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# S. MILLEY.

## Some of the Evidence Dr. Crippen Will Have to Face.

### Reports of Testimony at Coroner's Inquest— Body of Murdered Woman Dissected in Effort to Destroy Identity.

Some of the damaging evidence which will confront Dr. Crippen on his return to England was revealed at the inquest which was held ten or twelve days ago. It was there that Inspector Dew, who came over to take Crippen back, told the details of the discovery of the Hilldrop Crescent crime and the escape of its alleged perpetrator. As told by Lloyd's Weekly the inquest proceedings were as follows:

A large crowd surrounded the court, a little building in the church yard of St. Mary Magdalene in Holloway road. In the mortuary adjoining the court room all that is supposed to remain of Belle Elmore lay in a sealed coffin.

It was in this cold chamber of death that Dr. Pepper, the famous analyst to the Home Office, has been endeavoring to solve the mystery of the remains. The coroner indicated that to accomplish the task Dr. Pepper must baffle the skill and cunning of the murderer, who, with all the time he needed at his disposal, had endeavored to destroy not only all the means of identifying the victim, but all semblance of humanity, and to defeat even the discovery of sex.

Dr. Pepper had not been able to overcome all these great difficulties in the very short time as yet allowed him, and, therefore, the jury must await his report on the solution of the mystery later.

The First Inking.

First, Mr. John Edward Nash, the

atrical manager, of Park Mansions, Vauxhall Park, who said that he and his wife, Miss Lil Hawthorne, were great friends of Belle Elmore, opened the story with a carefully prepared chapter in the strange circumstances that set the revelations moving. When last he saw the Crippens he and his wife dined with them, on January 19.

The Coroner—Did they seem all right?

Mr. Nash—Yes. They had had a meeting at the Music Hall Ladies' Guild that afternoon, and adjourned to our house to have just a little private dinner, and Mr. Crippen accompanied his wife.

The Coroner—Have you come across Mr. Crippen since?

Mr. Nash—Yes. May I tell my story in my own way?

"Certainly," answered the coroner, settling down with the jury to listen, and Mr. Nash, referring to some notes he held in his hand, proceeded:

"On Feb. 2 I heard through my wife that Belle Elmore had resigned from the Music Hall Ladies' Guild. My wife thought it was strange that Belle Elmore should resign so suddenly, and sent her a note on Feb. 5 saying that she would call on Saturday night to try to persuade her from resigning. We called at the house, but could not gain admittance. The place was all closed. To-day we heard that Belle Elmore had left for California.

Suspicion Aroused.

"Miss May, secretary to the Music

Hall Ladies' Guild, told us. Of course it was a big surprise to all. On Feb. 27 there was a dinner of the Benevolent Institution, presided over by Mr. Joe Elvin. We were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Martinetti. I was very much surprised to see Dr. Crippen enter with his lady typist and sit right opposite us.

"Mrs. Martinetti remarked to us that she was sure the typist was wearing one of Belle Elmore's brooches. That made a big impression on me. But that incident passed for the time; my wife and I were on the eve of a visit to America, and on March 23rd we sailed for New York.

During the first week in May in America we received a letter from Mrs. Martinetti telling us 'Poor Belle had died.' About the middle of May we met Mrs. Ginnett (President of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild) in New York. She was very much upset, of course, over Belle Elmore's death. She did not like the look of affairs and wrote to the authorities at Los Angeles, and, not receiving any satisfactory reply, got the New Jersey police to write to Los Angeles.

"They received an official reply that no such person as Belle Elmore or Crippen had died in Los Angeles. We thought it was a very curious affair.

Visited Dr. Crippen.

"We sailed from New York for home again on June 15th, and I promised Mrs. Ginnett that as soon as I arrived in London I would interview Crippen. So on June 28th I visited Dr. Crippen at his offices. That was the first time I had seen him since the death of his wife. We went to offer condolence. He seemed very nervous and distressed.

"He had given it out that his wife died in Los Angeles. When I questioned him he said: 'Oh, no; she died in some little town near San Francisco.' He did not know that I had lived at San Francisco for a couple of years and knew the neighbourhood well. I tried to refresh his memory about the name of the town. He said it had a Spanish pronunciation, which he could not remember.

"At last I mentioned Alameda as a name, and he said, 'I think it was that town.' I said, 'Peter, do you mean to say that you don't know where your wife died?' and he answered, 'I think it was that town.'

"I said, 'You have received her ash-

es from the crematorium?' He answered, 'Yes, I have them in my safe.' 'From what cemetery?' I asked. He answered, 'There are about four near San Francisco, and I cannot tell you which one.'

"Surely," I said, 'you received a certificate of the death?' He answered, 'I have got it somewhere.' He began to get very nervous, and I began to feel that there was something wrong."

