The Oldest of Detective Stories

It has been pointed out that the detective story is as old as the hills and that certain of the "Arabian Nights" forecast "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" and "A Study in Scarlet" by a thousand years or more. No better proof of the antiquity of the detective story can be found than that offered by feudal Japan, which produced the tale of the arrest of the stone god Jizo.

In this folk story of ancient Yedo the hero detective moves with all the seeming indirection of Lecoq and Dupin and Sherlock Holmes his marvels to perform. O-oka was he, Mayor of Yedo under the eighth Shogun and holder of the high justice and the law over all the merchants of Tokugawa,s capital.

One day a servant employed by the proprietor of a big shop near Japan Bridge in Yedo was sent with a heavy pack to a dyer in Honjo distict. When the store's messenger reached Yokogawa street he was ready to seek rest. What more safe invention could have offered than the little grove of trees set about the stone statue of the god Jizo, the patron saint of travelers and defenceless women and children?

The somnolent porter awoke from a nap to find that his employer's cotton had disappeared. In great distress he went to the storekeeper and confessed that he had slept and that a robber had made off with the goods during his slumber. The master would not believe his story, saying that it would have been impossible for a robber to make off with so large a bundle in broad daylight. Unless the porter should pay for the lost goods he would have to go to prison, said the master. In despair the porter took counsel of Mayor O-oka.

"You are certainly to blame for having fallen asleep," said the Mayor, "but Jizo is equally to blame, for he is a god bound to protect everyone who trusts him and this time he has betrayed you. Even though Jizo is a Buddha, I cannot pardon him for his neglect of duty. I will have him arrested and brought before me for trial."

So O-oka gave immediate orders to his court officers to go and arrest Jizo. of Yokogawa Street, and bring him before the Mayor's seat for trial. Three of the officers departed on their mission. They first bound the arms of the stone god with coils of rope; then they tried to lift him from his firm pedestal into a cart. A great crowd assembled before the Jizo, attracted by the unusual behavior of the court officers. When they were told that Jizo must go before the Mayor for trial, the citizens of Yokogawa Street and the neighborhood of Honjo marveled.

The task of unseating the god was too much for the three officers, and they sought aid of those standing about. They promised that in return for assistance they would admit all volunteer workers into the courtroom to witness the extraordinary trial. Hundreds were spurred by curiosity to lend a hand, and when the stone god went through the streets strapped to a cart like any offender the crowd grew. It filled the great hall of justice when Jizo was lifted in and propped up before the platform upon which sat the Mayor. O-oka addressed the god in stern terms:—

"You are a negligent fool, O Jizo!" he exclaimed in a voice loud enough for all to hear. "You are supposed to protect everyone who believes in you and who renders tribute, yet this trusting porter here made a prayer to you, then fell asleep at your very feet, and he was robbed while he slept. You stand accused of being an accomplice in this robbery. Have you anything to say for yourself before I pass sentence?"

Mayor O-oka waited for a few moments as if expecting the stony lips of Jizo to open in reply, but when no answer was returned by the god he passed sentence immediately.

"Since you do not defend yourself I consider that you are guilty," said His Honor, "and I shall imprison you."

At this remarkable spectacle of a Mayor passing sentence upon a stone god there was a titter of laughter. O-oka thundered in a voice of brass:—

"Who are all these people standing about here?" he inquired of his court officers. "Are they accomplices of Jizo or only plain thieves? They think this court is a penny show and they laugh at the court's orders. Shut all the gates at once."

The frightened attendants hastened to shut the gates of the court-room. Then Mayor O-oka adjudged every man in the great crowd in contempt of court and fined each of them one tan (a kimono length) of cotton cloth. The hundreds thus suddenly found in contempt were happy that their punishment had been so light at least, and under bonds they hurried to their homes to bring back the cloth fine. Before the day was done 700 pieces of cotton cloth had been presented before the Mayor's court, the name of each culprit being set down upon the tan of cotton cloth which he presented.

Before he would allow the 700 to go, however, O-oka retired with the porter who had been robbed to an inner chamber and he asked the porter to look over the 700 pieces of cloth and see if he could identify any of them as having been once in the pack he had carried. Since every manufacturer of cotton cloth in Yedo always marked the selvage of each strip with a little red trade-mark stamp the porter searched the edges of many stripes of cloth for a stamp similar to that borne upon the cloth of which he had been robbed. He found that two of the pieces of cloth brought to pay the Mayor's fine bore the stamp of his plundered pack. Instantly Mayor O-oka ordered the arrest of the two men who had brought this cloth; they confessed to the robbery, and all the cloth they had taken from the sleeping porter's pack was restored to him.

