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HELPING THE SLEUTHS

MONTREAL HAS A FINE MEDICO-LEGAL LABORATORY.

Doctors McTaggart and Dugas of the Quebec Attorney-General's Department Spend Most of Their Time Unravelling Mysteries, Examining Bloodstains and Making Analysis For Poison—Solved Pope Riddle.

There are few cities ahead of Montreal in the completeness of the medico-legal departments connected with the detection of crime and pursuit of the criminal. This department is a part of the Attorney-General's office, but all the work is done in Montreal, and the great majority of the cases come from the city.

A little of the interior workings of this department, the heads of which are Dr. McTaggart and Dr. Dugas, were revealed by the investigation into the Pope case. Pope being the merchant of Bromontville who disappeared leaving a coat and hat covered with blood. It was the medico-legal department which showed that the man had not been murdered. After a series of long and difficult experiments it was shown that the blood which had flowed so profusely was not that of a man, but one of the lower animals.

Few people appreciate the real value of this department. Few know what it is, how the work is done and what an aid it is to the detectives. All the stories of detectives which have of late years flooded the market have been from the Central Office man or the private sleuth who tracks down his man in various impossible ways. The medical and medico-legal men in the detective office to fear. He has to pit himself against the research and investigation of years by some of the cleverest scientists who have made seemingly impossible things possible. Many of these men are never heard of outside the select circle who watch their work.

Ten years ago, a group of such scientists in Germany, headed by one, Wasserman, ended a series of experiments which made it absolutely possible to distinguish between blood stains. Hitherto there had been tests but they had never made the results a certainty. The serum test, as it is known, is the last word. It is infallible.

The experiments which are usually made to discover whether a stain is of human blood number six. They are:

1. Gross examination.
2. Microscopical examination.
3. Glycic test.
4. Haemin test.
5. Spectroscopic test.
6. Serum test.

The gross examination requires an intimate knowledge of the manner in which it coagulates and the changes in appearance which are visible to the naked eye, such as changes in color. Iron rust, very frequently resembles dried blood, but it seldom presents a dark red and glassed appearance. Knives used to cut acid fruits may present dark reddish stains, but these contain vegetable cells colored with iron salts. By the microscope, which is the second test, the absence of red blood cells is noted. This entails a knowledge of the comparative morphology of cells and the process of staining them properly for examination.

If the blood is dry it is sometimes rather difficult to restore the red cells. A great variety of expedients are suggested, and if one fails another may succeed. Selecting some part of the blood clot which has dried rapidly, a portion is scraped off with a clean knife. This substance is transferred to a glass slide. To this should be added one or two drops of a fluid which will isolate the coherent cells and tend to restore their original form. The specimen is then covered with a cover-glass.

The colored various fluids used to isolate the coherent cells. When they are isolated the cells are measured. At one time, this measurement was the one way in which human blood cells were distinguished from those of other mammals. The determination of the size of these cells was for long one of the most essential as well as difficult problems of the medico-legal department. This test, however, has been reduced to a secondary position since the introduction of the serum test, as being much less certain. In extremely minute stains, however, it is the only practicable test.

By the gross and microscopical examination the investigator should be fairly certain whether the stain is that of blood or not. To make certain, however, there is the guaiacum test. The substance under examination is treated with guaiacum and oil of turpentine. If it gives a blue color it is quite safe to assume that it is blood.

There is still another test and this is a standard test for the haemin test. It depends on the formation of certain characteristic crystals of haemin. These crystals cannot be mistaken for any other object in nature occurring under the same conditions. The method followed is to take a small portion of the substance, supposed to be blood and place it on a glass slide. It is then moistened with a drop of 1 per cent. solution of potassium persulfate. A dilute solution of iodine of potassium. By a gentle heat the mixture is dried. A cover glass is then put on and a drop of glacial acetic acid is run under the glass. The specimen is then gently heated until bubbles of acid appear, at which temperature it is held until the acid is slowly and completely evaporated. By this procedure the blood pigment is dissolved by the acid, and combined by the chlorine of the salt to form the hypochloride or the anhydride of haematin which crystallizes on evaporation.

