



**STORY FROM THE START**

Dr. Ronald McAllister, psychologist, undertakes to solve the mystery of the murder of a reclusive, Henry Morgan. The dead man's papers reveal that he had been in New Zealand, where McAllister had lived in his youth. Will Harvey testifies to seeing a woman in a green cloak at the Morgan home the night of the murder. Doctor McAllister is asked to see a young woman patient in a hospital. In her delirium she mutters in a strange language which only McAllister understands. He suspects she may know something of the murder. A carefully hidden map is discovered by McAllister and Assistant District Attorney Ashton in Morgan's home. While they are searching a young woman enters the house in the darkness and escapes, leaving behind a green cloak. The name of Jane Perkins, a housemaid, is brought into the case and McAllister believes he has a clue. In response to an advertisement of the finding of a green cloak, a young woman, giving her name as Jane Perkins, housemaid at The Meredith, claims it. McAllister takes two laboratory instruments to The Meredith for an undisclosed purpose.

**CHAPTER VI—Continued**

And yet his manner when he took the chair that Wilkins placed for him, and glanced over the menu card suddenly became leisurely and deliberate. He had a little chat with Wilkins, taking the advice of that gastronomic expert as seriously as if a good dinner were the only subject that he felt the slightest interest in just then.

The waiter got our order at last and went away with it to the kitchen, and Wilkins himself, with a grave inclination of the head, started to move away, but the doctor called him back. "I wonder, Wilkins," he said, "whether you can find out for me if there is a chambermaid named Jane Perkins employed in the hotel."

The man shot a quick look of surprise into the doctor's face, a look quite at variance with his ordinary stiff immobility.

"Yes, sir, there is such a young woman working here," he said. "It happens that I am acquainted with her personally."

"Ah," said the doctor in a tone of satisfaction, "that simplifies matters. I might have known that you would be able to help me. Wilkins, it happens that I very much wish to have a little conversation with that young woman."

Wilkins inclined his head gravely, without a word.

"You'll arrange it for me, won't you?" said the doctor. "I'd like to have her sent to my room immediately after dinner."

There was a momentary silence after that. Both of us looked up in some surprise that the man did not answer. His face was unusually grave.

"I beg your pardon, sir," he said with a little hesitation; "I hope you'll forgive the liberty, but I have, as I was saying, something of a personal interest in that young woman. I hope she's not in any difficulty, sir. I hope that she has not been doing anything that she shouldn't have done."

"I'm inclined to think not," said the doctor, "but unless I am mistaken, she's in a difficulty."

Wilkins said nothing, but his silence was expectant. He was too well trained to ask any questions, but it was very evident that he wanted to know more.

"I think I may venture to be frank with you, Wilkins," the doctor resumed. "Of course what I say is between ourselves, and I want your promise to say nothing of it to the young woman in question."

"Yes, sir; certainly, sir."

"In the investigation of the Oak Ridge murder the other night a certain green cloak was found, which in the state attorney's office, is believed to have been worn by an unknown woman who committed that crime. That cloak was advertised as found. In the afternoon papers, and was almost immediately claimed and identified beyond a doubt by this Jane Perkins, who gave The Meredith as her address—"

"She didn't do it, sir," Wilkins interrupted quickly. "I'm sure she can't be guilty of the crime of murder. She's a very quiet girl, sir—a good girl."

"I have made a little investigation of that mystery on my own account," said the doctor, "and I'm inclined to think you're right. I should, however, be glad to have some better founded reason for that opinion. There are certain circumstances which point at her directly enough to bring her under serious suspicion and to make her a good deal of trouble. If Mr. Phelps and I can convince ourselves, in advance, of her innocence, we will gladly do all that is within our power, both in representations we will make to

Mr. Ashton and otherwise, to shield her."

"That's very good of you, sir," said Wilkins. "I'll see that she's sent up to your room the moment you have finished dinner."

There was another little silence; still Wilkins kept his place beside our table. Presently, after a little apologetic cough, he spoke again.

"It strikes me, sir, that it might, perhaps, be as well if the young woman were not to know that she was to be questioned. If she is innocent, it would only fluster her, and if she is guilty, it would give her time to prepare herself. If you wish, I will arrange to have her sent to your apartments. Instead of the regular chambermaid who works upon that floor, to prepare your bedrooms for the night. In that way she'll suspect nothing."

The doctor glanced at him shrewdly. "That was a very able suggestion, Wilkins. Thank you for making it."