All the other pieces of cloth, taken in toll by the Mayor, were restored to their owners, and all but the two guilty members of the crowd which had attended the trial of Jizo were released. Then Jizo, the stone god, was put on a cart, wreathed with the evergreen pine and the bamboo, symbols of long life and prosperity, and he was carried back to his pedestal in Yokogawa Street at the head of a triumphal procession. Jizo had vindicated himself, and Mayor O-oka the wise sat more firmly than ever in his seat of power.

WHERE THE ICEBERGS ARE HATCHED.

If one looks at an ordinary map, one is surprised to find that Greenland is considerably bigger than South America. Which illustrates the distortion of the Mercator projection, inasmuch as South America is actually about six times the size of Greenland.

All the same, Greenland is the biggest island in the world, and once upon a time it must have been a pleasant place to live in. Plant fossils found there prove that anciently it had a tropical climate.

But it must have been a very long time ago, for to-day nearly the whole of Greenland is covered by an ice sheet with an average thickness of 1,000 feet. From a mountain range two miles high most of the great island slopes downward and westward toward Baffin Bay and Davis Strait, and so the ice sheet is continually moving in that direction.

Off the west coast are numerous islands and, as the ice sheet forces its way between them, it is ripped to pieces. Huge fragments drop off, forming what we call icebergs, and are set afloat in the sea.

What happens to an individual iceberg after that depends upon accidental circumstances. It may run ashore on Baffin Island (the west side of Davis Strait) or on the coast of Labrador, further south. If it escapes this fate, its passage southward through the strait will be very slow, because it must plow its way through field ice many feet thick.

The lucky iceberg is one that manages to keep in the main channel and is carried southward by the Labrador current into the north Atlantic. Once arrived in that region of open sea it may drift about for many months before going to pieces. Large bergs have on occasions got as far as the Azores.

A sizeable berg may have nearly vertical walls 100 feet high, with pinnacles towering to twice that elevation. Often these floating mountains of ice have very fantastic shapes. It is not all safe for a ship to go near one, for huge fragments sometimes fall off, and it is no uncommon thing for an iceberg suddenly to turn upside down. The period of danger from icebergs is April, May and June.

Instead of
Tea or Coffee

buy a tin of the healthful table beverage

INSTANT POSTUM

The quality is constant and the rich, even flavor pleases.

No Raise in Price

A MOTHER'S TRIALS

Care of Home and Children Often Causes a Breakdown.

The woman at home, deep in household duties and the cares of motherhood, needs occasional help to keep her in good health. The demands upon a mother's health are many and severe. Her own health trials and her children's welfare exact heavy toils, while hurried meals, broken rest and much indoor living tend to weaken her constitution. No wonder that the woman at home is often indisposed through weakness, headaches, backaches and nervousness. Too many women have grown to accept these visitations as a part of the lot of motherhood. But many and varied as her health troubles are, the cause is simple and the cure at hand. When well, it is the woman's good blood that keeps her well; when ill she must make her blood rich to renew her health. The nursing mother more than any other woman in the world needs rich blood and plenty of it. There is one always unfailing way to get this good blood so necessary to perfect health, and that is through the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. These pills make new blood abundantly, and through their use thousands of weak, ailing wives and mothers have been made bright, cheerful and strong. If you are ailing, easily tired, or depressed, it is a duty you owe yourself and your family to give Dr. Williams' Pink Pills a fair trial. What this medicine has done for others it will surely do for you.

WE ARE IN LUCK THAT AIR IS FREE.

When the Steel Trust was organized Andrew Carnegie remarked that the common stock was not even water; it was "just air."

This same "air" has become worth something since then. If you want any of it, you must pay for it at the rate of $113 a share.

Ordinary air, thank goodness! has not gone up in price. It is about the only thing that has not done so. Even the automobile garages advertise "free air."

This is really very fortunate, because we need air not only to breathe, but also for fuel. We keep the house warm in winter, and the range going, by burning air.

You thought it was coal? Well, that is necessary also, but the coal would be of no use as fuel unless you had air to burn with it.

You can't burn one thing. Burning, in kitchen range or furnace, means the coming together of the oxygen of the air and the carbon of the coal. They effect a chemical combination.

The air is just as necessary to the process of combustion as the coal. Our attenton is fixed upon coal as the fuel for the sole reason that we have to pay for it. If coal were free and air cost money, we should look at the matter from an opposite point of view.

