was suffering from internal injuries and bruises all over his body. Later, at his own request, he was removed to his home.

Clipped By:



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