

CRACKSMAN AND CLEVER BURGLARS

By WILLIAM K. GIBBS

(By Short Story Pub. Co.)

CASTING a hasty glance to the right and left, and having the appearance of one being pursued, a well-dressed man slackened his pace before an imposing office building.

The town clocks struck six—first the one in the courthouse tower, and then, farther away, the one in the city hall. This one struck five times slowly, hesitated a moment, struck eleven times with great vigor, struck once with a big, final boom and was through. No amount of repairing could cure the city hall clock of this peculiarity. It kept time but kept it according to a private way of its own.

Passing in between the marble pillars that guarded the entrance of the Trades building, the man ignored the elevators and began to ascend the stairs. Four flights up, he turned down the corridor. He paused, removed an afternoon paper from his pocket and read:

"Dr. James Whitbeck, 456 Trades building, left for New York this afternoon to deliver a lecture before the medical association, on his recently perfected cancer cure. He will be gone a week."

With catlike steps, the figure crept toward the door which bore, in modest letters, the inscription—James Whitbeck, M. D. The clang of an elevator door startled the sly figure. He paused, listened intently, then tried the door. Much to his surprise, it opened, and he stood face to face with a tall, dark, middle-aged man of professional bearing. "Good evening, doctor," he said blandly. "I did not expect to find you here." The voice did not betray what was passing through the speaker's mind.

"No?"

"I'll tell you why I'm here," ventured the newcomer. "I'm Barrett, of Central detail, and I came up here to catch a thief."

"What's the matter, have I been overcharging my patients?" questioned the other, smiling.

"No; you don't understand. We're after a man who calls himself 'Jeff.' We've been on his trail for weeks, but we can't seem to get within hailing distance. We don't know what he looks like, but he invariably leaves a note for the police, signed 'Jeff.' He makes a specialty of doctors' offices."

"Why look for him here?"

"For the very good reason that you are supposed to be well on your way to New York. The afternoon paper says you are to deliver a lecture in New York and left this afternoon. 'Jeff' works while the doctors are out."

Then, in a confident tone, the speaker said:

"You see, I'm anxious to make the 'pinch' myself, as it will give me a stronger 'pull' with the chief. I have a proposition to make and if you'll help me, I'll be sure to get him. What do you say? Will you?"

"Of course; anything I can do will give me great pleasure. You can count on me."

"Thanks. Now my proposition is this: Jeff is shrewd; he will pretend to be sick if he finds you here. You give him something, and while you are doing that, give him every chance to get your watch and your money. Then I'll do my part."

Barrett's persuasion won the other to the agreement to stay as long as he could and still catch an early evening train for New York. Barrett screened off one corner of the room, and selecting a comfortable chair, began his vigil.

A second figure, short and squat, entered the Trades building. He rode up to the fourth floor and walked boldly into the doctor's office.

"It's lucky I found you here, doctor," he began, almost immediately. "I was talking with a man this afternoon and he recommended you to me. I need something for my nerves; they're all gone to pieces, you know."

"That so? Come in the consulting room and let me look you over." The usual routine of a physician over, the "patient" was given a small dose of liquid from a bottle on the doctor's desk. As soon as he saw, he was not being watched, the "patient" turned the contents of the glass into the cuspidor, and turning to the doctor, said:

"How long before it works?"

"It should take effect immediately," came the reply, but you had better let me examine your heart."

The "patient" unbuttoned his coat and vest, and as the doctor bent over and placed his ear to the other's chest, the latter extracted a wallet and watch from the former's pocket.

"I don't find anything the matter with your heart, but you had better take another dose of this," and another dose from the bottle was given the "patient." This time he was watched and he had to swallow it. He thought it quite the worst of anything he ever had tasted.

"Let me know how you feel tomorrow."

"Yes—" a hand was laid roughly on the speaker's shoulder, interrupting his reply. "What's the meaning of this?" he demanded, when he had regained his equanimity.

"The chief wants to see you, Jeff," calmly announced Barrett. "We've 'queered' your little game at last. I happened to see you lift Doctor Whitbeck's wallet and watch just now. So

you're a 'dip' too, eh? We didn't know that before."