"Not at all, sir," said Wilkins. "For the present," the doctor concluded, "you will remember that you



The Man Shot a Quick Look of Surprise into the Doctor's Face.

are to say nothing of this conversation to anyone, either to the other people in the hotel, or to—Mr. Ashton."

"Certainly not, sir."

The arrival of some other people in the dining room called him away just then, and we did not see him again until we were half through our meal. Then, looking up, we found him standing, silently, in his old place.

"The matter is arranged, sir," he said to the doctor. "The young person is at her own dinner just now, but she'll go up to attend to your rooms in about half an hour."

"Very good," said the doctor. "We can have our instruments ready by that time."

At the word "instruments" the man started, and, looking up, I found him regarding the doctor with a queer, half-frightened expression.

"Speaking of instruments, sir," he said, stammering a little, "there isn't going to be any mesmerism, or—"

The doctor interrupted him with a full-voiced laugh. "No hocus-pocus whatever, Wilkins; no black art, no clairvoyance, or anything of that sort. The instruments I speak of simply serve the purpose of a stop-watch, and the test is a perfectly simple, straightforward one."

Then, seeing that the man was still not entirely convinced, he added, "You can be present yourself, if you care to be."

"That's very good of you, sir," said the man. "On the young woman's account I will be glad to come, if you

can wait until I can leave the dining room. That will be about eight-thirty, sir. I'd be sorry to keep you waiting, but she might be alarmed at any sort of test, and she has a good deal of confidence in me, sir."

"Very good," said the doctor, "only don't come up to the room with her. Follow along later, on some errand or other, and we'll call you in. Perhaps we'll make a little demonstration on you in advance, just to give her confidence."

A look of decorous amusement appeared on Wilkins' face.

"That will be very interesting, I'm sure, sir," he said. As he bowed himself away I could see that he was still smiling.

"It's curious," I observed to the doctor. "We've seen that man daily since we came here to The Meredith to live, but I got an absolutely new impression of him this evening. It never occurred to me before that when he laid aside his professional manner he might be a thoroughly human, kindly old chap, with as many affections and concerns as any of us, and with, perhaps, about the same opinion of our reality as we have all ways had of his."

"We'd better get on," said the doctor, "sitting the action to the word. We haven't any time to waste."

As we walked over toward the elevator Wilkins preceded us and rang the bell for us, just as he always did. I had it my tongue's end to make some reference to our engagement with him for a little later in the evening, not that it was necessary, but simply because it was more natural to say, "In half an hour, then," or something of that sort, than merely to nod and answer his good night. I think he must have perceived that intention, certainly he checked it by looking just then, a little more wooden and professional than ever. I understood when I glanced over his shoulder and saw that Ashton had just come in. He was not looking our way. Whether he had made a point of not looking, I do not know; but I was glad that I had not blurted out, in his hearing, any reference to the unusual and highly unprofessional sort of engagement that the doctor and I had with Wilkins.

"A rather remarkable man," said I, as we stepped into the elevator.

The doctor nodded.

A few minutes later, in the doctor's spacious sitting room where we had set up our instruments and now sat waiting for the arrival of the subject we meant to test by them, we heard a rap at the door.

"No timidity about that," observed the doctor in a whisper; "and no effort, either. A plain, common-sense, professional knock. Let her in, will you, Phelps?"

It was with a mounting excitement that I crossed the room and laid my hand on the knob, for there, on the other side of that door, was one of the elements of our mystery. What would she prove to be? Another innocent person, tangled by pure chance in the spider's web of circumstance which surrounded our mystery; or would she turn out to be, herself, one of the spinners of the web?

When I opened the door I got, instantaneously, a very good view of the girl, for the sitting-room was brightly lighted and the little entrance hallway where she stood comparatively dark. And that first look of mine brought a disappointment, there was no doubt of that. I had not known exactly what I had expected Jane Perkins to be like, but something different from this, certainly. The whole look of her as she stood there, an appearance so pervasive that it baffled analysis, was of stolid stupidity.

Her eyes were dull, her cheeks a very dark red, so that as I looked at her first I suspected a perfectly reckless use of cosmetic. Of course the standard I compared her by was the wild girl in the hospital, for upon the doctor's theory of Harvey's testimony, that wild girl's profile had reminded him forcibly of this English housemaid. There was a crude sort of resemblance between the two faces—the heavy brows and lashes, the black hair and general contour of the features. Indeed, the thing that occurred to me as I stood there was the ridiculous futility of written descriptions of faces, when the same description would include two people whose general air and appearance were so diametrically different.

