

TAKING HIS MEASURE

"Call the prisoner," said my guide, M. David of the detective service, and immediately the gendarme brought in a short, rather stout man, clad only in undershirt and trousers, says a writer on the French method of identifying criminals in McClure's Magazine. His feet were bare. His face was not at all disagreeable, and his eyes were bright and dark. He seemed to be perfectly indifferent to what awaited him, and gave his name and country without hesitation.

"He has been arrested for stealing rabbits at Robinson," said my guide. Our business is to find if he has ever been up before. We'll make the observations together, and you may record them on this card," handing me a piece of card-board with many peculiar divisions and subdivisions marked on it.

"Observations Anthropometric," was the introductory heading, and "height" the first division. The prisoner was directed to place himself against a high measuring board bearing at the side a scale. A flat board was placed across the top of his head, and the height it marked noted.

Without changing his position the arms of the prisoner were stretched at full length, and the third measure taken. The second measure, the curvature of the spine is rarely taken. The fourth, height of the trunk, followed.

The next step is a little more complicated. The subject was ordered to sit down, and a jointed compass, furnished with a semicircular scale divided into millimetres, was applied to his head, one foot being braced against the root of the nose and the other moved over back of the skull in search of the point of greatest depth. When it was supposed to have been reached, the compass was set and again applied to see if the foot could be moved freely all over the back of the head, touching without burning, and without coming to a point which it could not pass. If such a point is reached, evidently there is a greater depth than the one before registered, and the instrument must be readjusted. After three trials the greatest depth was found and read out. In the same way the width was taken and then followed the measurements of the ear.

"These measurements of the head," said my guide, "are of extreme importance because so sure. A tricky subject may expand his chest or shrink his stature, but he cannot add to or subtract from the length or breadth of the skull. And now for his foot."

The prisoner was told to step upon a stool and throw back the right leg in such a way that the entire weight would come upon the left foot. The measuring of the foot was followed by that of the left middle and little fingers, and of the left forearm. "All good measures," observed my conductor; "for the rule rests against the bones, and no dissimulation is possible on the part of the subject, and the chance for error on the part of the operator is little."

Since the service was organized in Paris 10 years ago, upwards of 5000 old offenders have been recognized by means of it. In 1883 the number was 49; in 1892 it had risen to 682. Of course there is a considerable economy in the prompt recognition of a former delinquent, for when an individual attempts to conceal his identity he is detected one franc a day. Five thousand persons identified promptly means therefore a saving of about \$500,000.

But there are still more practical results: the malefactors of a country where the system has been adopted are the first to realize the impossibility of escaping its records. Naturally they seek new territory. Thus the pickpockets of Paris have been materially decreased since anthropometry began its reign at the Palais de Justice. From 65 in 1885, their number fell to 14 in 1890. This exodus of old offenders from France was sensibly felt in the police courts of the neighboring countries, especially in Belgium; and when the latter country adopted at once followed. She saw receive all the incorrigibles and vagabonds of both countries. The professor of penal law at the University of Berne said in 1890:

"There is no more powerful motive for not committing a crime than the assurance that it will be followed by punishment."

So powerful is the method considered by penal authorities, that there has been a repeated demand that it be made international in all civilized countries.

THE VALUE OF TATTOO

A well-dressed man went into a Main Street Bank yesterday afternoon and walked up to the window presided over by the Paying Teller. He handed a check to that individual and said: "I have here a check for \$50 which I wish you would cash."

The Paying Teller looked at the check and then at the man. "You will have to be identified," he said.

The well-dressed man was prepared for this. "I don't know my name in Buffalo," he said, "but I have a lot of letters addressed to myself." He pulled out a package of letters and showed them through the window.

The Paying Teller examined the addresses, looked at the check again and said, "That is not sufficient. You will have to be personally identified."

"But there isn't a man, woman or child in Buffalo who knows me from a trolley car," persisted the well-dressed man. "Here, here is my key-tag. Look at the name on that tag."

The Paying Teller saw that the name on the check and the name on the tag were the same. "I am sorry," he said, "but our rules are very strict. I can't pay this check on such an identification. Excuse me, but you may have stolen both letters and my key-chain and check."

The well-dressed man was worried. "I've got to live that money," he said, "to get out of town with, and I have got to get out of town this afternoon." Then he desperately tore open his vest and showed his initials on his shirt.

"There," he said, "do you think I stole the shirt, too?" "May have," answered the Paying Teller laconically.

The well-dressed man was very angry. He walked around the bank for a while and then was struck by a sudden thought. He took off his coat and vest and rolled up his left shirt sleeve and the sleeve of his undershirt. Then he struck his bared arm through the clump and shouted: "There, you tattooed them in blue ink? Do you think I stole the shirt, too?"

