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York?

Times.

Since the Whitechapel murders began to fascinate the horrified interest of the world fantastically imaginative reporters of the metropo is have been trying to find and describe "the Whitechapel of New York."

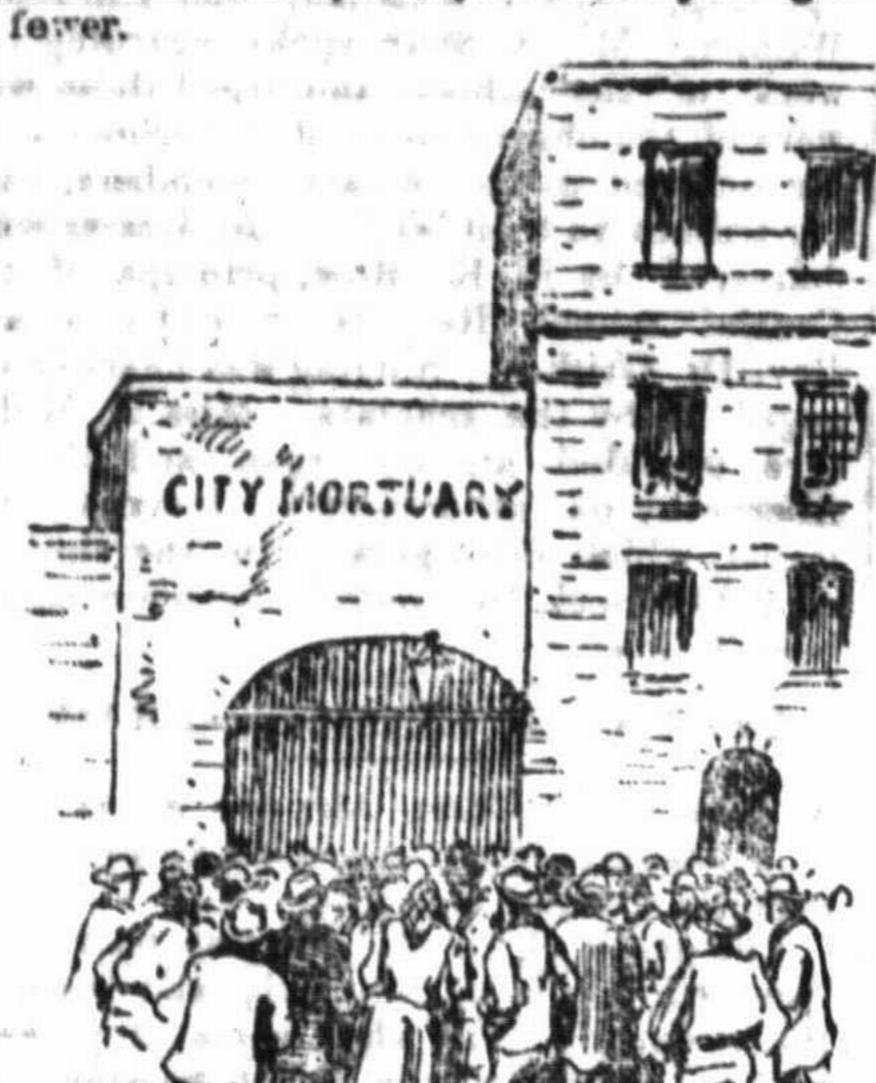
Disconnected, fragmentary bits of the lower conditions of metropolitan life they have discovered that, by exaggeratedly lurid depiction, could be made to appear worthy of Whitechapel; but the existence in that city of such a district as that vast pool of human degradation and misery in London is untrue and even impossible. Poverty, vice and crime are there in heart sickening abundance, but their aggregate volume is comparatively simall, and the committees or week being prevent their massing into such a stupendous totality of evil as in the English metropolis,

To manufacture a Whitechapel in New York we would in the first place require such a maze of tangled streets as are found in New York only in the Ninth ward, which used to be Greenwich Village-a section of the city in which even born New Yorkers are liable to lose themselves unto this day-and that maze would have to be fifty times as big as all that labyrinthine portion of New York. But in nothing more than its intriency does the Ninth ward suggest a thought of Whitechapel. It is populated by respectable, industrious, thrifty citizens, who live comfortably. The aristocratic element may be scant in the throngs that good humoredly jostle each other on the crowded sidewalks there in the evenings, but little want is apparent, and vice is not conspicuous. Certainly not in the old Greenwich Village need we look for any Whitechapel.

SOME PRETTY BAD PLACES.