Appeal to Police.

The Coroner—His answers were unsatisfactory?

Mr. Nash—Yes; when a man cannot tell where his wife had died, I made up my mind to visit Scotland Yard at once. As a matter of fact, I did so, and saw Superintendent Forest.

After Mr. Nash had concluded, a sentence was interpolated by Mr. H. O. Seyd, solicitor, who appeared for the Music Hall Ladies' Guild. He disposed of anything that might be asked concerning Belle Elmore and her friends by stating that as treasurer Mrs. Crippen did her duty satisfactorily in every way.

Chief Inspector Walter Dew, of New Scotland Yard, was the next witness. He said:

"On June 30th I saw Mr. Nash with Sergt. Mitchell, and he then made a statement to me which was put in writing. With Sergt. Mitchell I then made exhaustive enquiries in various parts of London and other places, and I was not satisfied with my enquiries, and determined to interview Crippen.

"On the early morning of the 8th of this month I called at 29 Hilldrop Crescent with Sergt. Mitchell, and there saw a French girl, who was the servant, and subsequently a young lady named Miss Le Neve, whom I recognized from a description as Crippen's typist. I asked her then who she was, and she said that she was Dr. Crippen's housekeeper, and that he was out. I then observed that she was wearing a brooch which had been described to me as one that had belonged to Mrs. Crippen.

"Miss Le Neve suggested we should call later on, and she would fetch Crippen in the meanwhile. I suggested I should go with her, and after some demur she agreed. I then went with her and Sergt. Mitchell to Albion House, New Oxford Street, where on the third floor Crippen was carrying on some kind of a dentistry business, with others.

Brought to Bay.

"Crippen saw me at once, and I told him information had reached us as to stories set up by him concerning his wife's death, and that I had come to him because I was not satisfied with my enquiries, and would like him to give me some explanation. He said, 'I suppose I had better tell the truth.' I suggested to him that that would, perhaps, be the better course.

"He then made a long statement to me, which I reduced to writing, but I do not propose to put it in at present. The gist of it was that it was all lies he had told me about his wife being dead, and that, so far as he knew, she was not dead; that, on the first—I think—of February, he had given a little party to some friends, including Mr. Paul Martinetti, and through a visit Mrs. Crippen, after the friends had left, created a bother, found fault with him, and abused him, and then said she had quite enough of it, and was determined to leave him and go away, never to see him again.

"Crippen further said his wife told him she knew someone who wanted her, who was willing to 'keep' her, and find her with all she required. She had often talked like this, and he had taken no notice of it.

"As far as he knew," Crippen stated, 'the man to whom she referred was Mr. Bruce Miller, who, he thought, lived in Chicago, and he thought she had gone to him.'

His Wife's Jewellery.

"I questioned him about his wife's jewellery, and he said she had taken some with her and had left some behind. Crippen added that she had often said she did not want anything he had bought.

"I then asked him about her clothes and he said she had not taken much, but might have taken a basket with her.

"I then saw Miss Le Neve, whose statement I do not propose to give to-day. I also saw Crippen again, and told him that I was not satisfied, and I suggested that I should have to make every effort to find his wife.

"I asked him whether he would mind me coming up to the house at Hilldrop Crescent with him. He said he would be very glad if I did come. We went together to 39 Hilldrop Crescent, and before I went into the house I just walked around the garden, but there was nothing to indicate that there was anything wrong.

"We searched the house, and everything seemed to be in perfect order, except that the carpets had been rolled up and some boxes had been packed. It was a well known fact that Crippen meant to go away within a few months.

"I sent Sergt. Mitchell between the rafters of the house, and all over the place, to look for anything suspicious,

but he found no papers or any indication of any disturbance.

"I then left, and reported the matter to my superior officer and continued the enquiry. On the following Monday I again called at Albion House and discovered that Crippen and Miss Le Neve had disappeared on the Saturday afternoon, leaving a letter for a man named Long."

The Coroner—What is the date of that?

The Inspector—July 9. It was probably posted in the morning, and Long would receive it the same evening. It suggested that he should wind up Crippen's affairs, and stated that he had to go away.

Hunting a Clue.

The Coroner—Saying what was due to the landlord, and asking him if he would have it paid.

Inspector Dew—Yes. On the same afternoon I went to Hilldrop Crescent again, and there I found a French girl, who had been employed there about a month, and who could give me but little information. She did, however, say that on Saturday Crippen left the house in the usual manner in the morning, taking with him nothing out of the ordinary, and that Miss Le Neve also left about an hour afterwards, also taking nothing with her, with the exception of a small reticule bag. On the same afternoon this girl received a letter from Crippen telling her not to be alarmed, and that they had gone to the theatre. She was a young girl of seventeen, and was taken charge of by the police authorities, and, as she had no friends in London, she was sent back to France the next day. On that day there was nothing wrong so far as I could see from an examination of the house, but in a wardrobe of the bedroom occupied by Crippen and Miss Le Neve I found a fully loaded five-chambered revolver, and later on Sergt. Mitchell found downstairs a box containing cartridges.