I found it impossible to describe the wildness and curious unearthly distinction of that other face; I found it as difficult to analyze the tameness, the commonplace banality of this one. And yet, seen in silhouette, they might look a good deal alike.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

**Birds to Be Classed as Master Builders**

Birds are the most perfect builders, and—strange as it may sound—there is scarcely a trade that you will not find represented among these feathered craftsmen.

Many of the nests of American birds are marvels of ingenuity, but their greatest efforts pale beside the wonders of the tropics. Weavers, carpenters, tailors, plasterers, tunnelers—these are but a few of the many trades that we find practiced when the nesting season arrives.

The sand-martin and the kingfisher, both belong to the guild of tunnelers, and are content with a burrowed hole. Ducks, gulls, water hens, and cranes are all primitive builders, with no ideas beyond a rough and scanty collection of materials loosely thrown together on the ground.

The house swallow is a plasterer,

employing as his building materials nothing more than mud, but out of this he contrives to erect a nest that is wonderfully strong, and put together with neatness and care.

The singing thrush uses more varied materials, a mixture of clay, cow manure, and moss, but well and truly laid, and forming a splendid home for the young birds.

**That's Philosophy**

A philosopher is a fellow who sits back and laughs at the people who have taken what he stands for as philosophy.—Baltimore Evening Sun.

**Synthetic Philosophy**

The synthetic philosophy is the name given to Herbert Spencer's system.

**POULTRY FACTS**

**ORNAMENTAL AND OTHER CHICKENS**

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Chickens of the Continental European, oriental, game, ornamental, and miscellaneous classes often have an unusual appeal, and a breeder who may first be attracted to such fowls by their unusual plumage or form may later develop a flock which has decided utility value, says the United States Department of Agriculture, Farmers' Bulletin No. 1507-F, "Standard Breeds and Varieties of Chickens II," just issued, discusses the qualities of the various breeds and varieties listed so that the inexperienced person may make a wise selection by reason of familiarity with the merits of each.

The Continental European class includes several breeds, among them the Polish. This breed was formerly popular in the United States, but with the increase in popularity of the Leghorn, interest in the Polish variety waned. It is still popular, however, as an ornamental fowl. A characteristic feature of all Polish birds is a crest surmounting the head.

There are bantams in several classes of the larger chickens and also classes of bantams for which there are no corresponding larger breeds. The bulletin discusses the more important characteristics of the breeds and varieties in the classes mentioned.

A copy of the new publication may be obtained free upon application to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

**Finishing Poultry for Market Difficult Task**

Finishing fowls for market is not fully comprehended by the average poultryman. It is practically an art, and one must be guarded largely by previous conditions.

In the case where birds have been confined to a yard the entire season, they may be penned in a small enclosure and finished up for market in about ten days simply by feeding them all they can eat.

But when fowls have had unlimited range it is best not to shut them up and begin stuffing them from the start. Such a course is often attended by considerable loss. Fattening must be done gradually.

A favorite fattening mixture is made as follows: Corn meal, three parts; ground oats, one part; bran, one part; crude tallow, one part—all parts by weight.

The entire mess should be scalded and given for the first three meals of the day, with all the corn and wheat the fowls will consume at night. Sweet potatoes are also excellent for fattening. They should be cooked and thickened with cornmeal. They will put more flesh on a hen in the shortest time than any other food known.

**Picking Geese Feathers**

Geese yield an abundant crop of feathers, but they should not be picked until after the breeding season. The feathers are ripe for picking when the quills appear dry and do not contain blood. Although the demand for these feathers is increasing, the feathers add to the profit of geese raising. Geese should not be picked just before marketing as the feathers must be right for the fowls to bring highest prices.

**Poultry Notes**

Laying hens need water and neglect to provide it may seriously reduce the egg yield.

Much disease can be kept out of the poultry flock by burying or burning the dead birds.

In mixing a ration the physical effect of a feed must be considered as well as the chemical nutrients.

Poultry yards are necessary on the farm, if the flock is to be properly cared for. Disease prevention and control are impossible if the hens range all over the farm.

Ground oats may be used for growing stock or laying hens when fed in limited quantities.

A straw left in the poultry house is an advantage to the flock owner. The straw left helps to keep the house cool during summer and warm during winter.

Too much salt is a poison for hens, but they need a little just as humans do. A pound to 100 pounds of mash improves their appetite and aids digestion.

Let the chickens on the farm rough it and rustle for themselves and they will give little in return.