Everything else is taxed nowadays. Suppose the government were to take a notion to put a tax on air, placing an air-meter in each dwelling. Would not that be horrible?

There has long been a tax on fresh air in Germany. It is called a "window tax," being assessed according to the number of windows with which a house is provided. The result is that people economize on windows, reducing the number to a minimum, and their allowance of fresh air is thereby cut down.

Air is much heavier stuff than is commonly imagined. Thirteen cubic feet of it weigh a pound. But it is lucky we are not obliged to store it, like coal, for it would take up a lot of room. One ton (2,000 pounds) of air will fill a bin thirty feet long, thirty feet wide and thirty feet high.

An Ode to Health.

Health in itself makes life a perpetual joy.

Nothing daunts, nothing over-awes, nothing discourages, and nothing overpowers the man and woman possessed of health.

Health means not only vigor and energy of the body, but also clarity and strength of mind, purity of body and of soul.

The healthy person dominates life, instead of allowing life to dominate him.

He scarcely thinks of his body as consisting of parts, or as performing separate functions. To him the body is but one harmonious whole.

He is a unit, a being, a man; complete, vigorous, perfect.

To such a man work is joy. He regards obstacles as but opportunities for testing his strength. He hardly knows what weakness is. He never experiences exhaustion. Merely to grasp his hand is a pleasure. To gaze into his eyes is a joy. To hear his voice is to feel a thril pass over one. To peer into his mind serves as a stimulus to higher achievements.

Health supplies the courage, the aggressiveness in life. Without health one is bankrupt, regardless of what his financial capacity may be. He becomes a cipher in the world of real men and women.

If you have health, then, friends, cherish it, guard it and treasure it as you treasure life, for out of it are the issues of life.

A university scholarship is awarded to the most successful student at the Battleford, Saskatchewan, High School by the ladies of the I. O. D. E., in memory of Battlefords fallen soldiers.

SNAKE KILLERS OF FRANCE.

Obtain Five Cents Apiece For the Reptiles They Destroy.

In France there is a profession unrecognized in our own country. It is that of the snake killer.

France is much infested by two species of dangerous serpents—vipers and adders. It is these that are especially sought by the snake hunters.

He wears leather leggings for protection against bites, and the instruments of his craft are of the simplest. The latter consist most importantly of two sticks, one of which is forked. Rocks warmed up by the sun, sandy places in wooded areas, muddy banks of ponds—such are the places most likely to be haunted by the reptilian game.

Descrying his prey, the hunter approaches noiselessly. When within range, he strikes the snake with the stick he holds in his right hand. Instantly thereupon he pins it down with the other stick, which is forked.

Quickness is the prime essential to success in this kind of chase. Vipers and adders are swift of movement and ready to take alarm. But once pinned to the ground the creature is readily decapitated with a sharp knife.

The snake hunters are called "vipercides.' They get five cents apiece for the snakes they kill, delivering the heads. The most famous Frenchman engaged professionally in this pursuit is known as Jean Serpent, though his real name is Michael Vergne. Up to date he has slain 35,000 adders.

Doctor Calmette, of France, has produced a serum called "antiviperine,," which is a sure remedy for viper bites and adder bites. It has already saved many lives. The method of its utilization is by hypodermic injection near the wound made by the snake's tooth.

SUMMER COMPLAINTS KILL LITTLE ONES

At the first sign of illness during the hot weather give the little ones Baby's Own Tablets or in a few hours he may be beyond aid. These Tablets will prevent summer complaints if given occasionally to the well child and will promptly relieve these troubles if they come on suddenly. Baby's Own Tablets should always be kept in every home where there are young children. There is no other medicine as good and the mother has the guarantee of a government analyist that they are perfectly safe. The Tablets are sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

God Bless the Prince of Wales.

Among our ancient mountains
And from our lovely vales
O let the prayer re-echo,
"God bless the Prince of Wales!"
With heartened voice awaken
Those minstrel strains of yore
Till Britain's name and glory
Resound from shore to shore.
Among our ancient mountains
And from our lovely vales,
O let the prayer re-echo,
"God bless the Prince of Wales!"

Should hostile bands or danger
E'er threaten our fair isle,
May God's strong arm protect us,
May Heaven still on us smile.
Above the throne of England
May Fortune's star long shine,
And round its ancient bulwarks
The olive branches twine.
Among our ancient, etc.

A Welsh translation of the words of the Prince's Anthem, which were written by George Linley, were made by Ceirog Hughes. The music of the anthem is by Brinley Richards.

MONEY ORDERS.

Send a Dominion Express Money Order. They are payable everywhere.

