

Sherlock Holmes Bids 'Farewell'

Condensed from The Golden Book Magazine (December, '30) by Vincent Starrrett

The greatest detective of the modern world is dead at last. Sherlock Holmes has gone upon his final quest, the most mysterious of all his strange adventures.

There can be little doubt that the real Holmes was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle himself. In innumerable ways throughout a life of extraordinary service the novelist demonstrated the truth of the assertion. From first to last—as student, physician, writer, spiritualist, and prophet of the war—he was always the private detective, the seeker after hidden truths, the hound of justice upon the trail of injustice and official apathy. To be sure, he has told us, time and again, that the model for the immortal detective was Dr. Joseph Bell of Edinburgh, his one time instructor in medicine; but Bell was only the suggestion. Latent in Doyle, himself, was all that went into the making of Sherlock Holmes.

In the circumstances, and after the tales had become known, it was inevitable that the author of the Holmes saga would be called upon to enact the role of his fictional character, and not infrequently he accepted the implied challenge. Twice in his career he took on cases requiring heavy call upon his time and energies, because he believed that justice had not been done. The cases of George Edalji and Oscar Slater were notorious in their day; and the thunder of Doyle's denunciation crossed the Atlantic.

In the first of these cases Sir Arthur secured the release from prison of a young man who had been given a seven-year sentence for the crime of horse-stealing. By showing in a series of articles based on his study of the records of the case, that the police, "all pulling together, and twisting things to their ends," had convicted Edalji on incredibly weak evidence, Sir Arthur brought about the appointment of a government committee which reviewed the case and gave Edalji his freedom.

The Slater case, the celebrity of which was greater, had for its victim a Miss Marion Gilchrist, an elderly spinster living in Glasgow. She was murdered in her flat on the 21st of December, 1908. Her servant, Helen Lambie, was out of the place at the time, purchasing a newspaper and it was during her ten-minute absence that the murder was committed. Returning from her errand the servant found a young man named Adams at the Gilchrist door, ringing the bell.

He was from the flat below. He and his sisters had heard a noise above and had hurried up to ascertain what had happened. The servant opened the door with her key. Then as they hesitated on the threshold, a man appeared from within, who approached them pleasantly, seemed about to speak, but instead passed them and rushed down the stairs. In the dining room the body of Miss Gilchrist was found, the head brutally beaten in and covered with a rug.

In spite of the fact that Miss Gilchrist was the possessor of a valuable collection of jewelry robbery would appear not to have been the motive for the murder, since all that was missing was a diamond brooch worth possibly \$250. A box of papers had been broken open and the contents scattered. The description of the man seen by Adams and Helen Lambie was not particularly good; they were some disreputable; and it was not at all the description of Oscar Slater, a German Jew, who was ultimately arrested and condemned for the crime.

The apprehension of Slater came about because he had pawned a diamond brooch just before starting for America. He was arrested in New York and returned to Glasgow, where it was discovered beyond a question of doubt that the brooch in question had been in his possession for years and never had belonged to Miss Gilchrist.

The public had lost its head, however, and the police were in a similar state. Slater was poor and without friends. His morals were shown not to have been of the highest, and Scottish law was shocked. The description of the man seen by Adams and Helen Lambie was a clear alibi, but as his witnesses were his mistress and his servant girl, it was not allowed. No attempt was ever made to show a connection between Slater and anybody in the house occupied by Miss Gilchrist. He was a stranger in Glasgow. At the trial he was not too well defended, and the Crown ultimately won the conviction—under Scottish law—by a vote of nine to six. Slater was condemned to death, the scaffold was erected, and

two days before the day set for the execution, the sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. He was serving his term when Arthur Conan Doyle became interested in his plight.

In Sir Arthur's brilliant pamphlet, "The Case of Oscar Slater," there is all the fascination of a tale from Sherlock Holmes. Sir Arthur questions whether the murderer was after the jewels at all.

