

The Thumb Print Gallery-A System of Identification that the Criminal Cannot Escape.



A Class in Descriptive Identification of the Paris Police.

"B" THEIR finger prints ye shall know them." So greatly impressed are police authorities of the world with the modern system of identification that it has taken its place permanently by the side of the practically infallible Bertillon plan of measurements.

In Canada the finger-print system has been adopted by all the chiefs of police of all the big cities, and it is soon to be placed in active operation. Already many of the larger detective agencies are employing it.

In a little while every big city in the country will have a finger-print gallery, just as they now possess galleries of photographs of the faces of rogues and their measurements.

Regular schools—part of the necessary detective curriculum—for the study of the art of finger-print identification have been established in Europe—one in Paris, another at Bucharest.

Dangerous criminals are constantly being traced and brought to justice through the voiceless witness of their finger prints. Last year 5,000 identifications were made in England alone through this agency.

Only recently two men charged with burglary and murder were extradited from England to France solely upon the incriminating testimony left by their hands at the place of the crime.

Prisons are crowded with criminals who become the latter-day street-sweepers of the police and the systematic researchers of Professor Francis Galton, who called attention to the value of this plan by asserting that the chance of two sets of finger prints being alike is less than one in 64,000,000.

So certain and indisputable is finger-print identification that not a few criminals have confessed when confronted by no other evidence.

Not long since two young Frenchmen stood on the Bow Street Police Court, in London, listening to proceedings for their extradition to Paris, where they were wanted upon a charge of burglary and murder. "What evidence have you?" the magistrate asked the officers, exhibiting cards upon which were the prints of the prisoners' fingers, and other cards containing photographs of impressions left by the hands of the murderers at the scene of the crime.

Experts aware that the prints were identical, and so the prisoners were promptly returned to Paris and quick conviction.

Early one morning the police of Paris were called to the wine shop of Madame Laurent, in the Rue Houdon. There they found the proprietor lying dead upon the floor. She had been strangled, and the money drawer in the shop had been rifled.

Before departing, the murderous robbers had helped themselves to wine, leaving upon a table three empty bottles. In the dust upon the neck of one of these bottles were the imprints of fingers. Every line was distinctly visible.

M. Bertillon, the great master of finger-print science, as he is of an anthropometric measurements, was called upon the case. He took the prints and with a powder that preserved and brought them out even more distinctly, and then carefully photographed them.

Of course, they might have been finger prints of Madame Laurent herself, but more likely they were the imprints of the murderers. Could their duplicates be found among the police records?

Yes, they were found. At detective headquarters were impressions of the fingers of Jean Sauzet, a clerk in the neighborhood of the wine shop which the police declared were identical with the prints upon the neck of the bottle. This was the man to be found.

This was accomplished by the London police. New impressions were taken and compared with the photographs from the Paris case. M. Bertillon declared that no two sets of fingers could possibly have made marks so similar, and upon this testimony the man was held for extradition, and with him was held a young

provision dealer, charged with being an accessory.

BERTILLON SOLVED THIS MYSTERY.

While M. Alphonse Bertillon is not the father of finger-print identification, as he is of anthropometric measurements, he adapted the science, so determined and improved its methods as to make it the present almost infallible detective agency of the law.

It is much more simple of operation than the system of anthropometric measurements. More than a little care is required to obtain the measurements of a criminal with any degree of accuracy, and the slightest mistake ruins the efficiency.

The simplest constant could not fail to obtain an accurate finger print. The simplest constant could not fail to obtain an accurate finger print.

The man you want is Henri Leon Schaffer, he said. "Here are his photographs, past record, and description."

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that country have been required to give receipts in that way. This has eliminated impersonation, and it is said, "pensioners no longer live forever."

First to appreciate and demonstrate the value of finger-print evidence in detective work was Professor Francis Galton of England. Cousin of Charles Darwin, the famous scholar, and devoted many years to a careful study of finger impressions. Professor Galton declared that "the change of two people's finger prints being alike is one in 64,000,000."

"During the thirteen years it has been tried in England," said Inspector Collins, of Scotland Yard, recently, "the result of identification by this method has not been challenged in a single instance, although we have had as many as five thousand identifications a year."

The finger-print system has robbed the alias of its utility; the man of many names and many crimes can no longer successfully plead hunger, desperation and a first offense. His finger prints betray him.