Never Needs Winding.

Long before watches were invented, people found ways of telling the time, and one was by means of flowers. You can grow a flower clock quite easily in your own garden, and you will find it both useful and ornamental.

Make a circle, marking out the edge with small stones. At equal distances round the edge mark the figures of the clock, from one to twelve. Draw lines from the centre of the circle to the edge, dissecting the whole surface into twelve equal parts, and arranging matters so that one of the numbers on the outside edge falls opposite to each section.

Then put in the following plants: In section No. 1 plant Single Carnations; No. 2, White Pyrethrum; No. 3, Hawksbeard; No. 4, Lady of the Night; No. 5, Catchfly; No. 6, Hawkweed; No. 7, Marigold; No. 8, Venus' Looking-glass; No. 9, Corn Marigold; No. 10, Clovewort; No. 11, Mountain Dandelion; No. 12, Fig Marigold.

Starting at 6 a.m. the Hawkweed will open. At 7 a.m., the Marigold will follow suit. And so on right round the clock.

Of course, the clock will only "go" during the summer months, and for only twelve hours out of the twenty-four.

But it proves wonderfully accurate, and never needs winding!

Australia's new daylight saving law provides that all clocks be put forward an hour at the end of September and back again at the end of March in each year.

Minard's Liniment Cures Burns, etc.

Some Speed.

"Mamma," complained a little girl recently, "teacher won't let me sing any more, and I'm the fastest singer in the school, too."

Affection.

Friend—"I suppose the baby is fond of you?"

Papa—"Fond of me? Why he sleeps all day when I'm not at home, and stays up all night just to enjoy my society."

A Degenerate.

"Father, can I go to the circus tonight?" asked the farmer's son.

Father—"No. 'Taint more'n a month since yer went t' top o' the hill to see the eclipse of the moon. 'Pears to me yew're getting dissipated and reckless."

A Chance.

"Boss, the weather's pretty hot. I'd like a couple of weeks off. A change would do me good," said the department store salesman.

"We're short-handed," complained the boss. "What are you in now?"

"Blankets."

"Well, I can give you a seasonable change. I'll put you among the bathing suits."

Doing Her Best.

"Yes, grandma," said the fair young thing, "I am to be married during the bright and gladsome month of July."

"But, my dear," said the old lady, earnestly, "you are very young. Do you feel that you are fitted for married life?"

"I am being fitted now, grandma," explained the prospective bride, sweetly. "Seventeen gowns and three costumes."

Prune Roses.

Summer thinning of climbing roses is desirable, after flowering, where the plants are large and crowded.

Cut out the oldest stems which are beginning to lose vitality. Cut these down within a foot of the ground or to one or two buds of their base, from which young shoots will start next year.

This gets the useless wood out of the way, so the young growth will have more room, light and air to develop in.

A Life Boy.

They were crossing to France and the ship pitched and tossed about in an unusually bad storm. Most of the passengers had sought refuge below, but little Miss Sturges, an elderly spinster, was braving the terrors on deck. As the gale increased in fury, a chivalrous physician from the lady's home town came to her.

"Pardon me, Miss Sturges, but it seemed to me you might be in some trouble. Can I help you? Have you chosen your life preserver?"

"Oh, doctor," cried the maiden lady, with a gurgle of joy, as she tumbled into his arms, "how sweetly and romantically you have expressed it!"

GIRLS! WHITEN YOUR SKIN WITH LEMON JUICE

Make a beauty lotion for a few cents to remove tan, freckles, sallowness.

Your grocer has the lemons and any drug store or toilet counter will supply you with three ounces of orchard white for a few cents. Squeeze the juice of two fresh lemons into a bottle, then put in the orchard white and shake well. This makes a quarter pint of the very best lemon skin whitener and complexion beautifier known. Massage this fragrant creamy lotion daily into the face, neck, arms and hands and just see how freckles, tan, sallowness, redness and roughness disappear and how smooth, soft and clear the skin becomes. Yes! It is harmless, and the beautiful results will surprise you.

HOW YOU CAN TELL GENUINE ASPIRIN

ONLY TABLETS MARKED WITH "BAYER CROSS" ARE ASPIRIN.

If You Don't See the "Bayer Cross" on the Tablets, Refuse Them—They Are Not Aspirin At All.

BAYER

There is only one Aspirin, that marked with the "Bayer Cross"—all other tablets are only acid imitations.

Look for the "Bayer Cross"! Then it is real Aspirin, for which there is no substitute.

Aspirin is not German but is made in Canada by Canadians, and is owned by a Canadian Company.