But it is not only in the testing of blood that Dr. McTaggart performs interesting experiments. The examination of the tissues and contents of the stomach for poison entail many intricate and delicate experiments.

TO ENTERTAIN CONTINGENT.

Canadian Soldiers at Coronation Will Stay at Duke of York's School.

The overseas troops for the coronation will arrive in London during the first week in June, and that most of them will remain there for a month. As their official duties in connection with the coronation will not be of a very prolonged nature, they will be able to take abundant advantage of the program which has been planned by the reception committee who are now collecting funds for the purpose of entertainment.

As already announced, the whole of the troops will be quartered at the Duke of York's School, Chelsea. The contingents for whose coming definite arrangements have been made number up to the present 1,300, but in all probability this total will be increased to 1,500. There is ample messing accommodation in the building for this number, and if there is any deficiency in dormitory rooms, it will be made up by putting some of the men under canvas in the extensive grounds. Judging from the arrangements made for their entertainment, the troops will spend very little of their time at Chelsea.

Among the suggested arrangements is a special service in St. Paul's Cathedral, but the details of this are not yet fixed. Arrangements are in progress for their attendance at the Naval Review. And on another occasion the troops will visit Portsmouth Dockyard and Whale Island, and the other departments of the great naval centre.

Upwards of twenty of the leading London clubs are proposing to send personal letters of invitation to the visiting officers to become honorary members during their stay. The Veterans' Club are making special arrangements to entertain the non-commissioned officers and men, who will become temporary members.

The Union Jack Club has extended an invitation to the warrant officers, non-com's, and men to become honorary members. The club, which is the same facilities for the Dominion visitors in 1911 as did the Colonial Troops' Club in 1902. Many of the 2nd Queen's Own Rifles of Canada made full use of the club during their visit to England last year, and on the occasion of the visit of the United States Navy in November and December a similar invitation was given and was much appreciated. A money exchange office was established for them in the club, and about 1,000 of the men availed themselves of the bedroom accommodations during their six weeks' stay.

The visiting officers have also received an invitation to become honorary members of the Motor Yacht Club at Netley and of the Hurlingham Club. The Festival of Empire at the Crystal Palace, the day of departure and the International Horse Show will all extend a welcome to officers and men alike. They will have every opportunity given them of visiting the sights of London, and Messrs. Cook and Sons will, as on the previous occasion, supply transport to convey the troops down from Chelsea to the various centres of interest.

The Kindest Yet.

There is a custom which has obtained favor in certain parts of Canada, for a loving notice to be placed in the "memorial column" of a paper, following the death notices. For instance, Mr. B. may have departed this life on March 23rd, 1909, and his faithful widow feels it desirable and becoming to place as a memorial notice in the paper of March 23rd, 1911, a brief paragraph breathing of affection and undying remembrance.

There was a certain widower of a Canadian city who determined to do this again, and who chose for his second wife a young woman, the junior of his two unmarried daughters. He was married just a week before the second anniversary of his beloved first wife's death, and was greatly incensed to read in "The Evening Bangway," a short time later:

"In loving memory of our dear mother, Margaret Smith, who departed this life Feb. 16th, 1909, and whose virtues will ever be cherished by her affectionate daughters."

"Anna and Margaret."

The friends of the Smith family are deeply interested to know just what the "fond papa" has said to his faithful daughters, and whether their fondness for the worthy departed will take the form of pronounced animosity to the second "dear wife."

A Really Muddy Road.

Two Toronto choir boys, who assisted a short time ago at a service in a village near Toronto, were mildly taken down by the sergeant for their scorn concerning the condition of the road near the village.

Used to the paved city streets, the boys declared the roads to be something terrible. They had, they said, never seen such muddy roads.

The sergeant undertook to prove to them that the roads they complained of were not so remarkably muddy. He told them of a road, not far from the village, into which a horse had sank "up to his knees."

Several men had tried for hours to get the beast out, but hadn't succeeded.

"What did they do, then?" asked one of the boys. "Did they shoot the horse?"

"What do you think they'd be after murdering a good horse?" said the sergeant. "The man saved him off at the knees and made a pony of him."

