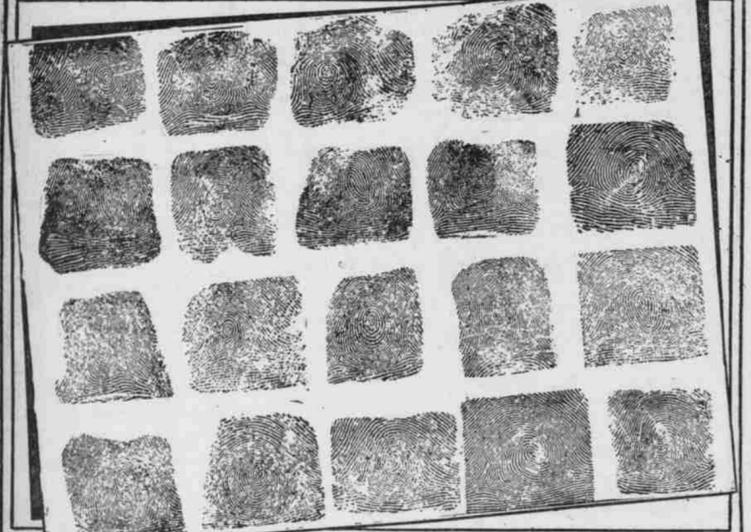


WAR DEPARTMENT RECORD OF FINGER PRINTS OF 5,000,000 MEN IS AID IN TRACING CRIMINALS

Identity Section Gets Daily Calls to Help Untangle Mysteries; Dead in Shipwrecks, Flood and Railway Accidents Often Identified Through Use of System Inaugurated in 1888.



Scene in the Identity Bureau Where There are More Than 5,000,000 Records.



Excellent Examples of "Whorl" Which is Most Distinct and Striking of Finger Print Patterns

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 29.—(Special).—Character development is frequently enumerated among the numerous benefits to be derived from service in the army of Uncle Sam, the inference being that after three years of contact with army discipline no one could find it in his heart to enter upon a life of crime. Without going into the merits of the war department's contentions as to the beneficial influences of army training, however, may be attempted without fear of successful contradiction that there are certain phases of army experience which may be deemed upon to act as a deterrent to possible criminal inclinations. Any prudent ex-serviceman with a knowledge of modern methods of penology would hesitate to enter upon a criminal career when he recalls that the war department has the fingerprints of his fellow soldiers, neatly catalogued and indexed and accessible upon demand to the police authorities of any city in America. In the old Ford theater building in Washington, historic as the scene of the assassination of President McKinley, the war department has the fingerprint records of more than 5,000,000 young Americans. This collection is believed to be the largest of its kind in the world, is largely the result of the draft. To be sure, the war department had maintained an identity section since 1888 and had been making fingerprint records of its officers and enlisted men since 1906, but by far the greater part of the enormous collection consists of the imprints of men who came into contact with the selective service machinery during the world war.

The value of this collection can scarcely be estimated. Hardly a day passes that the identity section is called upon to lend its aid in untangling a mystery. In hundreds of cases it has proved the means of identifying unknown dead in shipwrecks, floods and railway accidents; in a number of instances the deductions of its experts have been of great value in the prosecution of murderers and other criminals, and on still other occasions it has proved the means of establishing the innocence of persons accused through the force of circumstantial evidence had become entangled in the mesh of suspicion. The primary purpose of the identity section of the army is to identify unknown dead in time of war, and to keep undesirable ex-servicemen from re-enlisting under assumed names. It also has proved of great practical value in supplying soldiers with identification records necessary in securing discharges, and in addition it has proved a source of unexpected assistance to the police throughout the country in identifying criminals among discharged servicemen.

A recent example of the sort of inquiries that are coming in almost daily is that in connection with the Capt. Wanderer murder case, which for months baffled the police of Chicago. An effort was being made to identify the "ragged stranger" the man alleged to have been paid by Lieutenant Wanderer to stage a fake hold-up and who was shot by a Chicago policeman. The Chicago police believed the "ragged stranger" to be an ex-soldier of Milwaukee, who was known to the police as "Ed" M., either under his right name or that of Edward M. of Texas. Knowing that the fingerprint records of every man who served in the army since the identification system was installed were on file with the war department, they sent the imprints of the "ragged stranger" to Washington for comparison. It was found upon investigation that the fingerprint records of the "ragged stranger" were from Texas, but the fingerprints of the man slain in Chicago did not tally with those of any of the M.—s who had served.

