

in courts in due course? Will not an innocent person, if cross questioned, show emotional disturbances? Aren't people different in degrees of nervousness? The answers to these questions are still controversial. It is likely that sophisticated persons will be able to "beat the machine" providing more sophisticated experimenters don't safeguard these loop-holes. In the long run this may be like paying for a dead horse with a bad check. The question of tension due to nervousness, indignation and other factors is controlled nicely by the fact that most machines have about ten banks of resistance and each person can be balanced to a zero point in the scale. From here on the deflectional differences for each question will be significant. The present writer believes that we in Canada at least will not see such evidence admitted in courts. Probably the chief use will be in obtaining confessions and even here Canadian

public opinion frowns on such procedures. Obviously, the more variables that can be recorded the more valid will the machine be.

We can now answer the question, "Why does a psychologist in good standing prefer not to call such devices "lie detectors"? The answer, of course, is that all the machine can register are some of these obscure bodily changes. Admittedly, these suggest emotionality. But which emotion? And is the alleged emotion known to be related invariably to lying? A physician's thermometer cannot register typhoid fever; it may report a temperature of 102°. But surely other symptoms must be used to supplement the bare observation of a column of mercury. Similarly, the steps between the known records and the unknown causes must be traced with caution. Yet, in spite of this, even I am surprised that the reporter was caught as many times as he was last spring.

Lie Detector

When George cut down the cherry tree,
And wrote a page in history,
He said, "I cannot tell a lie;
The one who did the deed was I!"

And so for near two hundred years
Each generation duly hears
Of George's fine integrity,
And what an honest lad was he.

But times have changed, and modern youth
Now seldom needs to tell the truth,
For just as he begins to chop
He looks around . . . and there's a "cop!"

—Los Angeles Police Associations Bulletin.

Cheap Literature

A RECENT case seems to prove that bad literature can influence the adolescent mind. A telegraph messenger read that a trouser pocket, elongated to the knee, provided an excellent hiding-place for "merchandise," as investigators never searched down low.

The young pilferer boasted no policeman would ever catch him. Meanwhile petty thievery was rampant in various offices in War Supply Buildings at Ottawa. A clever ruse on the part of the investigator brought about the miscreant's disclosure. He was caught with the goods despite the deep pocket.

It is to be hoped that now the youth realizes 'crime doesn't pay.'