"When he reached the bedroom, he did not at once seize the watch and rings which were lying openly exposed on the dressing-table. His attention was given to a wooden box. Were the papers his object, and the final abstraction of one diamond brooch a mere blind? He remarks on the fact that the murderer knew enough to go straight to a spare bedroom where the jewels and papers were kept, and points to a line of investigation: 'What men had ever visited the house? The number must have been very limited. What friends? What tradesmen? What plumbers?'

Surely that is all good Sherlock Holmes, as—even more brilliantly—is this: 'How did the murderer get in if Lambie is correct in thinking that she shut the doors? I cannot get away from the conclusion that he had duplicate keys. In that case all becomes comprehensible, for the old lady—whose faculties were quite normal—would hear the lock go and would not be alarmed, thinking that Lambie had returned before her time. Thus, she would only know her danger when the murderer rushed into the room, and would hardly have time to rise, receive the first blow, and fall, as she was found, beside the chair upon which she had been sitting. But if he had not been sitting, consider the difficulties. If the lady had opened the flat door her body would have been found in the passage. Therefore, the police were driven to the hypothesis that the old lady heard the ring, opened the lower door from above (as can be done in all Scotch flats), opened the flat door, never looked over the lighted stair to see who was coming up, but returned to her chair and her magazine, leaving the door open and a free entrance to the murderer. This is possible, but it is not in the highest degree improbable.' Miss Gilchrist was nervous of robbery and would not neglect obvious precautions."

All in all the document rings with the intellects of Holmes himself. However, it was to no immediate purpose. The novelist's newspaper campaign stirred England and even brought about another government commission to inquire into the affair; but nothing came of it, and Slater was allowed to languish in prison.

There, for years, the unhappy affair rested. From time to time, as Slater's incarceration lengthened, efforts were made to reopen the case, and Sir Arthur's own labors were unremitting, but it was 19 years after the conviction before his efforts were successful. Then, at long last, Slater was released—a short two years ago, in July of 1923. According to newspaper reports, he accepted a government offer of \$30,000 as compensation for his wrongs; then, with strange ingratitude, refused to repay a sum of money—\$1500—guaranteed by Doyle before the retrial at which the prisoner was acquitted. Slater, smoking a large cigar at a Brighton hotel, after a couple of rounds of golf, merely shrugged when asked for the repayment. "I cannot pay," he said. "All my money is invested, and though I made \$10,000 from newspaper articles after my release, Doyle did me nearly as well."

Minor cases were presented frequently for Sir Arthur's solution, and it was often his pleasure to put his wits to work on them; usually with success. But sometimes he was unsuccessful. He relates with great gusto, in his autobiography, how, on the occasion of a burglary within a stone's throw of his own home, the village constable—with no theories at all—had seized the culprit, while (Sir Arthur) had got no farther than the Holmesian conclusion that the man was left-handed and had nails in his shoes.

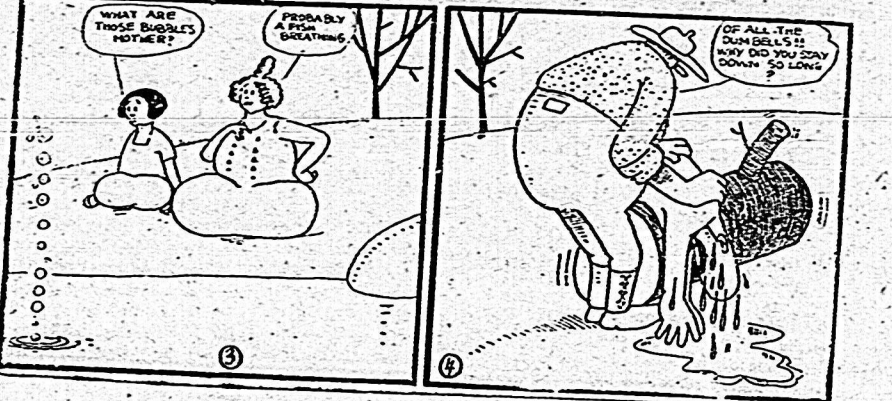
Even in his spiritualistic investigations, which occupied his later years, Sir Arthur was at all times the detective, applying the methods of his fictive character to psychic phenomena. To the end he was a remarkable example of the scientific investigator touched with the curiosity and credulity of a child—an admirable blend, it would seem, for the perfect sleuth.—From "The Reader's Digest."