There used to be in the Fourth and Sixth wards-in the former within bowshot of where the New York end of the East river bridge now stands and in the latter about the "Five Points"-many buildings tenanted by the most wretchedly poor, the irreclaimably vicious and the lowest criminal dregs of the population, places worthy of the vilest portions of Whitechapel. Some of them still exist, on Baxter, Cherry, James, Oliver and other streets and the adjacent alleys in those wards, and their condition is such as to sicken and sadden any decent explorer among them. Like the habitations of the miserable class of beings from among whom the Whitechapel assassin has selected his victims, they reek with foulness, are dark, filled with a fetid atmosphere, have small, low ceiled, ill ventilated rooms, wherein the unfortunate beings abiding there are packed without regard to comfort, health or decency. Sometimes even the cellars of those buildings, where there are no floors and pools of foul, slimy black water stand in the depressions of the ground, are used as lodging places, where scavengers and besotted things that have been women sleep on piles of rags and straw.

But such hideous places are isolated now, are exceptions, and not the rule, even in the lowest localities, and year after year grow



SCENE AT THE MORGUE, LONDON.

The board of health condemns them and enforces their reformation. The self interest of their owners dictates their destruction and replacement by buildings more in consonance with modern requirements. There is no such thing as a great district of narrow, dark, tangled alleys and blind courts filled with such tenements as exists in Whitechapel. THE HUMAN ELEMENT MISSING.

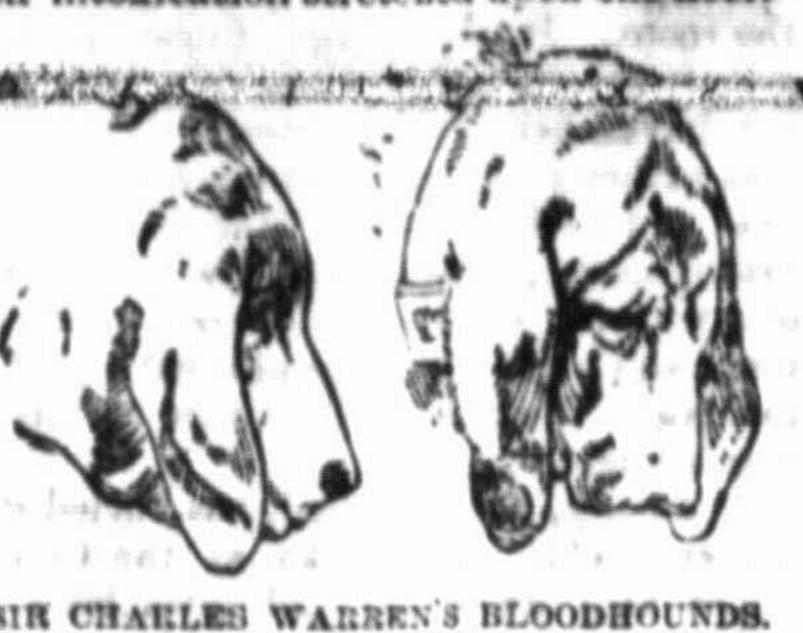
Finally, New York has not the human element that makes Whitechapel what it is, or at least what there is of it is so small a proportion of the population, in even the worst parts of New York city, that its influence is powerless. The disease of crime is sporadic in the big city, not epidemic. As is admitted by Englishmen themselves, there is no human brute so thoroughly brutal as the English one. Ferocious cruelty must be a distinguishing faature of any sport to commend it to his favor; he knows no joy more supreme than absolute intexication; for womanhood he has no other consideration than employing it as his abject slave and the tool of . his coarse, animal viciousness. He surrounds himself, through the vigorous strength of his brutality, with an atmosphere of vicious contamination. The wretched women exposed to his infamous association are necessarily plunged to the deepest dregs of degradation to be fit companions for him.

Whiteehapel contains tens of thousands of men and werren whose only means of livelihood are vice and petty crime; whose only happiness is in gin sodden oblivion; whose only hope in the here or the hereafter is escape from compulsory labor in a workhouse or a prison.

And these wretches are massed together. giving to each other countenance and encouragement, making their common destitution, lawlessness, mental pollution and bodily defilement seem to themselves a natural condition of emistence in the only world they know. Now there is no such Dismal Swamp in New York, and its Yahoos are scattered. and everywhere, even among the poorest poor, are in the minority. Even in those wrotened tenements of the Fourth and Sixth wards, there are sufficient of deeply unfortunate but honest and self respecting poor to compel the Colous clements of society mixed among than to some measure of self repres-

DAUGA CONTA CHECKETTE TO DRUNKENNESS NOT SO COMMON. Drunkenness is not so common a vice among even the most depraved class as it is reported to be among all the grades of depravity infesting Whitechapel, and the offense of it is not so flaunted upon the streets, and habitually condoned by the police here, as it is there. It is true that, not infrequently, hideous beings, male and fe-

communal orgie, as their kind are accustomed to do in Whitechapel. For the benefit of those who in their innocence may suspect those words-"velvet rooms" and "morgue"-of being slang, it may be explained that a "morgue" is a common appellation for a peculiarly low class drinking saloon (sometimes also called a "distillery" where all alcoholic liquors, of equally unutterable vileness and infernal potency, are sold for three or five cents per small tumblerful; and the "velvet room" is an apartment at the back of the "morgue," curpeted with sawdust and flith, where thoroughly inebritheir intoxication stretched upon the floor.



