

THE WAYS OF PICKPOCKETS.

A Veteran Boston Detective Tells How They Fly Their Trade.

"Women are the most successful pickpockets." It was Police Inspector Knox who said it, and he knows. Nobody in town would dispute his right to be called the best man in town in this line of detective service. He uses almost his entire time in watching for pickpockets, and what he says about them is peculiarly interesting.

Said the Inspector, in explanation of the somewhat surprising statement quoted above, "The female professional pickpockets always seek victims among their own sex, as the women of to-day are given to carrying their pocket-books and watches in exposed places. Then, too, the thieves are less apt to be suspected because of their sex, and most important of all, for the reason that in the wide range of style of women's wraps nowadays they find plenty of opportunity to hide their hands while at work. A shawl or wrap of any sort, which seems to be carelessly carried on the left arm, hides the right hand while it feels for the location of a pocket and then makes its way to the pocket opening, where the top of the lining is seized, by the fingers. It is then but a moment's work to draw the lining up until the pocket is practically turned inside out and the contents drop into the pickpocket's hand. The fingers which do this work are never inserted deep into the pocket. They just catch the lining of the upper edge. The trick is done in a crowd where everybody's attention is riveted on a special object where a touch of a stranger's hand or even rough jostling itself is not heeded."

Generally a pickpocket is a confederate. Then if, as sometimes happens the loss of a pocketbook is immediately discovered, the real thief, having passed the purse to the confederate, can be as sympathetic as anybody, and, if suspicion makes it absolutely necessary, can submit to an examination with the same confidence in the result that might be felt by the most innocent person present. It is the way, however, that gives the female pickpockets the great advantage over the light-fingered thieves of the other sex, and the latter try to overcome this by using an overcoat, if the weather is not so cold that an overcoat carried on the arm will attract attention, or a linen duster in summer. Sometimes the men make a newspaper answer the purpose. If the male pickpockets are not the more successful they are at least the more adroit and audacious. They have to be so, for they don't confine themselves to women's pockets. They seldom try to take money from men's pockets, as close-fitting clothes make the risk of detection too great; but they find it an easy matter to steal, or, as it is termed, "ring," watches from men. This is done while the victim, with unbuttoned coat and expanded watch chain, stands in a street crowd. The thief slyly gets the watch from the pocket with one hand, while with the other he grasps the chain at the lower end. A short, quick jerk with both hands in opposite directions, and the ring which is the connecting link between the chain and the watch becomes separated from the watch stem. The watch is then in the hands of the thief, while the chain and ring are dangling down the front of the victim's waistcoat.

A person has but to try this trick with his own watch to see how easily it may be done. Pickpockets do these things in crowds, but they cannot always find a crowd, and sometimes have to resort to making one themselves. They do this generally on railroad trains, where the general hustle and bustle give them opportunity to get a well-dressed man in their clutches. As the victim is about to enter the car he is brought face to face with a man who is in a hurry to get out. The two squeeze together in a doorway, and two other men, both in a hurry, ascend the platform and also try to get into the same car. Three of the men are pickpockets, and the stranger is Water Monopoly in the Far West.

As the quick-witted Westerner stands by the side of one of the great rivers and looks over thousands of acres of desert land along its banks he sees a fortune in the situation. Only get capital enough together, organize a great company, dig an immense canal which will "appropriate" all the water in the river, and you can make a fortune. It is the position of the Western railroads repeated. Instead of waiting for settlers to come and dig little ditches as they need them, an immense capital digs one huge canal, watering thousands of farms, and then draws settlers by advertisement and boom. So all over the West, throughout Colorado, in Central and Southern California, in Montana and Idaho, on the Salt and Gila Rivers in Southern Arizona, there are great companies with capital running into the millions putting this idea into effect.

The canals they dig are twenty, thirty, or even fifty miles long. The largest are 100 feet wide and ten feet deep, rivers in themselves. They follow the contour of the country, running, running back farther and farther from the river as the latter falls away. The main canal gives off lateral branches at frequent intervals, and by an ingenious system of gates, crossings and ditches sends water to every foot of arable ground between it and the river. The land belongs to the Government, and is taken up by individual settlers at merely nominal prices under the "Desert Land act." But the water belongs to the land company, and it is this water that the settler pays for.—Scribner.

A Cure for Influenza.

The New York board of health furnishes the following prescription for the Russian influenza: Spray the affected membrane with a 10-per-cent solution of quinine freely and frequently, and take four or five times a day a pill made as follows: Quinine, three grains, camphor, one-half grain; extract of belladonna, one-fourth grain.

German chemists have discovered in the coconut a fatty substitute for butter, and it is being produced in large quantities at Mannheim. One factory turns out 6,000 pounds per day, worth 15 cents per pound.