"Well, you got me," sulked the prisoner, dejectedly, "but I'm no piker. I'll be quiet."

"These will make me feel a little more secure," remarked Barrett, as he fastened the handcuffs on the prisoner's wrists. Turning to the doctor, he said:

"We'll want to see you probably, when you get back from New York."

"But what about my watch and my money?" the doctor asked.

"Oh, you'll get them all right. We need them for evidence and I'll have to take them to the station."

The two men—detective and prisoner—passed out and closed the door. The physician called a taxicab company and asked them to have a taxi in front of the Trades building in forty-five minutes.

The outer door of 456 Trades building opened noiselessly. Two figures entered stealthily. As the light was switched on, one who had been present at the little "drama" enacted thirty minutes before, would have recognized the two as the same detective and prisoner, although now the handcuffs were not in evidence.

"Guess we gave the old boy the slip, Jim," said Barrett. "He fell for our game like a two-year-old."

They gathered up everything of value and placed it in a grip that seemed to have been left there for their especial benefit. Both worked in silence. Neither knew that a pair of eyes watched them from behind the same screen that had formed Barrett's hiding place a short time before.

Barrett broke the silence. "That's all we want," he said. "If we've overlooked anything, I'm sorry." As the two emerged from the consulting room, they faced a .44 caliber revolver.

"The game's up, boys," said the man who, at that moment, was master of the situation. "I'll take my watch and money."

"You're a shrewd one, all right, Doctor Whitbeck," parried Barrett. "We take our hats off to you."

"Cut that chatter and face the wall," they obeyed. "Now I'll just relieve you of these cannons. There, that's better. Now, unload everything you have in your pockets and be quick about it."

At the point of the revolver, the two culprits did as they were bidden. "Sure you haven't missed anything?" asked the man with the gun.

"That's all there is, boss."

"How about the bracelets?"

"I've got 'em," replied Barrett, doggedly.

"Put one on your wrist and one on your pal's," ordered the man with the gun. "Now, let me give you a tip. My car is waiting down in front; don't you two make any noise or try to follow me or I'm afraid I might lose control of my trigger-finger."

"Aren't you going to send us to the 'str'?" queried Barrett, somewhat surprised.

"No; I hadn't thought of that."

"Well, that's sure white of you, Doc."

Then in slow, measured tones, came the reply:

"Doctor Whitbeck left for New York this afternoon."

"What?" came from Barrett and his pal, almost as one word.

"You heard me, now keep quiet. That chauffeur is waiting and I don't want to miss him, especially since I have to carry this grip you were so generous as to pack for me."

"Say, pard," began Barrett, "you're clever, but who are you?"

Keeping them both covered with his revolver, the man picked up the grip, opened the office door and inserted the key from the outside, then answered:

"I'm Jeff."

The door closed softly, key grated in the lock, and he was gone.

Spanish Believe That Bread Is Sacred Food

Do you ever throw away your bread, writes a friend of the Companion, or even toss aside a crust? In Spain it is against the law to do so, I am told by a newcomer from that country. There is an ancient belief that bread is one of the first foods God gave his children, and therefore it is a sacred food. To illustrate just what happens, if you are careless enough to throw bread away, let me tell you an actual incident that occurred in Barcelona.

A little Spanish boy left his house, eating a slice of bread, but he soon tired of it and, without thinking, threw it down upon the sidewalk. Hardly had he done so when a hand grasped his elbow and he looked up into the face of a policeman.

"You cannot throw bread away like that," the man told him. "You are breaking the law. Pick it up and come with me."

The boy, startled, picked up the bread, and the man drew him along down a side street until they came to a sheltered corner between two buildings.

"Kiss the bread, hijo mio, and lay it carefully down here on this stone that the dogs may eat of it, and it shall not be wasted," commanded the policeman, and the boy did as he was told.—Youth's Companion.

Worse and Worse

"The necessities of life 'pear to be going up all the time," in the cross-roads store, announced Gap Johnson of Rumpus Ridge.

"Say they are?" returned the proprietor of the emporium.

"Ye-ah! I see whur just yiste'd'y they took and fined a feller for whal'n his—p—tu—wife." — Kansas City Star.

