

one more needed preparation. Once it was there—without going into any electrical technology—Mrs. Fisher had only to touch the water, with her hand upon one of those metal fittings, something she was morally certain to do when stepping either in or out, and her death was certain. In fact, it was the voltage shock which caused the swelling and discolouration about her throat. Then, as she fell, she struck the faucet with the side of her head, and received what seemed to be the real wound. The platinum wire? Oh, it naturally fused and left no trace—save the little pellet of metal which we found two days ago.”

“And the magazine?” asked Bishop. “Where does your magazine come in?”

“That magazine,” answered Laneham, “contains an account of a similar crime committed in lower Austria. I have no doubt it was what suggested the whole devilish plan to Fisher. And the fact that it is the most obscure of German medical journals, with not ten subscribers, I suppose, in all America, made it seem to him that he was perfectly safe to take the chance he did.”