Genuine "Bayer Tablets of Aspirin" have been proved safe by millions for Pain, Headache, Neuralgia, Colds, Rheumatism, Lumbago, Neuritis.

Handy tin boxes of 12 tablets,—also larger "Bayer" packages,—can be had at any drug store.

Aspirin is the trade mark, registered in Canada, of Bayer Manufacture of Monoaceticacidester of Salicylicacid.

FOR SALE.

NEWSPAPER, WEEKLY, IN BRUCE County. Splendid opportunity. Write Box T. Wilson Publishing Co., Limited. 73 Adelaide St. W., Toronto.

WELL EQUIPPED NEWSPAPER and job printing plant in Eastern Ontario. Insurance carried $1,500. Will go for $1,200 on quick sale. Box 62. Wilson Publishing Co., Ltd., Toronto.

FARMS FOR SALE.

EVERY INTELLIGENT FARMER likes my terms. Why? Because I do not want exclusive sale or any advantage over any other agent. All I ask is for a correct and truthful description of your property; your best price and terms, and I will do the rest. Write for listing form. Andrew Elder, the Farm Seller, 88 King Street East, Toronto.

POULTRY WANTED

WHAT HAVE YOU FOR SALE IN Live Poultry, Fancy Hens, Pigeons, Eggs etc.? Write I. Weinrauch & Son, 16-18 St. Jean Baptiste Market, Montreal, Que.

MISCELLANEOUS.

CLASSY RABBIT MAGAZINE, 10c. copy; 50c. year. Fur and Food Monthly, Brantford.

CANCER, TUMORS, LUMPS, ETC., internal and external, cured without pain by our home treatment. Write us before too late. Dr. Bellman Medical Co., Limited, Collingwood, Ont.

Entirely Free.

"You sign this deed of your own free will, do you, madam?" asked the lawyer.

"What do you mean by that?" demanded the large, florid-faced woman, looking threateningly upon the lawyer.

"I mean there has been no compulsion on the part of your husband. Has there?"

"Him?" she ejaculated, turning to look at the little, meek man sitting behind her. "Frederick? I'd like to see him compulse me."

St. Isidore, P.Q., Aug. 18, 1894.
Minard's Liniment Co., Limited.

Gentlemen,—I have frequently used MINARD'S LINIMENT and also prescribe it for my patients, always with the most gratifying results, and I consider it the best all-round Liniment extant.

Yours truly,
DR. JOS. AUG. SIROIS.

Friend of the Family—"Where's everybody, Bennet?" The Butler—"Well, sir, the missus and the young ladies is up in the sky learning to fly, and the master's in his submarine in the hornamental lake. It's very seldom you catches them on terry firmy these days."

Minard's Liniment Relieves Neuralgia.

Yes this is one thing I learn to know,
Each day more surely as I go,
That doors are open, ways are made,
Burdens are lifted or are laid
By some great law unseen and still,
"Not as I will."

—Helen Hunt Jackson.

It Works! Try It

Tells how to loosen a sore, tender corn so it lifts out without pain.

Good news spreads rapidly and druggists here are kept busy dispensing freezone, the ether discovery of a Cincinnati man, which is said to loosen any corn so it lifts out with the fingers.

Ask at any pharmacy for a quarter ounce of freezone, which will cost very little, but is said to be sufficient to rid one's feet of every hard or soft corn or callus.

You apply just a few drops on the tender, aching corn and instantly the soreness is relieved, and soon the corn is so shriveled that it lifts out without pain. It is a sticky substance which dries when applied and never inflames or even irritates the adjoining tissue.

This discovery will prevent thousands of deaths annually from lockjaw and infection heretofore resulting from the suicidal habit of cutting corns.

SINCE 1870 SHILOH 30 DROPS STOPS COUGHS

Ladies A Word With You About Your Skin

WHY not make Cuticura Soap your every-day toilet soap, assisted by Cuticura Ointment and Cuticura Talcum, now and then as needed, and have in most cases a clear fresh complexion, a clean scalp free from dandruff and irritation, good hair, soft white hands and a wholesome skin free from blemish, without resorting to tiresome, expensive "beauty" fads? Cuticura costs little and does much. Sample each free by mail of "Cuticura, Dept. N, Boston, U. S. A." Sold by dealers throughout the world.

Cuticura Talcum Powder

Do not fail to test the fascinating fragrance of this exquisitely scented face, baby, dusting and skin perfuming powder, delicate, delightful, distingué, it imparts to the person a charm incomparable and peculiar to itself.

ISSUE No. 36—'19.