The Y DAIRY

GRAIN MIXTURES FOR DAIRY COWS

It is very desirable that feeds for dairy cows be palatable, so as to insure a sufficiently large consumption. If necessary to use any unpalatable feed, mix it with some that are appetizing. Also see that the grain mixture is light and bulky. Avoid using too large a quantity of either constipating or laxative feed. Cottonseed meal, for example, is decidedly constipating and is best fed with laxative grains such as wheat bran and linseed oilmeal or succulent feeds such as silage or roots. For ordinary feeding in most parts of the United States not more than one-third of the grain ration should be cottonseed meal. Linseed-oil meal, because of its distinctly laxative action, should not, as a rule, be fed in greater quantities than one and one-half pounds a day. Select grains that will furnish the various constituents, especially protein, at the least cost, using home-grown grains if possible.

The composition of the grain ration will depend largely upon the kind of roughages available.

The following grain mixtures are adapted to be fed with roughages of the low-protein class, such as corn silage, corn stover, timothy, prairie, rye or millet hays, cottonseed hulls, etc.:

No. 1
Per cent of digestible protein, 19.8:
100 pounds corn meal
100 pounds cottonseed meal
100 pounds linseed meal (old process)
200 pounds wheat bran

No. 2
Per cent of digestible protein, 19.8:
100 pounds corn-and-cob meal
100 pounds cottonseed meal
100 pounds linseed meal (old process)

No. 3
Per cent of digestible protein, 18.8:
200 pounds corn meal
150 pounds cottonseed meal
100 pounds gluten feed
100 pounds wheat bran

No. 4
Per cent of digestible protein, 18.1:
200 pounds corn meal
100 pounds cottonseed meal
100 pounds oats, ground
100 pounds linseed meal (old process)

No. 5
Per cent of digestible protein, 18.4:
300 pounds corn-and-cob meal
200 pounds cottonseed meal

With roughage of the high-protein class, such as clover, alfalfa, soybeans, cowpeas and vetch or other legume hay, the following grain mixtures may be used:

No. 6
Per cent of digestible protein, 14.1:
400 pounds corn meal
100 pounds cottonseed meal
100 pounds gluten feed
100 pounds wheat bran

No. 7
Per cent of digestible protein, 15.6:
400 pounds corn meal
200 pounds gluten feed
200 pounds linseed meal (old process)
100 pounds oats, ground

No. 8
Per cent of digestible protein, 16.7:
300 pounds barley
100 pounds cottonseed meal
100 pounds alfalfa meal
100 pounds wheat bran

No. 9
Per cent of digestible protein, 13.7:
100 pounds barley
300 pounds coconut meal
100 pounds oats, ground
100 pounds wheat bran

No. 10
Per cent of digestible protein, 15.3:
200 pounds corn-and-cob meal
200 pounds gluten feed
100 pounds cottonseed meal
100 pounds wheat bran

The following grain mixtures are adapted for feeding with a combination of the low and high-protein classes of roughage, such as silage and clover, or other legume hay; corn stover and clover, or other legume hay; mixed hay, or oat-and-pea hay, etc.:

No. 11
Per cent of digestible protein, 16.1:
300 pounds corn meal
100 pounds cottonseed meal
100 pounds linseed meal (old process)
200 pounds wheat bran

No. 12
Per cent of digestible protein, 16.7:
400 pounds corn meal
100 pounds cottonseed meal
200 pounds gluten feed
200 pounds dried brewers' grains

No. 13
Per cent of digestible protein, 16.4:
200 pounds corn-and-cob meal
200 pounds cottonseed meal

No. 14
Per cent of digestible protein, 16.7:
200 pounds corn meal
100 pounds peanut meal (with hulls)
100 pounds cottonseed meal
100 pounds wheat bran

No. 15
Per cent of digestible protein, 16.4:
100 pounds corn meal
100 pounds oats, ground
100 pounds cottonseed meal
100 pounds wheat bran

The mixtures which contain linseed meal are particularly adapted for use when no succulencia is in the ration.