She Was a Thoughtful Young Woman

The young man was calling on the girl. He didn't know her very well, but she looked good to him. He wanted to call again the next night, but hardly had the nerve to ask permission to do so.

"I'd like to come up again," he said when he was ready to go home. "How about next week some time?"

A look of disappointment came over her face. "Next week?" she said.

"Why, isn't that—er—well, I tell you what to do; you come up to-morrow night and we'll 'decide' which night next week you may call."

BREAKING THE ICE.

Clearing the St. Lawrence Is an Important Work for Canada.

On Feb. 15th, the steamers Lady Grey and Montcalm began work breaking up the ice at Portneuf, and on March 29th, the Montcalm tied up at the Government pier at Sorel, leaving behind a clear channel for eighty-five miles to Quebec, in no place less than 1,200 feet wide. For the great part of this distance clear hard ice some 24 to 30 inches thick was encountered. Good time was made breaking through ice of this character, one strip making a record of 4.4 miles in a day. The best day for the two ships working together was 6.4 miles. The operation of breaking the channel through of this character is as fascinating a work as it is simple in its method. One ship backs away from the ice for a few lengths and then steams directly ahead at about 12 miles an hour, striking the ice with a grinding, crouching sound, and plunges her way up for a couple of hours, the heavy steel hull is overcome and she comes to a full stop with her whole length driven tightly into the solid ice. Great chunks are smashed down and under her hull and go floating down the stream. Engines are backing out, the other steamer is coming alongside for another blow at the ice. And so it goes all day long from dawn till dark. But all the ice is not so easily broken down, and it is when ridges of ice 8, 10, or even 12 feet high, and which are backed up by the ice piling one layer over another until great thickness is the result, were found. And most difficult of all are the large masses of drift ice which are scattered about in various places, under the top layer of clear ice, were many feet of this ice, which is really very small particles of ice held in suspension. The depth of this is almost incredible, anywhere from a few feet to eighty feet. At Portneuf the steamers cut away a large field of this and found it was resting on the bottom where the chart showed soundings of 62 to 80 feet. In fact, soundings taken at the time gave a depth of 75 to 80 feet. As this ice is very heavy and packs like snow, it is not so easy to break up. The ships can not ram into it but have to work little by little shaving it away from the edge of the mass. Once or twice they became stuck, and it was a matter of hours before they were able to back out from the grip of this heavy ice.

"It is four years since this work was first undertaken, and since its inception, it has been under the direct supervision of Mr. N. B. McLean, C. E., who has tackled the problem with a vigor and intelligence that has assured its success from the first. He has made the most of the experience gained and each year has seen an advancement in methods and results.

The working is carried on by the ship channel division of the Marine Department, of which V. W. Forrester is the superintending engineer. The great value of the work can not be doubted as the following points will indicate:

- (1) Floods are prevented, in the lower valley, where the villages along the banks of the river.
- (2) Earlier navigation to Montreal is obtainable.
- (3) A longer season for dredging operations is secured.

The key of the problem is Oupégois, six miles above Quebec. Here the river narrows to 1,600 feet and jams are bound to come. Batteries, named larger floating fields of ice float down the river and becoming lodged here, soon gaining in thickness, form the ice shelving beneath and freezing solid.

If this is not allowed to take place, during a mild season, the river would remain open to Three Rivers all winter. And during severe winters, such as we have had this year, the river will remain open to Portneuf. This cap of ice is broken up a number of times this year.

The two ships are very strongly built, and have proved of good design for the work. The Montcalm is 240 feet long, twin screw and fitted with triple expansion engines of 4,500 horsepower.

The Lady Grey is 180 feet long, also twin screw and 2,500 horsepower. Of course, they are built of steel and are extra heavily plated and braced to withstand the constant smashing against the ice.

Imperial Conference Secretary.

W. J. was as hard a man to define as almost any official in Great Britain. He is the more or less unobtrusive Secretary of the Imperial Conference, which meets at the seat of Empire every few years, and will hold a very important conference at the event comes off here, long before the end of the year. He will be one of the busiest of men. He was in Canada last summer, where he saw a good many things new to him and many that caused the Secretary of the Imperial Conference to see possibilities in Canada unobtainable in England. Writing a young Canadian the other day he referred to the tremendous advantage a young man has in Canada; the advantage of helping to build in a new country.