The regular significance of finger prints results until 1886, when the fingerprint system was adopted in the war department. It is superior to any other so far devised, in that it is quick, compact and permanent in error. The other systems allowed errors of location of marks and errors of measurements, but the fingerprint system, as far as can be ascertained, is absolutely infallible.

"During the flood at Galveston, Tex., in 1915, the body of an unknown soldier was found among the debris washed ashore. The authorities, not knowing what to do, cut off two of the fingers of the deceased and sent them to Washington. The skin of the two fingers had on arrival become separated from the flesh, but by careful manipulation the skin was transferred and carefully preserved. Two pieces of wood formed into the shape of fingers and impressions were made thereon. The impressions were compared with those of a soldier who had enlisted at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., in 1913. "A man in uniform was found asphyxiated by gas in New York. There were no letters or papers on the body, but the police made a search of the records of the Washington police headquarters. When the record was presented to the identity section of the war department's office it required less than five minutes to discover that they were those of a man who had enlisted at Fort Slocum N. Y., in October, 1917. "Hundreds of other cases could be cited to show the absolute accuracy of the system. The system is employed by the war department, which is a modification of an impression of all ten fingers made on a form which is prepared for that purpose. As trees, bushes and plants are classified according to their various details, such as the shape of their leaves, "whorls," "arches" and "tents." You may have a "tent" or an "arch" or a "whorl" or a "loop" on your finger, and not know it until the identifying inspector looks at it with his enlarging glasses, then he can tell by a glance in his eye whether your finger print is one of the more than 5,000,000 prints which the war department has on file ready for instant use.

The first finger print record was received in the adjutant general's office on November 10, 1886, and the first man to be identified by this method was a man who was enlisted January 22, 1897, at Columbus Barracks, Ohio. He was discharged 30 days later as a man who had been rejected at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., on November 8, 1906, on account of an imperfect vision.

One of the greatest advantages gained by the finger print system is the ease with which the applicant for a passport, a license, or a discharge, or for any reason whatever, and prove himself the man he claims to be. In former times a "sworn" man, or a man who had been identified by getting witnesses who perhaps were scattered all over the country.

The finger print records of the war department have many times proved of assistance in the identification of persons and identifying criminals, but they have also proved valuable in freeing innocent persons who through circumstances had been unjustly involved in criminal cases. Shortly after a trunk murder mystery came to light in Detroit last year finger prints were taken from the trunk, and a man who was suspected of having killed a woman and shipped her body in a trunk from Detroit to New York was identified by his prints. He was able to prove conclusively that he was not the man who had been arrested, and was released. The police had every reason to believe that the man who had been arrested was the man who had been arrested, but the fingerprint records of the war department had proved otherwise.

IN THE PORTLAND CHURCHES

(Continued From Page 2) Teachings of Jesus. Miss Hilda Schuele will lead the discussion on the subject "Jesus' Teachings About Man and His Neighbor." Sunnyside Methodist church is alive with an interesting story to tell of a young boy in the "big" program mapped out for "Win My Church" week. A huge drive is now in full swing through the city, and the result is the largest Sunday school in the Oregon conference. This week a public reception will be held at the church, and the young people of the church will be given a special program. The Rev. J. J. Staub, pastor of the church, will speak at the reception.

Good Literature Sunday will be observed at both the morning and evening services at the Vancouver-avenue Norwegian-Danish Methodist Episcopal church, Vancouver, and the morning devotion will be "The Word of God." The evening service at 8 o'clock will be "The Most Beautiful Book Ever Written." The Rev. Gustav A. Staraker will speak at both services.

At the Rose City Park Methodist Episcopal church Dr. C. W. Huet, pastor, will speak at the 11 o'clock service on "The Word of God in Humanity." In the evening the theme will be "True Cause for Rejoicing."