Depraved Appetite

Lack of minerals or some other essential to complete nutrition is usually the cause of a depraved appetite. It may be a craving for these things that were not given in the ration and which are being taken from the body of the heavy milking cow in abundance in the milk stream. Vitamin D is said to be essential at such times and as it is found in cod liver oil you might feed each one a teaspoonful of that on the grain feed and add a tablespoonful of bone meal.

LIVE STOCK

SELECT GOOD BULL FOR BEEF CALVES

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Buying a good herd bull is the first step in growing better beef calves at much less cost per pound, says the United States Department of Agriculture. In common or native cow herds, calves sired by pure-bred bulls weigh on an average about 125 pounds a head more, when one year old, than calves of the same age sired by the average run of scrub bulls, and they will sell for about two cents a pound more as stockers and feeders. Two-year-old steers sired by good pure-bred bulls weigh on an average about 200 pounds more a head than steers sired by scrub bulls, and sell for considerably more as stockers and feeders.

There is practically no difference in the cost of feed for the two classes of calves up to the yearling age, but from that time on grades develop more capacity and require more feed than scrubs. The difference in cost of feed, however, is a very small item when the values are taken into consideration. The big difference lies in the type of bull used.

Having selected a good bull, he should be the best-cared-for individual in the herd. Not only should he have special feed at times, but he should be kept in a separate paddock or lot and should not have the freedom of the herd except during limited seasons of the year. Unless a special lot can be provided, some means of giving the bull exercise should be devised.

The bull should be well fed during all seasons, but especially so just previous to the breeding season. His ration may consist of roughages mainly, but a small quantity of grain also should be used. The exact quantities of feed that should be given depend largely upon the size, age, and individuality of the animal, and the ration must be varied according to requirements. As a general rule excessive quantities of silage should not be fed to a bull doing heavy service. A safe rule to follow is to feed one-half as much silage as would constitute a full ration for an average cow.

Prevent Pig-Eating by Proper Feed and Care

A sow's desire to eat her pigs may result from a number of causes, although it is not natural for a sow to destroy her young. When the sow is constipated she becomes feverish, develops an abnormal craving or appetite and may kill her pigs and eat them. To prevent this condition the sow should be properly fed during pregnancy. Linseed oil meal in the ration will aid in keeping the bowels regulated. In extreme cases of constipation salts should be used. The afterbirth should be removed promptly from the pen and burned or buried. If left in the pen the sow is likely to devour it and as the scent of the newly born pigs is similar, some of them may also be eaten.

A sow that has acquired the habit of eating her pigs should be watched carefully to see that her bowels are working properly. When she farrows, rub each pig with a cloth saturated with kerosene so that they will have the smell of the oil. Great care should be taken not to put too much on the pigs as it will blister the skin. When the sow's nose detects the odor of kerosene she will decide not to eat the pigs.

Permanent Pastures for Wintering Beef Cattle

The secret of economical beef production is the maintaining of the breeding herd cheaply—and at the same time keeping them in a thrifty condition during winter. It is true that every farmer has his particular problems relative to feeding and management. However, the following suggestions made by Prof. L. V. Starkey, chief of the animal husbandry division at Clemson college, may throw some light on the problems which confront the farmer engaged in raising beef cattle.

The beef herd should be kept on permanent pastures as long as these pastures are sufficient to practically maintain the normal weight. As soon as the permanent pastures become exhausted as a result of frost or otherwise, the cattle should be turned in the velvet bean fields from which the crop has been snapped. The cattle should be left in the bean fields as long as they maintain their normal weight. If rye pasture is available they may then be turned on this pasture. In this way the herd may be put through the winter with practically no additional feed.

Saving Little Pigs

More of the little pigs can be saved by equipping the farrowing pen with fenders and by giving better rations to the sows. Over half of the 34 per cent usually lost will be saved by these precautions alone.

It costs \$12.57 to feed a sow from breeding to weaning time of her pigs. Why feed ten sows to get 50 pigs when by a little extra care six or seven will produce as many with a saving of \$50 besides the labor?

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Those Foreign Diseases.

An American physician goes abroad to investigate noted water-cures, and says that when he let it be known he was rich he was speedily invested by diagnosis with all sorts of deadly diseases, with the assurance that the cures plus starchy fees would insure speedy recovery. Well, at that, it is about the best news coming from foreign parts in a long time.—New York Herald-Tribune.