A Difference—Boston and Chicago.

But a young man goes to Chicago, and with a letter or two of introduction and the breeding that justifies his presentation, and nothing in all their borders is too good for the stranger; private hospitality of the most refined and elegant order is given him; clubs are opened to him, and if he can sustain himself with the brains with which they credited him in advance he will have more in three months in Chicago than he would have in as many years in Boston.

A young fellow who went out there from Harvard a year earlier than the Saxon, and who is already in a position of a good deal of responsibility and advantage, was dining with us at the hotel one evening, and he said to us for hours with his fun; tales of contrast between the West and the East being especially diverting. He told us one that he said was old, and was surprised that we had not heard it. Since it had escaped us, I fancy there must be some others who missed it, and it may as well go home.

He said, let a young man come to Chicago with a letter of introduction, and it is hardly presented before a breezy person appears, seizes him by the hand, and exclaims, "How do you come? Why didn't I get your letter sooner? Is this your grip?" catches it, and adds, "Come right up to the house; mustn't stop at the hotel another hour; must make our house your headquarters while you stay; present your wife at once, and she'll be charmed to have you here"—all in a breath of exceedingly cordial welcome.

But let a fellow go to Boston and present his letter, and what happens? He gets around to the Boston man's office, and when his identity is duly certified the gentleman upon his native heath looks up over his spectacles, observes the youth with a kind of Calvinistic humor and says with grave, judicial deliberation: "So this is Mr. Van Jones, is it? How soon do you leave town? If you are going to stop over Sunday shall be glad to have you sit in our pew, No. 3, middle aisle, Church of the Frozen Angel. Good—morning!"—Boston Transcript.

Long Heads and Round Heads.

Long heads are usually associated with the possession of great intellectual strength and mental capacity, but not before they have been regarded as indicative of any physical peculiarity. Herr D. Ammon, however, has been making observations on 5,000 soldiers at Baden, and the result of these, which was communicated to the recent congress of German men of science at Heidelberg, shows that the proportions of the body almost invariably conform to the size of the skull. Tall men, Herr Ammon found, had generally long skulls or skulls of medium length, whereas the short men had round heads. Most of the round-headed men came from the Black forest; those with long heads usually belonged to the valley of the Rhine and were especially numerous in towns and in the neighborhood of the castles of ancient families. From this fact Herr Ammon concluded that the round-headed men had been the inhabitants of the Rhine valley, that they had been driven from it by long-headed invaders, and that the latter had established themselves near their victorious leaders. Not only does the German anthropologist find a certain relation between the height of the figure and the shape of the skull, but his observations show that no fewer than 80 per cent of the men examined who had blue eyes had fair hair and that physical growth is generally quicker in case of the brown-eyed than that of the blue-eyed type.—Globe-Democrat.

How Congressman Martin Buys Cigars.

Congressman William Martin of Texas, who was the innocent butt of a great deal of fun and practical joking at the last Congress, is perhaps the heaviest smoker in the official life of the capital. He has been described and illustrated extensively, but all the pen and pencil pictures of him lack one all-important feature, the never failing cigar.

The fragrant weed is his great comfort and consolation, to which he resorts almost constantly in his waking hours. He is not particular as to brand, quality, style, or price. There is a cigar stand in the corridor of the House which he patronizes unreluctantly. When he steps up to the counter he says to the clerk, briefly, "Cigars." If the clerk lays down on the case a handful of Major Martin counts them, lights one, puts the others in his vest pocket, and asks, "How much?" The amount is stated and paid. If only one cigar is laid on the case he takes it just the same and says likewise, simply, "How much?" The clerk, as may be expected, keeps him well supplied.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

two for a cent now?

"Good gracious, no! Nutmegs are 5 cents apiece." "I'll never pay it. I'll wait until Mr. Day is going down to Strongsville. I've been told they were two for five there." "They cost that. However, I've got a broken one in the jar, and I'll throw that in. Now, what else?" "Nothing, I guess. I've got to run around to Hannah Joy's to give her a cure for rheumatism in the elbow, and while I am gone you can empty my crock and basket, put the parcels in the buggy, and get the bride on to old Jim. Weather feels like a thunder shower, and I guess I'd better get home early."—N. Y. Star.

Jute Twine.

Hitherto only hemp twine has been employed by the British postoffice in making up bags and parcels, but experiments with jute cord having proved successful it has been decided to extend the use of jute throughout the country. The hemp twine costs from 61-2 pence to 1 shilling per pound, whereas the jute is being purchased at 3-2 pence, and it is computed by the change the government will save about £10,000 annually.

A calf whose back is covered with fine fur instead of the regulation hair is one of the curiosities of the

Snake Charming Is a Gift.