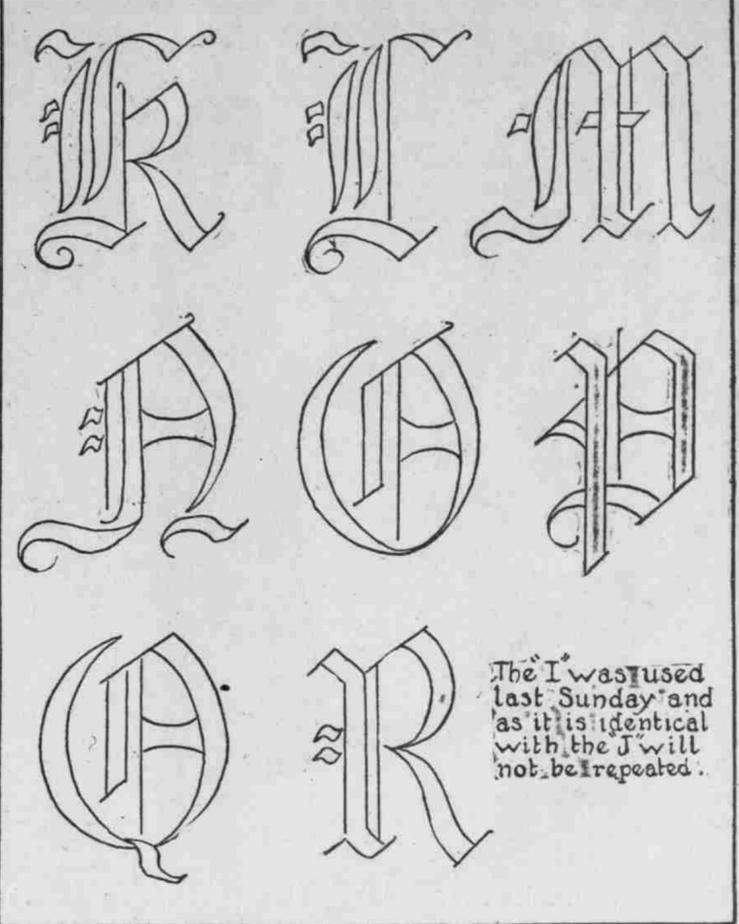
Rev. Alfred Bates, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church at Tualatin and Wilsonville, will have charge of the service at 11 a. m. this morning and will speak on "The Word of God in Humanity." In the evening the theme will be "True Cause for Rejoicing."

Rev. Harold H. Griffin will speak on "The Credibility of Christian Scriptures." The sermon this morning at 11 o'clock will be delivered by the pastor, Harold H. Griffin, on the parables of Jesus.

At an unusually interesting and attractive program has been arranged for the evening worship at 7:45. Mrs. Mary Adele Vann, choir leader, will present a musical offering of seven special numbers, consisting of solos, duets, trios and anthems. The main feature will be "The Credibility of Christian Scriptures," by Mrs. Eloise Hall Cook, soprano; Mrs.

OLD ENGLISH LETTERING IS CONSIDERED TO BE MOST POPULAR OF ANY JUST NOW

Initial, Beautifully Embroidered, Gives Air of Distinction to Any Article—Work Needs to be Perfectly Done to Look Well and Perfection Comes Only With Practice.



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THE old English is probably the most popular of all letters shown, judging by the frequent requests for it. An initial, beautifully embroidered, will give an air of distinction to any article. It is work that needs to be perfectly done to look well, and this perfection will only come with practice.

Initial letters should be first outlined in a close-running stitch, then the spaces filled in with a chain or other padding stitch. When a running stitch is used it should be longer on the upper side, and it should always be more heavily padded in the center than towards the edges, giving a curved or rounded surface when finished. The padding stitches must all be on the right side, having the stems that come to the wrong side as small as possible so as to keep the wrong side flat.

The embroidery should be done in a frame, and the stitch is a simple over and over, taken evenly and close together—always running at right angles to the padding and taken as close together as is possible without lapping.

The last installment will appear next Sunday.

Thursday at 8 P. M. The subject chosen for the next Thursday's lecture is "Concentration."

The lecture topic for 3 o'clock this afternoon at 441 East Twelfth, painted corner Sherman, with the Independent Bible Spiritualistic society and church will be "Reading the Vell."

Robert H. Reed will speak on "Powers and Possibilities of the Mind" at 10 o'clock in Modern Conservatory.

At the New Christian church (Swedenborgian) Rev. William R. Keene will speak on "Ideal Wifehood."

Homecoming day will be featured today at the East Side Christian church, corner Commercial and Taylor.

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