Shaw Talkie Falls Flat
London—O. Bernard Shaw's first talkie, "He Who Lied to Her Husband," was presented in London on January 12th for the first time, but fell flat. The critics with hardly an exception condemned it with such adjectives as melancholy, dull, starchy, disappointing, tedious and lifeless.

London to Rebuild Whitehall
London—Whitehall, the area holding the most of the government offices and ministries, is to be largely rebuilt at an estimated cost of \$10,000,000. Slightly changed locations will permit cultivation of public gardens and the rebuilding of several historic houses.

Any man has an advantage who is born into a family where religion is simple and natural.—Hala

"ADAMSON'S ADVENTURES"



The Cure of Modesty.

Dutch Farmer Has Up-to-Date Dairy

Also Pigsties in Holland Set Fine Example to Many Other Countries

By S. LEONARD BASTIN in "Our Omb Animals"

All animal lovers would be happy on a Dutch farm because the live stock is so well treated. The people of The Netherlands are real lovers of animals, and apart from this tendency, they have realized that it pays to have all farm stock as happy and comfortable as possible. Of this there is no better illustration than the way in which the Dutch farmer looks after his cows.

The cow shed in Holland is scrupulously clean. Quite often the floor is paved with white tiles so that at once by the man whose business it is to look after the cows, the sheds have glass windows and, in one case the writer came across, these were actually fitted with light curtains. Then the sheds are lighted with electricity and in many instances heated by hot water pipes.

The winter in Holland is very severe and during this period the cows spend all the time in the sheds. It has been found that the amount of milk given is much greater if the sheds are illuminated for some hours during the dark days, and are heated when the frost is severe. The cows are groomed daily and even horns are cleaned and polished. The tail of each animal, left and right, is held up above the floor level by means of a freely moving chain. When the long winter comes to an end the cows are turned into the fields; but the winds are still cold and in order that the creatures may not suffer, each is provided with a fine black cloth which serves as an overcoat.

Pigsties in Holland are very different from those to be seen in other countries. Here it is realized that the pig is naturally an animal of cleanly habits, apart from the fact that it likes to roll in mud in hot weather in order to prevent the flies from worrying it. The Dutch farmer keeps his sties perfectly clean and in many up-to-date places there are arrangements for bathing the animals.

Ask the farmer of The Netherlands, whether all this trouble pays and he will tell you that it most certainly does. Animals living under healthy conditions keep free from disease and develop into fine strong creatures that command high prices.

With the wide adoption of motor transport by Dutch farmers, horses are not so much kept as formerly, but such are to be seen receiving the kindest possible treatment. Cases of cruelty to animals are dealt with very severely by the Dutch authorities, for the laws on the subject are most stringent.

America takes eighty-five per cent. of all the motor vehicles made. Europe about twelve per cent., while Australasia has actually more cars than the whole of Asia.

Zambesi Rail Bridge to Open Undeveloped Region in Africa

London.—Tapping large areas of undeveloped Africa, an immense railroad bridge will be built across the Zambesi River to connect the Trans-Zambesi and Central African lines.

The new connection, with a line twenty-five miles long, will give Nyasaland a rail connection with the sea at Beira.

Contracts providing for the expenditure of upwards of \$16,000,000 were signed by representatives of the affected railroads and an English construction firm.

"At the behest of the government, the contract provides that all construction material must be British-made. The bridge itself will cost approximately \$6,000,000 while the approach and connecting railroad will require an expenditure of approximately \$10,000,000.

What New York Is Wearing

BY ANNABELLE WORTHINGTON
Illustrated Dressmaking Lesson Furnished With Every Pattern

That may be worn all through the spring.

