

The Toronto Drug Store Burglars.

The police and detectives, of Toronto, are jubilant. For a long time they have been worried about drug store and hotel robberies. Hardly a week passed without several cases of this kind being reported, and plain clothes policemen and midnight watches on suspected characters failed to secure any results. But on Saturday they struck it rich, to use a cherished Western phrase, and now they think they have all the gang implicated in the robberies under lock and key.

The men arrested are Albert Kupitz, John Riordan, and Fred. Collie.

The detectives have been on the lookout all along for the stolen goods, but they could not find out where the thieves were disposing of them. Finally on Saturday information was given to the department to the effect that some of the stolen property was in the drug store of A. McLaren, next to St. Andrew's church, on King street west. A search warrant was procured, and several of the druggists whose stuff was stolen, were notified to attend at the detective office. In company with the druggists, Detective-Sergeant Reburn and Detectives Burrows and Davis visited McLaren's drug store and produced their authority to search. Some of the stolen goods were first found in a glass case, and Mr. McLaren told them he had a lot of stuff which he had bought from three men in the back room. The stuff was identified as that stolen from some of the hotels and drug stores, and consisted of cigars and liquors, besides perfumery and drugs. Mr. McLaren then gave the names and a description of the men to the detectives, and Detective Davis started out, and in a few minutes he had Kupitz in custody. He took him to Police headquarters and locked him up. About an hour later Riordan was found in a pool room on Queen street west, and he was also locked up for the night. Mr. McLaren gave some further information, and the detectives started out to recover the stolen property. They visited a room on Adelaide street west, and found it packed from ceiling to floor with stolen goods, such as perfumery, tooth-brushes, pills, whiskey, champagne, brandy, cigars, and other valuable articles. About \$1,000 worth of goods, all told, were recovered. Then Mr. McLaren visited Police headquarters and identified Kupitz and Riordan as the men who sold him the stolen stuff, and only another arrest remained to complete the case. Detectives Davis, Porter, Curry, and Burrows lay in wait all evening about the house of Fred. Collie, who is an expressman, on Farley avenue, and about ten o'clock he showed up. They at once arrested him and he was also locked up at Police headquarters. The thieves alternated hotel and drug store robberies, and had they succeeded in disposing of all their plunder they would have made a good thing out of it. Among the places robbed were the following:—Andrew Dow's drug store, corner

of Augusta avenue and St. Patrick street; Mathieson's drug store, corner of King and York streets; Jackson L. Little's drug store, corner of Spadina and King street; A. E. Kennedy's drug store, corner Queen and McCaul streets; Messrs. Botham & Hall's drug store, corner of York and Queen streets.

Besides these burglaries the police think that the confidence game was worked by the same individuals. On September 27th, Messrs. Elliott & Co., wholesale druggists, Front street, received a telephone message purporting to be from a well-known druggist, asking them to make up an order for him, and send it at once. The messenger that was sent with the goods was met by a man who said he had been sent by the alleged purchaser, and he would take the goods. The whole thing was a fraud. On October 3rd, Messrs. Lyman Bros. were defrauded in a similar manner out of \$20. worth of goods. It is supposed that Kupitz and Riordan were the parties who worked this confidence game.—*Mail*.

Pharmaceutical Bacteriology,

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Read at the Asheville meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

The impression prevails that medical men alone should interest themselves in bacteria. It is assumed that the subject contains nothing of interest to pharmacists. It requires no prophet to foresee that this attitude is not likely to be maintained very much longer. The indications are that pharmaceutical bacteriological laboratories are a certainty of the future, and that they may exceed in vastness and importance those now conducted by the medical profession. As yet we have only hints of what is in store for us. Here and there a rift in the cloud which obscures the future from our vision lets through an illuminating beam of light.

It is said in Holy Writ that "that which hath been is now, and that which is to be hath already been." In the vast laboratory of nature, long before man had synthesized a single remedy or combined, *secundu artem*, a single pair of synergistic remedies, plants had done the same. Yes, and more; it can now be maintained with a formidable array of evidence that the aim of such combination was precisely that of the pharmacist and physician when a remedy is compounded for a patient. In both cases the overcoming of pathological disease germs was the ultimate result and object aimed at, if there was any aim. The resins, the essential oils, the tannins, the alkaloids, the glucosides, the bitter principles, are all so many bacterium killers or inhibitors devised by plants, or produced by the direct action of bacteria themselves that in the economy of nature serve to give immunity to plants against the ravages of other organisms. As if quinine was not enough to shield the cinchona and other synergists:

With morphine is combined codeine, narcaine, and a host of other alkaloids having analogous effects. The life history of these plants casts a flood of light on this subject, and if we had anything like a perfect geological history of any genus there can be but little doubt that it would fully confirm all we are able to infer from the immediate data at our command.

In the cinchonas we have an especially abundant supply of material on which to base an inference in this respect. Their habitat is a region of perpetual fog and drizzle. For months a ray of sunshine seldom if ever reaches them. The region is utterly unfit for human habitation, and intermittent and remittent fevers are the penalty paid for a temporary residence in the vicinity. Now the fact so thoroughly established, that plants are as frequently the victims of the parasitism of micro organisms as are animals, placed beside the fact that their home is such an ideal one for micro organisms, would naturally lead us to think that if the trees owe their immunity to some chemical secreted by them, we should be able to discover it. Now let us add the further fact that quinine and these other alkaloids they secrete are powerful antiseptics and do destroy just such germs, either out of or within the body, and the conviction begins to grow upon us that something like a purpose is manifested in this arrangement.

But on reasoning further we learn more. These alkaloids are always found in the very parts of the plant where the attack of the germs would be most likely to occur, and when occurring would prove most injurious to the tree. Why is there not a good supply of these alkaloids in the wood or in the corky layer of the bark? Why are they in the very part of the bark where *a priori* we would expect them to do the most good?

Now let us add another fact. The yield of these alkaloids is always greatest, the greater the danger from such invasion. The season of maximum fog and drizzle is the season of maximum yields of alkaloids, and especially of quinine, the most powerful one. What is quite remarkable, too, in this connection, is the fact that the cinchona tree seems to have the power of anticipating the bacterial invasion by the very method that we would be likely to use in anticipating it. The increase of alkaloids evidently occurs prior to the invasion of the germs, and following the advent of the conditions which make such invasion possible. The cutting off of their sunshine by fog is their signal for an increased supply of alkaloids, and especially of quinine. In India, where cinchonas are now cultivated and where fogs are not so common, the cultivators cover the bark of the trees with cotton and shield them from direct sunlight to increase their production.

The dark, warm and damp forests where heavy growths of pine abound would surely prove miasmatic but for the good offices of the pines themselves. They load the air with germ destroying terpenes