Powerful Smart.

Brother Yockey—"What does 'you' think of doin' swamprat, sah?"

Deacon Windicdy—"He's a powerful smart man, sah; 'wo' especially in de matter o' pr'r. 'W'y, right along he axes for things dat po' old Pahaon Babster didn't even know de Lawd had!

Fatigue Either Way.

It was a Kingston, Ontario, woman who recently sized up one feature of the servant girl question in a new way. She said: "I got a girl to relieve me of physical fatigue, and soon I got rid of her to relieve me of mental fatigue."

In 1900 the state of Minnesota had a population of 1,700,000, and not a foot of railroad within its borders.

In New York during the first three months of the present year 431 persons were arrested for spitting in public places.

CAPTURING DEER.

Relics of Ancient Fences Are Still to Be Seen in Newfoundland.

Interesting relics and reminders of the original people of Newfoundland, the now extinct Beothicks, are still to be found in the far north-western portion of that island colony in the form of remnants of the devices used to capture the deer and caribou and the other big game which seem to have formed their chief subsistence.

According to tradition these deer fences, as they are called, were made by felling the trees along the ridge of the river banks without cutting the trunks quite in two, and causing them to fall so that they lay parallel with the river, each tree lying with its top on the unsevered butt of the one preceding it in its fall. The branches of the trees were woven and twisted together where there were gaps or openings left large enough for a deer to get through, thus forming an impassable barrier to the passing of the animal, though not to that of the constructors of the fences.

Coming to these obstructions deer, caribou and moose would follow them along, seeking a place to get through, which would not be until they came to one of the openings left for that purpose. At such opening the Indian hunters lay in wait for them, armed with spears, and killed them as they sought to pass. The fences were built on both sides of the stream, so as to trap the game completely in either direction.

Some of these deer traps must have been at least thirty miles long. The race that constructed and maintained these great game pounds and required for sustenance the enormous quantity of food they undoubtedly had to have provided must have been a numerous one, but not a member of it is there to-day, and the only reminder that it ever was there is the rotting remnants of the pounds themselves.

The Yukon Indians in Alaska also have a peculiar method of capturing deer. By the Yukon Indian method the deer are forced to hang themselves if they are not killed by being shot from block houses built of snow, in which the hunter is ambushed as the deer run into the trap fixed for them.

This trap is a big corral thrown across a deer trail or path, a strong barricade, closed at one end, one end open, and each side so constructed with stakes that between them strong nooses made of moose hide can be hung. The deer travel in large herds in that region, and these the Indians drive into the corrals. The trapped animals attempt to escape by the only way they see, the spaces between the side stakes. In doing this they run their heads into the slipping nooses, which close about their necks and choke them to death.

The Bones Are Genuine.

The opening up of a grave on St. Anne's Island, said to contain the bones of the great Chief Tecumseh, brought considerable criticism on certain Wallaceburg citizens about a year ago. St. Anne's Island is a large island in the river channel west of Wallaceburg and had of old been claimed to be the burial place of the Indian chief. Those who conducted the work of digging up the bones felt certain that they had the actual remains of Tecumseh, but were in a state of grave doubt as to the matter, not only over the unauthorized desecration of the grave, but also over the possibility of the bones not being those of Tecumseh at all.

It is now stated that the Board of Trade of the town will bring forward evidence to prove that the mistake was made in opening the grave, and that it is really the bones of Tecumseh which were found.

Part of this proof will be in an affidavit concerning the statement made by an aged Indian woman that the bones in the grave were those of Tecumseh. The old squaw is said to have been present when the grave was opened and to have made her statement there as well as elsewhere. Her statement is said to have been most emphatic in this respect, and this may count in showing the truth of the matter.

Found on the Beach.

The rector of Cottenham, Cambs., has received a letter informing him of the discovery on the beach at Yarmouth, British Columbia, of a Bible which was presented to the parish of Cottenham under the will of John Fitzwilliam, rector from 1674 to 1694.

