

EXPERTS TELL HOW TO PROTECT THE HOME FROM BURGLARS

(New York Herald.) When Commissioner Bingham said the other day that the negligence of householders is responsible for many of the robberies in this city lately he put into words a thought which has long been entertained by police men. Experts, both in the Police Department, and in the employ of burglary insurance companies, now describe through the Herald certain precautions which if taken in time would make the burglar's chances of success much slighter than it seems to be under present conditions.

In most of the robberies in West End avenue and other streets in the west side the householders' protective system so far as it is applied to the front of their houses has been almost perfect. Double locks, safety chains, and automatic burglar alarms have fairly staved off the front of houses which have been easily entered through the rear by burglars.

The strongest house is no stronger than its weakest point, so long as the rear windows are neglected burglars will enjoy their harvest. The first lesson that the householder who has been robbed learns is that the ordinary window catch is not worth five cents. Burglars pry open these catches with common fat knives. No catch is of service unless it locks securely into a socket when the window is closed.

Burglars have entered houses through the most modern catches. The burglar has pressed a piece of cloth against the outer surface of the window pane and holding this cloth in position, has broken the glass by beating against it with a hammer. Through the aperture thus made, he has reached in and turned the window catch.

In fiction and in pictures a burglar who is at work in a house is usually represented in a standing posture, armed with a revolver and a dark lantern. The fact is that skilled burglars when at work in a house or an apartment are almost always crouching or crawling about to risk discovery by walking upright. The sound of a man walking in a house at night is not half so likely to foretell the presence of an intruder as is the sound of somebody creeping along the floor.

One police captain said the other day that the best kind of burglary insurance is the burning of a light in a house all night. When an electric bulb or a gas jet is in operation the intruder is more likely to think, at least one of the occupants of the establishment is up than if he finds the entire place in darkness.

The dark lantern in the fictional studies of burglars and in the counterfeit presentations of these gentry in pictures on the stage is obsolete in real life. The burglar now carries an electric searchlight identical with those carried by night watchmen. They do not smell, as did the old-fashioned dark lanterns, and they may be switched on and off in a jiffy.

Persons who are in any fear of burglars should be wary as to what information they give at night by means of the telephone. One of the favorite tricks of the housebreaker is to call some house on the telephone and make inquiries as to the whereabouts of the men of the household. Through neighborhood gossip the scouts of the burglars get an accurate idea of the persons who live in the house they intend to rob.

Unsuspecting women in the family or ignorant servants often give enquirers just the information which they are in search. The safest plan, say the experts, is to answer no questions over the telephone at night concerning the whereabouts of the men of the household. To say that "Mr. So and So has gone to bed and refuses to be disturbed" is safer than to say he is at his club and that it is not known when he will return.

In most apartments all danger to the dumbwaiter is thought to be cut off when the door of the dumbwaiter is closed, yet in many cases entrance to apartments has been gained through the dumbwaiter even when the door leading from the shaft into the kitchen or the pantry has been closed. It is not uncommon to this door or the dumbwaiter shaft and locked every night is a valuable precaution, and to make assurance doubly sure the door which leads from the kitchen to the other rooms in the apartment should also be locked and kept locked at night.

Many robberies are committed in apartment houses by thieves who have gained access to the roof of the house, and have then lowered themselves by means of a rope to a window in the apartment they intended to rob. But they would have their labor for their pains if stout hinges were set in the sides of the window, to remain closed and out of the way during the day, but at night to be opened and so form a check trap which the window could not be raised without causing so much noise that some one in the household would be aroused. Broomsticks cut to the proper length and set crosswise in the windows form a burglar foiling device of great antiquity, and as much virtue may be claimed for many more modern and more expensive expedients.

Circumstances under which some robberies that have been committed lately have occurred point to the unescapable conclusion that the thieves had secreted themselves during the day in the house they intended to rob at night. This fact brings with it the injunction to be most careful concerning the persons who are admitted to a house during the day.

Thieves masquerading as tradesmen, peddlers and the like often get into houses for no other purpose than to make a mental survey of the conditions within the walls through which they or their confederates hope to pass later. A few of these scouts are bold enough to secrete themselves in closets or under stairways or under beds. At night they steal what they can and escape. In many robberies in the west side it has been found impossible to prove that the burglars made forcible entry of the

houses which were robbed. The only alternative left was the theory that they had hidden in the houses during the day. Burglars' investigators in the guise of solicitors make a peril that is counted upon by the police. The police say that householders will be upon the safe side if they talk to most of their callers who are unknown to them through a partly opened door guarded by a strong safety chain.

In guarding against burglars a physician who lives on the west side has installed a complete system of steel gratings in his windows. These gratings, which were described in the Herald at the time the physician placed them in his house, make the building a veritable fortress, as the locks which connect the two sliding sides of each grate are protected by heavy shields of steel.

Householders who do not want to go to the trouble or expense of transforming their homes into castles more impregnable than those of feudal times may still reduce the danger from burglars to a minimum by being more careful in the ordinary routine of house-keeping. Daylight thieves, as the police know them, work with so much impunity and with so great success because women in houses are careless about leaving windows open and doors unlocked.

POWER OF THE PHANTOM M. S.

It Brings Fame to the Author and the Actress.

"You must meet Mr. Willow Weeps," said the hostess. "He's there in the corner with the teacup in his hand. With the long hair, yes. He's the young poet who wrote that play for Mme. Knockemova. Very talented, everybody says."

This little note, critical and explanatory as to the personality of Mr. Willow Weeps, travels about the room all afternoon. Every woman hears it as she enters the room. Mr. Weeps is easily the lion of that gathering. "Do introduce me to him," murmured one woman. "I want to talk to him about Mme. Knockemova."

