

procured from all the stations along the line, and Professor Ehrenberg, so famous for his microscopic discoveries, was engaged to make an examination of them. To the naked eye all the samples presented precisely the same appearance, but, on being submitted to the microscope, they were found to differ very essentially from each other, and only one of them was similar in its constitutes parts to the sand contained in the box. This gave the police a clue to the station at which the robbery had been committed, and led to the arrest of one of the employees there, who was subsequently tried for the robbery and convicted.

The remarkable discoveries made by means of the microscope, with regard to the composition of blood, have led to the frequent use of that instrument, of late years, for the detection of murderers. Chemistry was sometimes able to distinguish the difference between blood and substances similar to it in color and general appearance, but it was at fault when the question was a comparison of human blood with that of the lower animals. But it has been demonstrated by the microscope that the vital fluid is composed of globules imperceptible to the naked eye, and that these globules are of a different form in all the various species of animals. Thus, to the microscopist, the human blood presents an appearance quite different from that of an ox, a horse or a sheep.

This was well tested; years ago, in an English county town, where a labouring man was put upon his trial for the murder of the superintendent of a neighbouring coal mine. The evidence against this man was very strong. He had been seen with more money in his possession than he would have come by in an honest way, and he had also partially disguised himself by shaving off his whiskers, and in other ways, and yet there was not sufficient proof on which to convict him. Recourse was now had to the microscope. An eminent microscopist was called upon, and a pair of pantaloons and a razor belonging to the suspected man were sub-

mitted for his analysis. After minute investigation with the instrument some infinitely small specks of blood were discovered upon these articles. It was also found that soap had been used in an attempt to remove the specks, and that one of them had been actually covered over with ink. The corpuscles, or globules, of which these blood specks were composed were declared by the microscopist to be those of human blood, and this piece of evidence led to the conviction of the man, who subsequently confessed his guilt.

In France a man was tried for the murder of an old lady. A razor, wrapped in a handkerchief supposed to have belonged to the prisoner, was found in a brook near the residence of the deceased. On a microscopic examination of the razor traces of blood were discovered upon it, and also some fibres of linen and cotton threads, which are perfectly distinguishable from one another when under the microscope. Now here was a strong piece of circumstantial evidence, for the strings of the night-cap worn by the victim when she was murdered were of linen and cotton threads mixed. There was a difficulty however, in proving that the razor and handkerchief had ever belonged to the suspected man, and he was acquitted; though, as he died by his own hand shortly afterwards, there can be little doubt that he was guilty of the crime. Several years ago, in England, a remarkable case was tried, in which the microscope played a conspicuous part as a detective. One morning a young girl was found dead in a field with her throat cut. The person upon whom suspicion fell was the mother of the girl, who had been seen that morning passing through the field with her. The woman in her examination answered very clearly and without hesitation all the questions put to her. She admitted having been in the field with her daughter, but stated that the latter had left her for the purpose of gathering flowers, and that she had not afterwards seen the girl alive.

On searching the house of the accused, a long-bladed knife was found, to the blade of which some hairs were adhering,