TOWNS MADE TO ORDER.

The Canadian West Is Now Engaged in a Serious Job.

A hundred and seventy new towns are to go up along the railway lines of Western Canada this year. The probability is that these towns will look as much alike as peas in a pod. Western towns don't grow when they begin. They are made to order. So every ten miles or thereabouts, in a majority of cases there is no particular reason why a certain Western town should be built, except that it is ten miles to the next; and ten miles between towns along a Western railway is supposed to be the right amount. So every ten miles along the new lines of the three transcontinentals the traveler sees a town; a water tank and a red elevator; a big hotel at the front-door corner, a livery barn, a lumber yard, an implement yard, the hall, town hall, and a church; it ever.

The entire civic scheme is planned in a single summer. There is no time for mere growth, which comes when the new buildings begin to settle down and the streets begin to pack. Then by-and-by one town boasts another by "knocking down" when there's a little or no difference between one and another, except in the people that make the town.

But if people are to make a town, they should see to it early in the race of the building that the town gets some character more than it ever gets from a red elevator. They will need to look after such points as architecture, the width of streets, and the laying out of parks.

It is but natural that in the race to prosperity these towns should give less heed than they otherwise would to points that make an attractive town. Growth is the keynote, and so, unless care is exercised, they are likely to run into difficulties which will be somewhat like those of the overgrown cities of Eastern Canada. Would the men behind the Western towns realize how great a problem Toronto is facing in the oft-proposed widening of Yonge street, and what great difficulties many cities are having through not making provision early for enough park space, the Westerner would probably strive hard to prevent repeating in their cities the problems facing the cities of Eastern Canada.—Canadian Courier.

Gus Porter's Miracles.

The re-formation as Conservative candidate for West Hastings, E. G. Porter, M.P., brings to mind the first time that he was the party standard-bearer in that riding. Mr. Henry Corby had retired owing to ill-health and there was a lively skirmish for the honor of succeeding him as the constituency was a certain win for the Conservatives. Mr. Porter was looked upon as a very young man, and it was thought by some of the other and older aspirants that he could well afford to wait for Parliamentary honors. Jealousy cropped out to a certain extent, but Mr. Porter, however, carried the convention. He was speaking one night at a mass meeting in the Belleville Opera House, and took occasion to refer to what some of his opponents were saying about him. "I am told," he remarked, "that I am too young, that others would have more influence than I could have, and I should learn to bide my time. It has been said that I am a comparatively unknown party man after all, and a former loser. I anticipated the other day that when I got to Ottawa, I could not hope to accomplish much for West Hastings. It has been charged that I cannot perform miracles, but, gentlemen, I give that scurrilous statement a flat contradiction."

Here Mr. Porter calmly and calmly poured from a pitcher of the table some water into a glass. He leisurely took a draught and his move was natural and deliberate. His hearers thought that he was thirsty and looked for nothing more than a temporary pause in his address.

"As I have said," resumed Mr. Porter, "it has been alleged that I am unable to perform miracles. Gentlemen! I have disproved that false assertion by my recent action for I have just turned water into Porter. I challenge any man here to do that." The speaker got no further.—Star Weekly.

His First Stump Speech.

Hon. George P. Graham, Minister of Railways, and Sir James P. Whitney, Premier of Ontario, each made his first political speech at a meeting in the little town of Morrisburg, where they were young men together. It was during an election campaign when the National Policy was the issue, and the occasion was recalled this week by a Torontonian who was present. He recalls that young Graham, in his maiden effort on the stump, was almost as easy and witty as he is in after long years of practice. Talking was natural to him, and his words came "just like water out of a pail," we are told by the man who remembers the meeting.

At that time there was much smuggling of goods from the American side across the river, and Morrisburg, Ontario, was a favorite rendezvous with the duty-dodgers, and almost every night cars were set out by householders and secretly filled with good American oil at a low price by men who had regular routes. This was in George Graham's mind when he brought down the house with this remark:

"A lot of men in this town could howl for protection and patriotism with better grace if they were not daylight protectionists and dark-night free-traders."—Star Weekly.