At one time an expert crackman broke into a London suburban home. The windows had been newly painted, and the police found, clear and unmistakable, the outline of the burglar's fingers. The prints were photographed and the lines compared with those on the hand of a registered "habitué" criminal. The result satisfied the jury at his trial.

In the case of a murder at Deptford, England, not long ago, the criminal left finger prints upon a cash box which he opened. These were found to be those of a man whose finger prints were among the police records, and he was convicted.

REDUCED TO AN EXACT SCIENCE. Within the last few years a powder has been discovered which brings out clearly and sharply the print of a warm finger upon glass or any other smooth surface. Prints, invisible at first, when dusted over with this powder come out in distinct designs.

At first the markings were so difficult because of the slight difference in the measurements of the various ridges, "fakes," "islands," arches and other skin marks, according to the amount of pressure used by the criminal in making the impression.

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Since M. Bertillon, however, has reduced finger-print study to almost an exact science, and has classified the characteristics of skin markings, more satisfactory results to the police, not to criminals—have been obtained.

It is for the more systematic and thorough study of detective criminology, of the latest methods of identification, that the police schools in Paris and elsewhere have been opened.

Detectives and policemen must become more clever year by year, because the shrewdness of criminals is increasing. In fact, a contest of cleverness is continually in progress between them.

The clever criminal appreciates the importance of finger-print evidence as thoroughly as do the police. When in action any of them take measures to prevent leaving any incriminating marks behind.

A favorite method is to treat the ends of thumbs and fingers with salicylic acid. This is done to obliterate the distinguishing ridges, arches, loops and whorls of the skin surface.

Another method of trying to evade the silent evidence of the finger print is to doctor the skin with a sharp instrument. This is done by cutting or filing away the ridges, but as it is a painful operation, only the most hardy resort to it.

Obviously, protection would be afforded by wearing gloves, but there are many objections to this. A glove is not at its best in a desperate or delicate enterprise.

The burglar whose hand is encased in a glove cannot shoot as straight on a rifle, neither can he so effectively clutch the throat of any one who interrupts him.

"THOU ART THE MAN." Even if undisturbed, the gloves would be in the way in picking a lock. Dr. Forbes Winslow, a well-known English surgeon, while agreeing that "the investigation of crime by means of finger prints is a great advent in criminal science," does not agree with the theory that no two persons have such markings exactly alike.

Such investigation will prove beyond shadow of doubt," he asserts, "whether the crime has been committed by a man or a woman. The shape and formation of the male and female fingers are so different that it is impossible to mistake an impression made by the female hand for that of the male."

The hand is one of the principal parts of the human body characterized by heredity. In my study of human nature, I have many times seen an exact similarity of hands and fingers but only among members of the same family. I have known brothers and sisters, cousins, male and female, all to have the exact shape of fingers of their parents, so that it would be difficult to decide the finger prints made by them.

There is no essential difference between the finger print of a criminal and an ordinary individual. In other words, there is nothing characteristic in a criminal's hand. There is, however, a strange peculiarity in the formation of the thumb in many persons of unsound mind. Why this should be so, I am unable to say.

Finger prints are strange things," M. Bertillon remarked recently. "We leave them all round us without knowing it."

"They may make no mark that is visible to the eye; and yet, when a little of our magic powder is sprinkled over the place where a warm, moist finger tip has rested, the skin lines stand out with amazing distinctness."