Style No. 2924 may be had in sizes 16 1/2, 18, 20, 22, 24 and 26 inches bust. Size 36 requires 3 1/2 yards of 33-inch material with 3/4 yard of 33-inch contrasting.

Flat, plain or printed crepe is very smart for this model.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.
Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such pattern as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred); wrap it carefully for each number, and address your order to Wilson Pattern Service, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto.

Edinburgh Show Displays Best Printed Books
Edinburgh—A notable collection of books has been placed on view in the museum of the Edinburgh College of Art. They comprise "The Fifty Best Books of 1930" as selected by the First Edition Club, London. These books are chosen not on account of their content, but on account of their printing and general appearance.

The subject matter of the books is in itself of interest. Among others appear "The Second Journey" by Eliza by Laurence Sterne, and "Conversations with George Moore," printed by R. and R. Clark, Edinburgh. The same firm are responsible for "The Compleat Walton."

Along with the books is a special exhibit of fine modern printing. There are examples of the Ashendene Press in type designed on the basis of fifteenth century books, and the Doves Press, in type which has been described as "the finest formal book type of all time."

There is an interesting example of the "one-man" book. The play "Daneway" was written, printed, folded, sewn and bound all by the author, Lloyd Habberley, who also drew the illustrations and engraved them in wood.

Tombs 4300 Years Old Reported Found in Ur
London.—The British Museum announced Dec. 29 discovery by its own and the University of Pennsylvania's expedition to Ur, of tombs of the great kings of the third dynasty, dating about 2400 B.C.

Nothing is so dear and precious as time.—Rabelais.

Winter Fair Girl Guests Write Letter of Thanks

Four Corners Ontario, December 4th, 1929
Mr. A. P. Westervelt,
Manager of Royal Winter Fair,
217 Bay Street,
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Sir:—
Each of the two hundred and sixty girls from rural Ontario, who were your guests, would like to say "thank you" individually, but we realize, if we did so, you would be simply besieged with letters, so, as representatives from the North, South, East and West of Ontario, may we convey their message of appreciation to you.

We are aware that we enjoyed rare privileges in being given free admission to the Dog Show and the Horse Show.

The opportunity of seeing "The World's Greatest Agricultural Fair" was one never to be forgotten. We shall take great pride in broadcasting our impression of the splendour of it all.

With best wishes for continued success and prosperity, we are
Yours very truly,
Flossie Leung, Thunder Bay District
Dorothy Blight, Essex County
Gladys Buckingham, Russell County,
Ida Van Der Hoorn, Durham County.

Headlights Should Be Tested in Winter Some Party Sandwiches

Winter driving is always much more difficult than at other times, states T. C. Kirby, general manager of the Montreal Motorists' League, and lamp bulbs are more likely to go dead at this time. Motorists are warned of the necessity for checking up on their headlights, especially at this time of year, when the safety of the occupants of a car as well as the safety of pedestrians upon the highways on dark wintry evenings depends to a great extent upon the full efficiency of headlight equipment.

If having difficulty with lights: if driving with but one headlight, or with very dim light and no tail light—then by all means go to-day and have the headlight equipment put in good order.

Mr. Kirby points out that the motorist never realizes what "full headlight efficiency" is until he has the lights properly tested and focused, and never can tell what he may encounter upon street or highway in rounding a curve, turning a corner of descending a steep hill.

A word to those who desire to drive with care should be sufficient.

Berlin Likely To Sink Into Bog

Berlin.—One of these days most of the older buildings in Berlin will cave in unless the State of Prussia or the municipality takes the necessary precautionary steps soon. This is the warning issued by Ernst Runge, former government architect.

He pointed out that Berlin was originally built on sand and bog and that, for example, all buildings in the business district between the two squares Potsdamer Platz and Belle-Alliance Platz have been erected on earth fills over sand pits and peat bogs. He doubted the adequacy of some of these fills.

The foundations of the historical buildings near the Opera House, he said, suffered from the lowering of the underground water, which the recent reconstruction of the state opera necessitated, and many of the pile marks of these buildings now show signs of extensive decay.

