

A WOMAN WHO STOLE FROM STORES.

SOME of the Boston retail men are still wondering how it was that a kleptomaniac named Rebecca Jewelllyn managed to steal \$1,500 worth of the finest kind of goods from their stores without being detected in the first instance. The woman will never tell. She died in the gaol while awaiting trial. And nobody else can tell, for the very good reason that nobody else knows. The business houses are deriving some benefit from the study of the situation which has been brought about by the revelation of the woman's thefts, and if the reforms which have been instituted are enforced, the probabilities are that at the end of the year they will find their profit account materially increased. The woman was no ordinary shoplifter, says The Cloak and Suit Review, tempted by a lace handkerchief or a card of buttons. Nor was she a professional who made it a business. She was doubtless a kleptomaniac and was probably induced to commit the acts of which she was accused by the influence of morphine, to which she was a slave. Nevertheless, she was a dangerous customer. Instead of a handkerchief or a few buttons, she was in the habit of helping herself to Paris dresses, sealskin capes, fancy silk waists, and the most costly lingerie. She obtained four dresses, worth over \$500, from Jordan, Marsh & Co., a valuable cape from C. F. Hovey & Co., a sealskin cape worth \$175 from Otto Piehler, hats from two or three millinery houses, and various kinds of fine underclothing from different houses. How? Nobody knows exactly. When detected at Jordan's she was walking off with a cape and was carrying it under her arm. It was probably in the same manner that she obtained the dresses.

Some will say "Impossible," but nothing is impossible to a clever woman. She could not have worn them from the store, they say. There was no opportunity for her to wear them from the store, and she carried no valise, or parcel, and was innocent of the usual big lining pocket of the professional shoplifter. The moral of this sermon is that, in spite of what appear to be strict regulations, most of the big stores are careless in the way they display goods, and ought to institute a reform at this the harvest time of the year for the shoplifter. Apart from this view of the case, the story of this woman's life is a sad and interesting one. By birth a Maine girl, she came to Boston and graduated as a nurse at the Massachusetts General Hospital. It was probably while on duty there that she began to experiment with the drug which caused her ruin. It injured her in many ways. Her sister, a wealthy Pittsburgh woman, could not put up with her oddities, and exiled her on a weekly portion large enough to pay her expenses. There was no necessity for thieving, but steal she did. Most of the articles taken were recovered by the police, so that the loss on her account is very small, and if the merchants profit by the experience which they have gained it will be purchased cheaply enough.

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