Grumpy Old Guy.

The cynicism of Diogenes was shown in his famous search for an honest man. The old chap seems to have been misogynistic as well, for the story is told of him that seeing some women who had been hanged on the branches of an olive tree he remarked: "I wish all trees bore that kind of fruit."—Boston Transcript.

Combines Fan and Fountain.

One of the most remarkable palm trees in the world is to be found in West Africa. Its branches grow in the shape of a fan, and always east to west, and are filled with a cool, pleasant-tasting liquid, which often saves the lives of travelers whose water supply has run short. — Los Angeles Times.

Pastry That Has Lasted.

A collection of well-preserved pastry, made 1,300 years ago, is among the exhibits sent the British museum from western China. It was buried with a traveler in the Seventh century, and includes delicate biscuits, pierced and worked until they look like filigree buckles.

Porpoise's Diet.

"Polly," a full-grown porpoise, the chief attraction at Brighton (Eng.) aquarium, has been trained in three days to take food from the hands of the chief attendant. Polly now devours seven pounds of herrings each day, and her rations will be doubled shortly.

Shelly's Words.

His words are as flexible as any words: the rhythm of some modulating air seems to move them into their place without a struggle by the poet, and almost without his knowledge. This is the perfection of true art.—Walter Bagehot.

Kind Intervention.

A Vermont man tripped over a fallen tree and broke his leg while chasing a skunk. Providence sometimes employs hard methods to protect humans from the result of their folly.—Boston Transcript.

Awakening of Old Madrid.

Madrid is now one of the busiest and most progressive cities of southern Europe, and the sleepy Old world spot of former days is no longer recognizable. Skyscrapers are going up in great numbers.

Married to a Tree.

A Hindu in the Junjab cannot be legally married a third time. When, therefore, he wants a third wife he is married to a tree, so that when he actually does take another wife she counts as his fourth.

A Definition.

Our idea of a stingy person is the fat lady who hopes she has gained weight so that she will get her money's worth out of the scales when she drops her penny in.—Dallas News.

Canned Provender.

Although the world outside is eating less of American canned milk, fruit, vegetables and fish, it is consuming more canned meat than ever before.

Final.

Necessity may know no law, but its decrees are never reversed on appeal.—Boston Transcript.

Germany's Pioneer School.

The first open air school was established in Germany over a hundred years ago.

Sea Salt Content Shown.

The salt content of the sea is about 35 pounds to 1,000 pounds of water.

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Light on Natural History.

The discovery of a section of a large caribou horn imbedded in a swamp near White Cloud confirms the belief held by old-timers that Michigan once was the habitat of this northern game animal. This is the second find of this nature within recent years in the same territory.

Map of Silver.

A silver map of the world, exhibited at the Royal Geographical society, London, is the best of four such maps in existence. It is a thin, circular silver plate, and commemorates Drake's voyage 'round the world, 1577-1580.

Strength of Wood.

Wood is one of the strongest substances in the world, but its strength lies in one direction only. A thin strip of wood cut with the grain will withstand about three times as heavy a pull as steel wire of equal weight.

Oldest Church Bell.

The oldest known bell still in use is in the parish church of St. Mary of Loreto, at Villalago, in the Abruzzi mountains, Italy, and is dated 600 A. D. So that for over 1300 years it has called worshippers to prayer.

Good Ancient Philosophy.

It is desirable for a ruler that no man should suffer from cold and hunger under his rule. Man cannot maintain his standard of morals when he has no ordinary means of living.—Kenko Hoshi (Japanese Buddhist priest of the Fourteenth century).

Two Things to Mind.

"It ought to be easy," said Uncle Eben, "to lead a safe and peaceable life. All you really has to do is to mind de Ten Commandments an' de traffic signs."—Washington Star.

Novel Food Statistics.

A healthy man with a good appetite in 70 years assimilates over 96 tons of material, solid ad liquid, or, putting it another way, consumes over 1,280 times his own weight.

Prehistoric Pottery Jars.

Gigantic pottery jars, having a circumference of more than six feet, have been discovered in the prehistoric ruins of a city of cliff dwellers unearthed near Gobie, Ariz.

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