Inspected the Cellar.

The Coroner—Now we come to the cellar?

Inspector Dew—I visited the premises on the Tuesday and Wednesday, and on Wednesday, when we were examining the floor in the passage leading to the cellar, we had our suspicions aroused, and we decided to make a most minute examination of the floor of the cellar. Groping about after sweeping the dust off, we found that one or two of the bricks appeared to be looser than others, and I determined to have the floor up. We took some of the bricks up with a spade and other instruments. Then we dug into the ground, and after a short time came upon what I thought to be a piece of human flesh."

The Coroner—Did you see any stain of blood?

The Inspector—No, we came across what appeared to be another piece of flesh, and I at once sent for the divisional surgeon, Dr. Marshall, and then for officers from the nearest police station. I caused the whole of the floor to be dug up, and we found a large quantity of human flesh.

Horrible Discoveries.

The Coroner—Did you find the head?

Inspector Dew—No, we found no head, nor hands, nor feet, but amongst the things we did find on closer examination was a Hindle's hair curler, in which was a piece of hair, and it appeared to be of two colors. There was a smaller portion of hair amongst the fragments of a man's handkerchief, two corners of which had been tied in the reefer fashion. We found no bones whatever, they formed one mass of human flesh. When we had got the remains out each piece was not very much bigger than that bag (pointing to a small bag in front of the coroner). It seemed as if some one had simply carved the flesh to pieces.

The Coroner—How about teeth?

Inspector Dew—There was no sign of teeth or bones there at all, but there was a quantity of what appeared to be quicklime with the mould and clay. The conclusion I draw from this is that whoever committed the crime had the idea of destroying the whole of the identity of the person. He put the quicklime in mixed with a quantity of water, so that the flesh should be destroyed and the bones could have been very easily got rid of elsewhere. There was a piece of coarse string about fifteen inches long, another about eleven inches, and small pieces of cloth and a piece of old brown paper with blood on it. The string and handkerchief might have been used for strangling.

The Coroner—There were no clothes?

Details Too Horrible.

Inspector Dew—I don't want to mention all the horrible details I have down here (indicating a paper of notes in his hand). I would rather leave them to Mr. Pepper. The remains were put together in a coffin; but first of all Mr. Pepper made an examination, and they were removed to Islington Mortuary. I was present afterwards, when Prof. Pepper and Dr. Marshall made another examination. With regard to the clothing we found amongst the remains, they consisted of a portion of a la-

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dy's undergarment and a man's shirt or pyjama jacket. Subsequently in this house I discovered a suit of pyjamas in a box upstairs similar to the jacket which was found amongst the remains, and also a pair of pyjama trousers, which had been very much worn. I cannot find any jacket to go with those trousers, so the jacket may be the one which was found with the body.

The Coroner—What do you think was the cause of death?

The Inspector—I would rather leave that to the doctors. The string and handkerchief, as I said, may have been used for the purpose of strangulation, or they may have been used to drag the portions of the body along.

At this point Inspector Dew paused, suggesting that he did not think justice would be served by carrying his evidence any further that day. He added: "We have not lost one moment. We have circulated the description and photograph of the man throughout the whole world."

What the Dr. Saw.

Dr. Thomas Marshall, the divisional police surgeon, was then called, and stated that he was called to see the remains on the afternoon they were collected, and there was not a bone to be found.

The Coroner—Are you prepared to say whether they belonged to a male or female?

Dr. Marshall—The investigation, microscopical and otherwise, is still being proceeded with by Professor Pepper, but personally I have no

doubt they are female remains, although I cannot positively assert so on anatomical grounds. Whoever committed the crime certainly endeavored to remove all evidence of identity, and also of sex. If he left anything he certainly made a blunder. I should judge the remains had been there for several months.

The Coroner—You have no doubt that a murder was committed?

Dr. Marshall—No; but there was nothing to tell how she met her death. Many of the internal organs were well preserved. The quicklime may have destroyed some, but a portion of it seemed to have preserved others. The heart, for instance, was in excellent preservation.

The Coroner—Was there any evidence in the house that any foul work had happened there?

Dr. Marshall—The house was very carefully inspected, not only by the police, but by Professor Pepper and myself, and there was no evidence of any such thing. I should suppose that the work of dissection was done in the cellar, and whoever did it evidently had expert knowledge.

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