Similar decay of the foundations of office and other business buildings erected urged the speedy adoption of precautionary measures to prevent the collapse of many valuable buildings.

The Top of the World

There are still many regions that explorers have never managed to conquer. One in Alaska measures many thousand square miles and, so far as can be estimated, is almost entirely covered by rugged glacial mountains.

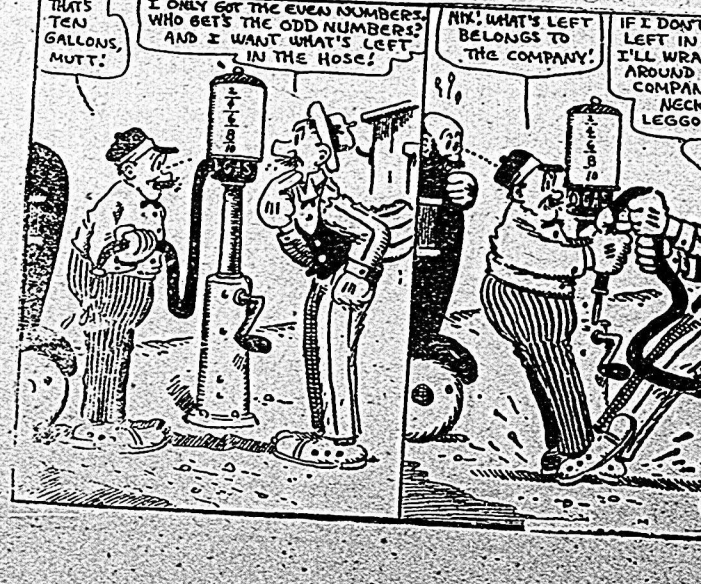
It has been assaulted for hundreds of years by natives and white men, but so far no one has been able to penetrate it. Geologists and topographic engineers surveyed under the most difficult conditions a section of the area, and 1,200 miles were removed from the chart of unexplored territory.

They saw no human beings, and they came upon a native camp that had been deserted for at least twenty years. Even the natives cannot face the cold, rainy and foggy climate. There is animal life in abundance, including black and sizzly bears, caribou, moose and mountain sheep, but the wealth of food cannot make up for the intense cold.

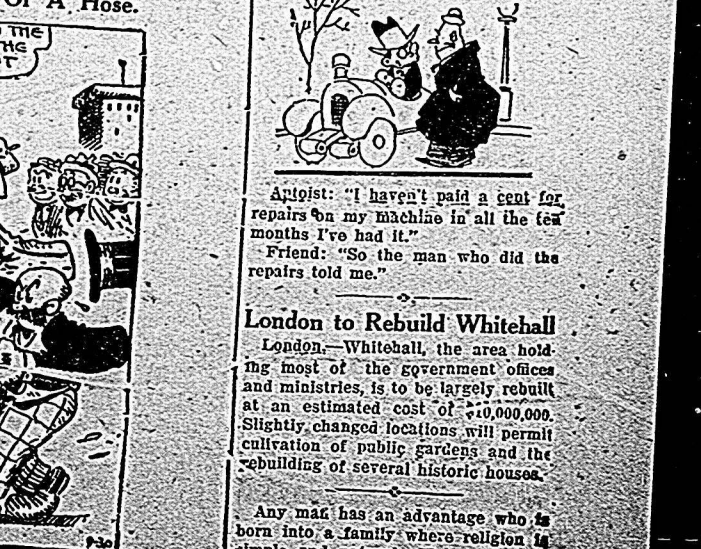
Fish cannot survive in the streams because of the huge amounts of glacial silt in the water, and the streams move too swiftly for ordinary water transport. The explorers had to drag their boats by hand.

Alaska, which is appropriately termed "the country on the top of the world," has an area of nearly 600,000 square miles. Its population is one person to every eleven miles.

MUTT AND JEFF—By BUD FISHER



Deep In The Heart Of A Hose.



Artist: "I haven't paid a cent for repairs on my machine in all the ten months I've had it."
Friend: "So the man who did the repairs told me."