Men with snakes in their boots are of such frequent occurrence that they have no attractions as curiosities; but a woman with snakes in her hair has proved a great and drawing attraction at Wonderland. Not only has she snakes in her hair, but they are wound about her white throat like a necklace and twined about her wrists like bracelets.

"There, there, Samson, old fellow, don't get excited," she said in a low, purring tone to the great boa constrictor that was wound about her and which is vicious and ugly if teased.

"He sprang at a man's head once," she said, "make a leap of four feet with his mouth open, but he missed, and we caught him again."

"Does he know your voice?" "Indeed he does, just like a dog or any animal. When the man who takes care of him puts a tray of hot water in the bottom of the trunk where the snakes are kept Samson hisses angrily. Be quiet, Baby—there—there, pet."

"Baby" is a small snake of a lighter color that Miss Fatima, the snake charmer, wears in the electric hair ornaments which she wears. "Pythons" is a South American snake. Samson she has raised from his infancy. This snake could crush in her ribs with one turn of its little body; but refrains from love of its trainer.

"How often do you feed them?" "Once in six weeks. Then we give them all a full meal of live pigeons, rabbits and other things."

Miss Fatima was restoring them to their warm blankets in the trunk. They clung to her bare arms and ran out their forked tongues and seemed loth to return to the snake chest. One lay supinely along the iron railing, moving its head to and fro at the curious crowd that watched its every motion. The snake-charmer picked it up with her jeweled fingers and pressed its ugly muzzle against her delicate cheek. "You wouldn't hurt me, would you pet?" she purred as she caressed it before dropping it with its mates in among the warm blankets.

"You've got more nerve than I have," said a man who had been watching her. "Do you use anything to charm them with?" "Nothing. Snake-charming is a gift. It was born with me," she answered.—Detroit Free Press.

Hairpin and All.

Such a thing as wearing different sorts of bangs on various occasions is common enough among girls, your correspondent is led to believe, says the Albany Argus. And this reminds him of a lady he knows who affects a great deal of the lack of sentiment and excessively common-sense ways characteristic of the Boston girl. One evening not long ago a young man whom she cordially disliked had been making her a visit, gushing over as usual, with idiotic compliments. At last, with an air and accent designed to be quite irresistible and heart crushing, he said: "My dear Miss P., your hair is so beautiful. Should I be venturing too gross a liberty if I begged you to give me one little lock of it?"

"Not at all, Mr. K." replied the lady in a matter-of-fact tone, "you are quite welcome." And with that she deliberately detached a small curl from above her pink little ear, on the left side, and gravely presented it, hairpin and all, to the important dude. Of course he took it. He could not perceive that there was anything else for him to do.

Do the Dying Suffer Pain?

The rule is that unconsciousness, not pain, attends the final act in natural death is not more painful than birth. Painlessly we come; whence we know not. Painlessly we go; where we know not. Nature kindly provides an anesthetic for the body when the spirit leaves it. Previous to that moment, and in preparation for it, respiration becomes feeble, generally slow and short, often accompanied by long inspirations, and short, sudden expirations, so that the blood is steadily less and less oxygenated. At the same time the heart acts with corresponding debility, producing a slow, feeble, and often irregular pulse. As this process goes on the blood is not only driven to the head in diminished force and in less quantity, but what flows there is loaded with carbonic acid gas, a powerful anesthetic. Subjected to the influence of this gas the nerve centers lose consciousness and sensibility, apparent sleep creeps over the system; then comes stupor, and then the end.—St. Louis Republic.

Mr. Grady's Boyhood.

When we returned to Athens from Washington in 1880 was the first time I remember to have known Henry Grady. I remember the first time I ever saw him. The boys in Athens were in the habit of going in swimming at Trail Creek, which runs into the Oconee River at the lower bridge at Athens. As I approached the wash-house I heard different boys calling out: "Look here, Henry Grady!" "Watch this, Henry Grady," and so on, and I was at once impressed with the idea: That must be a fellow of some importance, as they are all trying to gain his approval and commendation. I remember his beautiful form and face as he swam in the water that afternoon. He was always a leader in everything he went into. In every kind of game, football, shinny, baseball, which was just coming into vogue, he was at the head. At one time I remember him as captain of a military company of little fellows armed with broomsticks, tin horns or some other weapons.—Augusta Chronicle.

A Hand Expedition.

The Lewiston Journal says a Maine constable had a hard experience the other day. He went out after a gang of poachers, and was not only cordially received by them but was invited to accompany them on a hunting expedition. The reason for so much cordiality was not apparent until the officer found that his late companions had managed to leave him alone on an uninhabited island, where they kept him for several days.

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