

DETECTION OF ALTERED DOCUMENTS.—A Belgian expert asserts that any alteration in a cheque or other document can be detected by exposing the paper to the vapors of iodine.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND CRIME.—The coming importance of photography in the detection of forgery and crime generally is well illustrated by the experiments of Dr. P. Jeserich, of Germany, who illustrated, at the recent exhibition of the Photographic Society of Great Britain, the possibility of detecting certain kinds of forgery. By means of enlarged photographs taken on sensitized plates, an alteration of a letter or figure is shown on the plate by a difference in the colors of the inks in the writing. The experiments also show that it is impossible entirely to remove pencil marks from paper by erasure, so that where a signature has been written in pencil and then traced over with ink, some of the plumbago will in all cases be revealed in the magnified photograph. Many other uses and abuses of photography we have referred to during the past year or two.

A NEW FORM OF SWINDLE.—A dispatch received at St. Louis, U.S., from El Paso, Texas, says: "The banking firm of McManus & Sons, of Chihuahua, Mexico, was robbed of \$13,500 Saturday. H. Chariton, the telegraph operator in the town, and a man named Silverberg, were concerned in the job. The firm, early Saturday morning, received a telegram ordering them to pay to H. Silverberg \$13,500. It was signed by the Merchants' National Bank of St. Louis. McManus & Sons refused to pay Silverberg the money until they had telegraphed the St. Louis bank about it. In the course of a few hours an answer was returned that it was all right. Chariton had destroyed the bank's telegram and awaited a reasonable time, when he answered the message himself. Silverberg secured the money, and divided with Chariton. Both then left town. Silverberg was arrested a short time afterward, but Chariton has thus far eluded the police. An inquiry was made at the Merchants' National Bank concerning the alleged telegram. A careful search of the records and files for the past three days was made, but no messages in any way connected with the case could be found, so that it is probable that the telegram of inquiry sent out never passed the operator in Chihuahua. The bank officers had heard no mention of the case whatever until questioned concerning it this morning." *Query*: Will the telegraph company be liable to the paying bank for the fraud of its operator? Was his act done in the course of his principal's business? Questions of responsibility of principals for the acts and misconduct of their employees are of frequent occurrence, and the border line between liability and non-liability is not yet tightly drawn.—*Banking Law Journal*.

THE WICKED LAWYERS.—A correspondent sends us the following: The old adage, "Give a dog a bad name, and hang him," was strikingly brought to my mind the other day. I am a country solicitor, and most of my clients are to be found among the stalwart farmers of western Ontario. There is a deep-rooted