His Old Age Made Free From Suffering

BY GIN PILLS

ANNAPOLIS, N.S.
"I am over 80 years of age and have been suffering with Kidney and Bladder Trouble for fifteen years. I took doctors' medicine but got no relief. I want to thank you for sending me the sample box of GIN PILLS.

I have taken six boxes of GIN PILLS altogether but got relief before I had taken more than that amount. I had to get up some nights every fifteen minutes and had to use an instrument before I could urinate.

Now I can lie in bed four or five hours without getting up. I can say that GIN PILLS have nearly cured me and I shall always keep a box in the house."

W. H. PIERCE.

Do as Mr. Pierce did—write us for free sample box of GIN PILLS and see for yourself just how much they will do for you.—then buy the regular size boxes at your dealer's—50c. or 60c. per box. GIN PILLS are sold with a positive guarantee of money back if they fail to give prompt relief. National Drug and Chemical Co., Dept. B., Toronto, 21

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—a fail-safe disinfectant that makes house-cleaning a joy. The only sweeping compound that destroys germs—lays and absorbs dust and leaves a refreshing and fragrant odor in the home after use. Your grocer will tell you all about its manifold uses. It is a house powder sold at 25c. 50c. and \$1.00 per tin.

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HIRAM CARPENTER'S WONDERFUL CURE OF SKIN DISEASE

After 20 Years of Intense Suffering.

"I have been afflicted for twenty years with a skin disease, called by some M. D.'s, psoriasis, and others leprosy, commencing on my scalp; and in spite of all I could do, with the help of the most skillful doctors, it slowly but surely extended until a year ago this winter it covered my entire person in the form of dry scales. For the last three years I have been unable to do any labor, and suffering intensely all the time. Every morning there would be nearly a dust-pail of scales taken from the sheet on my bed, some of them as large as a lemon. I tried everything, almost, that could be thought of, without any relief. The 12th of June I started West to hope I could reach the Hot Springs. I reached Detroit and was so low I thought I should have to go to the hospital, but finally got as far as Lansing, Mich., where I had a sister living. One day I was sitting on the porch and I felt my skin as smooth as the sheet of paper. I tried to live. I earnestly prayed to be cured. Cracked through the sheet all over my back across my ribs, arms, hands, limbs; feet badly swollen. Some nails came out, some nails dead and hard as a bone; hair dead, dry and lifeless as old straw. Oh my God! how I felt suffer."

"My sister, Mrs. H. Davis, had a small part of a box of Cuticura in the house. She wouldn't give up, said, 'We will try Cuticura.' Some was applied one head and arm. Some was rubbed on my neck and face. The burning sensation from the ointment. They immediately got Cuticura Resolvent, Ointment and Soap. I commenced by taking one tablespoonful of Cuticura Resolvent in every three days after meals; had a bath once a day, water about blood-temperature. Cuticura Soap freely applied Cuticura Ointment morning and evening. Result: returned to my home in just six weeks from the time I felt my skin as smooth as the sheet of paper."

Hiram E. Carpenter, Mendon, N. Y.

"We hereby certify that we are acquainted with the above remarkable testimonials and know the condition to have been as stated. We believe the statement of Hiram E. Carpenter particularly." L. R. Simmons & Son, Merchants, A. Thompson, Merchant, A. A. Davis, Merchant, J. J. Merriam, Merchant, Carpenter, A. M. Leford, Attorney and Counsellor-at-law, all of Mendon, N. Y.

The above remarkable testimonials were written January 19, 1880, and is republished here for the anniversary of the cure. Under date of April 22, 1910, Mr. Carpenter wrote from his present home, 610 Walnut St., Lansing, Mich., saying: "I have never suffered a return of the psoriasis and although many years have passed I have not forgotten the terrible suffering I endured before using the Cuticura Remedies."

Since this cure was made by the Cuticura Remedies, they have made their way to every part of the civilized world. A 25-page booklet describing the nature and effects of this skin ailment will be mailed free to those desiring further information by the Fuller, Free & Co. Manufacturing Corporation, Lowell, U. S. A.