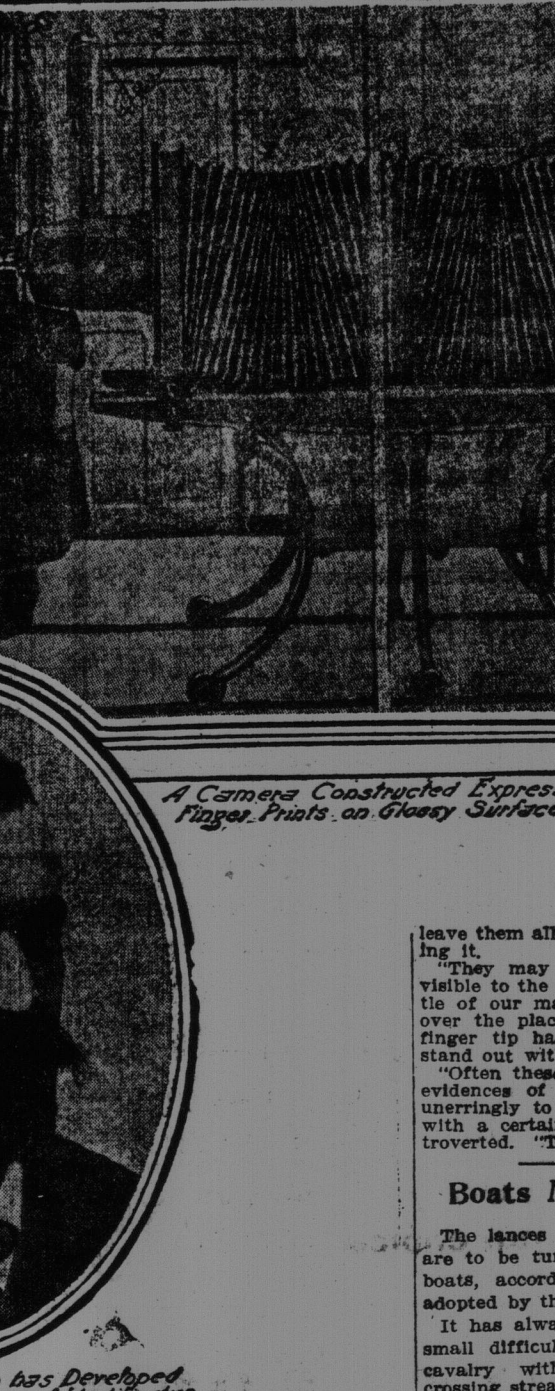
"Often these unconsciously impressed evidences of his presence will point us directly to the criminal, and state with a certainty that cannot be controverted. 'Thou art the man.'"

Boats Made of Lances. The lances used by German soldiers are to be turned into framework for boats, according to the latest plans adopted by the Kaiser's war advisers.

It has always been a matter of no small difficulty to provide bodies of cavalry with suitable vessels for crossing streams. Only in cases of absolute necessity are the horses driven bodily into the water, for in the torrid heat of summer the treading of a river is always accompanied by some danger.

The old-fashioned, cumbersome folding boats and their wagons have been discarded by the German Army for a more trustworthy and more easily carried vessel. This is the lance boat, so called because its frame is built up by means of the lances carried by the German troopers. With twelve or sixteen lances six men can build a boat in five minutes, and in two minutes the frame is spanned with a waterproof piece of canvas, and two minutes later the boat is ready for use.

The connecting members and locking device used in building up the lance boat frame weigh 4 pounds; the canvas, 20 pounds; in all, 72 pounds. By reason of this small weight, a single horse can carry the parts of two boats.



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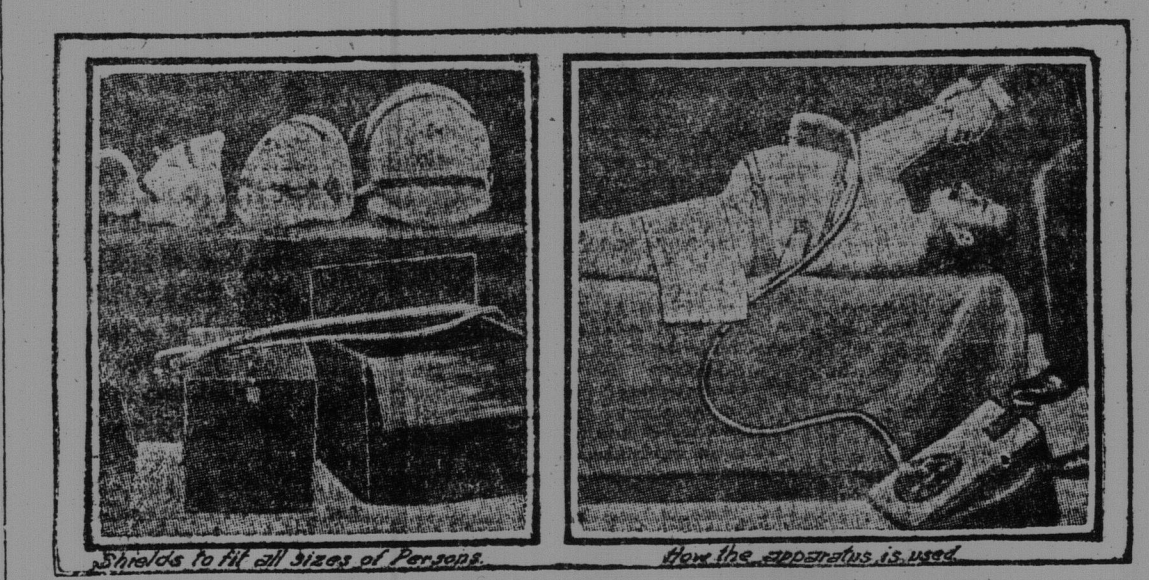
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New Method to Revive Asphyxiation Victims.