The Paying Teller paid the money without another word—Buffalo Express.

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WASHING SMOKE OF IMPURITIES.

After Passing Through a Spray of Water It Appears Like Steam.

Lately the smoke nuisance in manufacturing cities has become such a serious source of trouble that the subject of its abatement has been given much attention. The latest and most novel proposition is that of Samuel Elliott, of Newberry, Berkshire, which is to wash the smoke of its impurities before its discharge into the air. The inventor's attention was first directed to the smoke difficulty by the frequency with which he was being summoned to the local bench for the violation of the ordinance which prohibited the offending works. Mr. Elliott, however, set himself the task of remedying the matter, and has now the satisfaction of having proved his invention to be of use. The machine itself consists of a large cast iron tank, in which is a solid barrel, which is fitted with perforated beaters, and the tank is partly filled with water.

The smoke is drawn into the barrel from the machinery by a powerful fan, and undergoes a scrubbing process. The barrel rotates very rapidly, churning up the smoke in the water. On the top of the barrel are several semicircular trays of brass which are perforated, and effect the purpose of washing the smoke. The smoke, which sweeps from and dashed down again by a very fine spray of water from the beaters. The black liquid of solid matter is forced to the top of the chamber and thence into a chute, which conveys it to a wood-tank.

LOOKS LIKE STEAM.

Nor does the use of the machine and here, for the black deposit, which at the close of the day is almost solid, is taken off in barrel, to be used in the making of paint, printing ink, etc., and for use in the manufacture of gas. The smoke, which is carried into the air, where the impurities would be breathed by thousands of human beings, the liquid drawn off from the carbon is also after being refined, valuable as an absolutely odorless disinfectant, it being mixed with a little metallic salt in solution. Some of the refuse is also a splendid fertilizer. It is claimed that the smoke carried through the machine is as pure as pure steam, and certainly when going up the fire it appears perfectly white.

FACTS ABOUT PNEUMONIA GERM.

Among the well-known diseases whose bacterial origin is already placed beyond reasonable doubt are erysipelas, tuberculous, diphtheria, tetanus, typhoid fever, croupous pneumonia, and influenza. The facts discovered regarding some of these during the past fifteen years are among the strangest of the "true history" of modern science. For example, the micrococcus of croupous pneumonia, as discovered by Dr. Sternberg, lives, reproduces, and is harmless overwintering as it were in a comparatively warm condition of lowered vitality of the system, such as exposure to cold, small cattle to take its active life in the lungs, and begin a development whose results will be manifest in an inflammation of those organs. Again, it appears that the bacillus of tetanus, or lockjaw, is abundant in the surface of the human body, or the taken into the stomach, without producing injury. Even on the surface of an open wound it cannot develop, it being one of the bacteria that cannot grow in the presence of free oxygen. But if introduced into a deeper wound away from the air it may develop freely, and produce the painful and often fatal disease tetanus. This is explained the fact, always before a mystery, that even slight and seemingly insignificant puncture wounds are more likely to produce this disease than are open lesions that otherwise are far more serious.

It is an interesting and highly suggestive fact, as showing the power of resistance of the human body under normal conditions, that a micrococcus capable of producing such a disease as this may be so abundant all about us, and yet so infrequently find opportunity for malignant activity. But the same thing appears to be true in greater or less degree of all the other bacteria that may develop in the human body. Even when introduced into the body they are harmless unless they find the conditions favorable to their development. Thus there are probably very few persons who have not at one time or another contracted the bacillus of tetanus, or its spores, the things of only the relatively few (tetanus) favorable soil for its development. These susceptible persons develop the disease; but others are said to be immune as regards this particular bacillus. But susceptibility and immunity are relative terms, and a person whose tetanus as another time succumb to it. The exact nature of the "immune quality" which we are accustomed to speak of as giving the tissues power to resist the micro-organisms we understand as little as we understand the food the real cause of the contagious disease. Perhaps the microscope will help to elucidate the matter in the next half-century.—Harper's Weekly.

DYSPEPSIA CURED B.B.B.



Read the Proof. I write you to say that for some time I had been suffering from acute indigestion or dyspepsia, and of course felt very great inconvenience from same in my general health. I thereupon decided to try Burdock Blood Bitters. After eating nothing but plain food I found that the medicine was doing me good, and I have found it the best thing they ever put out. I have used it for many years and have never had any other ailment. I have written you because I think that it should be generally known that B. B. B. can accomplish in cases of indigestion. Sincerely, GEORGE READ, Sherbrooke, Que.

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