It is interesting as he is to the guests, his glory is reflected from the more brilliant personality of the Bohemian actress who happens to have New York's attention just at the time. Everywhere the young author goes he is introduced as the person responsible for the new play. That turns conversation at once to the subject of the interesting foreigner who has accepted the drama.

"Never saw her," said bluntly one woman. "Knockemova? What a name. Don't believe I ever heard of her." "Well, you're very much behind the times," came from her companion. "She's perfectly splendid. She's the greatest actress I ever saw. She's much better in other ways, though, where she has a chance to dress up more."

"I'll go to see her then," comes the answer. "I'll try to go to-night if she's so wonderful as all that." This rolls the ball that makes for the greater glory of Mme. Knockemova. Of course she has no right to complain of any process by which she is made better known to the public.

The young literary fellow who is being dragged around from one eager hostess to another is so far famous only for this play. It is not at all probable it will be acted. It may never have been completed. But that does not interfere with the success of the scheme by which the shrewd actress and in a less degree the author may benefit by judicious dissemination of the news that a play written by the one is to be acted by the other.

"I have known one of these so-called phantom manuscripts to be hanky-spanky through a whole season," said a cold-blooded theatre manager, and then successfully caricatured the scheme. "But that's not the scheme in this case. The scheme is much more valuable to a strange celebrity than a native. It makes her talked about among people who otherwise might not hear of her name except in the conventional way all actresses are written up. But to meet a man who has written a play for a remote, interesting personality, and thus had the opportunity to become acquainted with her, is better and more direct advertising than columns in a newspaper.

"So this little game of the author and the actress never fails to be played with more or less success every time. There is another phase of the scheme that bears still better fruit, but it is more difficult and the actress has some work to do.

That is, persuading her to come to tea. In this game it is again the author who is the object of the attack. "Be polite to that young Willow Weeps," says the knowing hostess, "and he may be able to get Knockemova to come to your house. He knows her very well, writes all her plays or something of that kind, and took her once to the Bugharters' tea. If you're nice to him he may bring her to your house."

Being nice includes inviting him to dinner. Of course there are practically no other subjects of discussion than the play and the actress and the young man's acquaintance with her.

This awakens in the hearts of those who have not seen her the desire to behold this wonderful person. The chances are that all the guests will buy tickets and go soon to the theatre. When the actress learns that there is a hostess longing to meet her and invite a few friends in to make her acquaintance—a few real society swells of the kind that are certain to go to a house for half an hour some afternoon. The arrangement is certain to be of advantage to all parties. The hostess gets a lion into her clutches for a day, the actress makes

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secure for the author and a new access to some of the advertising pretty spreads and ripples for the first winter. The second and third years take hard work, however, and it is my opinion that the phantom manuscript can rarely be made to serve for more than one year.

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and cure these troubles. It is healing, soothing and antiseptic in action, and consequently allays inflammation (which causes redness), soothes itching and burning, and heals up pimples, sores and ulcers. Being quickly absorbed, it does not interfere with, but rather promotes, the healthful action of the skin.

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In the lady's toilet, as well as in the home generally, Dr. Chase's Ointment is indispensable, once its merits become known.

LIFE IN GREENLAND.

Summers Pleasant and Winters Not So Bad, a White Woman Writes.

Certain white men in the Danish Government service live along the southern coast of Greenland. How do the European women and children thrive in that Arctic land. It is interesting to hear from one of these women, who has written to the German paper Ausland that on the whole they like Greenland, have many simple pleasures there, their children are happy and robust and the natives are simple, jolly and industrious.

The writer says that life is not irksome, though the coast is bleak and the winter snows are deep. She lives in Godthaab, the capital of the colony of South Greenland. The white women spend many of the summer hours on the hills or in the gardens. "My garden," she writes, "from the Greenland point of view, is a great success. A broad walk divides it into two parts. On one side beets, radishes, cabbages and some other vegetables grow lustily and mature even in the short summer."

"On the other is a beautiful grass plot, sprinkled with dandelions and daisies, and in a corner is a little hot-house in which we bring a few European flowers and strawberries to perfection. Near the entrance are garden chairs and a little table, and often in the afternoon, all the white women in the colony sit here with their needles, enjoying their tea and the bouquets of roses and gillyflowers."

The path is wide and walled in on either side by snow piles. But even in this gloomy season the white women, wrapped in furs, have their walks and picnics.

There is zest in the air and in fine weather the women enjoy a scramble among the frozen hills and valleys; and if fresh snow lies deep and soft they wear snowshoes. It is a busy time for the Eskimos, for their main business is to look out for the comfort of Denmark's agents in Greenland. They bake, brew, flog, sweep and clean.

In summer they carry their white paths for them through the snow. The coastal waters are not always frozen over in winter, and the boats sometimes make their way along the shores carrying frozen hares or birds or other needed supplies from one post to another.

The houses of the whites are warmly built of wood and stone, with commodious rooms and an air of genuine comfort. The winter months pass quickly, for they are filled with duty and with social intercourse, which is almost invariably pleasant, between the white families and the natives among whom they live.



Her Grace the Duchess of Connaught, who was a horrified spectator of fatal automobile accident in Egypt.

ing everybody she never really meant to act the piece. "The second season, however, ends the author unless he makes good. The play has to be acted whether it succeeds or not, or there will be rebellion in the camp of his admirers. "Sometimes he can ward off their indifference by getting a new star and declaring that she is going to appear in an entirely different drama by him—oh, no, not at all that same one, something quite different; just finished it last week. New star delighted so soon as she heard the scenario and made him promise to let nobody but her ever see the manuscript. "Putting it on strong like this may

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Table listing travel routes and schedules for the Housewife's Guide, including destinations like Toronto and Hamilton.

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