Some of the kindest "morgue" keepers let their best regular customers habitually sleep there, when they have no other homes, to keep them out of the clutches of the police. One never sees in New York bunches of wretched women, huddled together for warmth, sleeping in area ways, unused cellars and such like places. Male tramps sometimes do so, but if discovered by the police are very liable to be sent up "to the island," where they will be much better off; a fact of which the tramps often testify their appreciation by the autumnal perpetration of some petty crime-such as smashing a shop window or a small theft, while a peliceman is looking at them-and so earning free board and warm lodging through a hard winter.

THE LOWER BOWERY. In garish show and coarse temptations to ignorant curiosity and willful vice the lower end of the Bowery presents more resemblances to the most presentable side of Whitechapel life than anything else that New York has to offer, but the imitation is comparatively tepid and colorless. A few years ago there were scores of glittering saloons, with bands of music in them, "pretty waiter girls" serving customers at the tables, wine rooms dedicated to the vilest uses, nymphs du pave haunting them by hundreds to ply their shameful traffic, gamblers, thieves and thugs making them their stalking ground, crimes of violence against person and property nightly occurrences in them. On Broadway they were palatial. In the cellars along Chatham street they were nakedly vile. Dotween those two extremes there were all grades in externals, but the internal character of all was equally damnable. Their proprietors did "a land office business," and by power of money and political influence commanded immunity from police interference. But they exist no longer. The moral sense of the community revolted against them. The law put its foot upon them and they were stamped out, with the exception of a few, probably not more than half'a dozen in all-on Sixth avenue, Thirty-first street, the Bowery and Forsyth street - which still, by cunning evasions of the law, changes of proprietorship and other dodges, manage to keep up a colorable pretense of the old time viciousness, enough to deceive the country "jay" into the belief that in visiting them he is "seeing the clephant by gaslight."

In the two largest places on the Boweryone below Canal and the other near Spring stree! - where there are orchestras and beer, there are no "pretty waiter girls" and a sort of measurable respectability is maintained. Evil little places under the guise of "muscums," for the petty swindling of the unsophisticated or the occasional convenient rob bery of the inebriated, are not scarce, and there are numbers of saloons, frequented largely by thieves, "toughs" and street walkers, where the drunken visitor is pretty certain to be robbed and possibly almost murdered if he protests too strenuously against spoliation. Such places exist in every city, but they by no means constitute a Whitechapel, and, but for the women frequenting them, would indeed possess little to suggest similarity to the blossoms in that peculiar garden of hell.

VICE NOT CONCENTRATED. There is no district of New York in which sexual vice is estentationaly paraded as the principal industry of the population, as from the published reports would seem to be the condition of Whitechapel. There are, imhappily, a vast number of wretched women and girls who are deservedly classified under the euphemistic title of "the social evil," and hundreds -yes, thousands-of their haunt the streets at night, but they are not congregated by battations and legions in one quar ter of the town to shock all moral sense by the enormous aggregation of their misery and shame. Old New Yorkers who remember the condition of things in Church, Mercer and Greene streets during and soon after the civil war; or Twenty-seventh street, west of Sixth avenue, and Sixth avenue, from Twenty-seventh to Thirty-fourth street, in later days; or the many "half door houses of the Five Points, in times more remote, appreciate that the town has ferbished up its decency, so far es appearances go, to a highly creditable degree. If New York has not been able to extirpate this form of viceas no city probably ever will-it has, at least, scattered it so that everywhere it appears to be in the minerity. And, even among the most degraded and destitute of New York's "unfortunates," it is rare to see one who has sunk to such plight as appears to be the common lot of so many thousands in White-

The "Haymarket," Armory Hall, and a few sailors' resorts in the Fourth ward have been foolishly paraded as constituting nucleii at least of a New York Whitechapel. Bosh They are simply dance houses, bad enough places, no doubt, in their way, but their way is a small one.

The fact is that there is too much carnest practicality in life in the American metropolis; too much probability for good reward of honest endeavor; too much general moral sense; too many wide streets, electric lights and vigilant policemen, for the existence of a Wallecht jel in New York.

Cuts are given with this article of the crowds that surround the Merque daily during the cheltement in London over the Whitechanel marriers, and of two of the bloodhounds that Sir Charles Warren tried so land to make of use in tracking the flend, and whose failure undoubtedly led to his resignation as chiefer the London pelice.

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