When physicians are called upon to restore victims of asphyxiation, their first efforts are directed toward securing a resumption of the functions of the heart and lungs.

Such efforts are made, usually, with the aid of a pump or a barrel or in other ways attempting to start the suspended internal machinery.

An apparatus intended to attain such an end more speedily, invented by Dr. L. Eisenmenger, is just now attracting considerable attention in the world of science.

The principal feature of the apparatus is a set of the thorax and which can be made airtight. A space is left between the vault of the shield and the surface of the body, and into this space air is alternately forced and withdrawn by means of a bellows.

With the partly asphyxiated person lying supine upon his back this contrivance is fastened over his abdomen. When the pump is turned on, the air is forced into the shield and then expelled, the action being carried on regularly and at natural intervals.

Every one knows how the abdomen expands and contracts during the process of breathing. The more perfect

this motion of the abdomen the more effectively is drawn into through and expelled from the lungs.

The rhythmic control of atmospheric pressure given by Dr. Eisenmenger's machine not only pumps air into and out of the lungs, but the reciprocal motion imparted through the walls of the abdomen and the diaphragm gives a regular and effective massage to the heart, which is found to respond promptly to the treatment.

By such action upon the respiration and the circulation of the blood the best results so far known in the treatment of asphyxiated persons have been obtained.

When the price of wheat went down to sixty cents a bushel I argued that there was something mighty wrong with this country. When the price jumped to \$1.20, I was smart enough to argue that I was a fool for going out of wheat and into dried apples.

A mean man can always get the bulge on his bets by paying \$2.00 for a monument in the cemetery while he is yet alive. You can most always tell who has been in this way while sauntering through the cities of the dead.

When you come across a man with a sharp knife in his pocket, a sort of pine single handy and plenty of time to loaf in, watch him. If he'd rather sit with his hands in his pockets than to whistle, don't bank on him.

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No Spellug For Him

"No, I shan't be looking for any spelling schools this Winter," replied the drummer with a shake of the head.

"Last Winter, as I was loafing around a country town on my route, an acquaintance informed me that an old-fashioned spelling school was to be held that night at a country school house, and I was invited to go with a crowd. Boys and girls piled into a big sleigh filled with straw, and I naturally tried to make myself agreeable."

"Before we had gone a mile, one young fellow said that if I didn't quit griping at his girl he'd punch my nose, and when we got to the school house another put his hand under my nose and called me too fresh."

"On top of that, I was as enough to go and spell the whole crowd down, and I had to make my escape by the back door, and I was so tired that I walked four miles through the snow by my lonesome."

"I used to be fond of old-fashioned things, and the spelling school headed the list, but guess I shall have to cut it out, and be satisfied with mince pie and popovers."

STRAY BITS OF PHILOSOPHY BY THE OLD WHITTIER.

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Rugby, Model Town, Booms

At last, Rugby, Tenn., seems on the road to success, but not in the way that its founder, Thomas Hughes, the famous English writer expected.

When the author of "Tom Brown at Rugby" organized a company and organized a model town in Morgan county, Tenn., twenty-five years ago, his plans attracted world-wide attention.

Formed with a capital of \$750,000, the company purchased 50,000 acres of land on the Cumberland river. The place was to be the location of an ideal community of educated, but financially restricted, Englishmen.

The plans contemplated coming activity with attention to culture and outdoor English sports, such as cricket and hunting. Settlers were to include the best of English families—the families of "country gentlemen"—the gentry.

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