The hens should exercise and have plenty of green food. If they are fed properly and not overfed, you will have no trouble with soft-shelled eggs.

Bran mixed with meat scraps fed dry in hoppers, oats scattered in a litter of straw, corn fed on the cob and anything in the shape of green stuff, such as beets, cabbage, pumpkins, etc., should be fed to hens.

**DAIRY TALES**

**DAIRYMEN CHANGE VIEWS ON FEEDS**

Dairymen now favor moderate protein feeding, says E. J. Perry, New Jersey state extension specialist in dairying. Mr. Perry reports that a number of the leading dairymen have found that rations containing too much protein are likely to cause udder troubles and sometimes breeding difficulties.

The practice among the most successful dairymen is to get a considerable part of the protein needed in the ration from alfalfa, clover, soy bean or other legume hay. With hay of this nature a grain mixture containing 16 to 18 per cent total crude protein has given excellent results. When corn stover, timothy or other hay low in protein is used, the practice is to furnish the animals with a grain mixture containing 24 per cent total crude protein.

Experience has shown, says the specialist, that variety is helpful in keeping dairy cattle in good condition and in their highest production. The old two-grain mixtures are being superseded by feeds composed of four or more kinds of grains. Biochemists report that where a variety of grains is used, the animals are more likely to get the different vitamins and other constituents needed by the animals.

Observation of thousands of dairy animals on farms and under tests at experiment stations has shown that no set rules can be given controlling the quantity of roughage and grains needed by individual animals. The needs of various cows differ according to breed, weight, production, temperament and season. By weighing both the milk given by the animal and the feed supplied to her, the leading dairymen experiment until it is found what amount of feedstuffs cause the animal to give the largest amount of milk. To assist dairymen in solving feeding and other dairy problems, the college of agriculture maintains a staff of experts whose assistance is furnished free.

**Dry Cows Require Good Feeding and Long Rest**

If dry cows are to produce well during the coming lactation period it is necessary that they receive proper feed while they are dry. Dry cows should not be fattened, but they should receive sufficient feed so that they become sleek and vigorous in appearance. When cows are bred for high milk production, they have the tendency to use up some of their body tissues in producing milk.

In order to prepare cows for their next period of lactation they deserve a rest period of six weeks. During this time they should receive feeds that will tend to develop their bodies and make up for any deficiencies that developed during the time when they were producing milk. When this policy is adopted in handling dry cows, the rest period can be put to profitable use.

**Commercial Mixed Feeds of Several Ingredients**

Commercial mixed feeds usually contain a wide variety of ingredients obtained from several different plants. These feeds are especially convenient for the small dairyman who must buy most of his concentrates or who finds difficulty in getting the ingredients for mixing a good ration at home. They may be mixed with ground corn, barley or oats to good advantage, the proportions depending on the amount of protein in the commercial feed. Each feeder must exercise his judgment in this regard. The most important point to consider in buying a commercial feed is the reliability of the manufacturer.

**Dairy Notes**

Alfalfa develops healthy growth in young stock.

Separators do not operate efficiently if the bowl is not properly balanced.

The greatest loss to the dairy keeper is caused by improper feeding.

Protect a cow from cold drafts for a few days after calving, as her vitality is low.

Get ready for winter. Production is bound to fall off in winter unless the cows are comfortable.

New alfalfa hay is very palatable and the cows will eat it with a relish even if the pasture is in fair condition.

The richer the cream, the easier it is to churn. But have it fairly cool—about 70 degrees—or else you'll lose a good deal of butter.

The program on every farm should provide for the growing of all or most of the dairy herd, as this is necessary to insure the most profits.

The more skim milk used to flush the bowl, the thinner will be the cream. Therefore, always use the same amount. Always use skim milk and not water for flushing the bowl.

**ORCHARD GLEANINGS**

**RENEW ORCHARDS DURING WINTER**

"Much may be done during the winter to put the home orchard in better shape for the coming season," says Prof. Joseph Oskamp of the New York State College of Agriculture at Ithaca. "Old, neglected trees may be rejuvenated by the removal of all dead, diseased and weak branches.

"If the trees are in bad condition, this may be all the pruning advisable for the first year. In this kind of pruning, it is important to make the cuts close to the parent branch, so as not to leave stubs that will invite decay. Wounds more than three or four inches across should be painted with a good lead-and-oil paint the summer following.

"The center of all trees," Professor Oskamp goes on, "should not be drastically opened up by cutting out large limbs, as this generally causes sun scald and other consequent troubles. It is desirable, however, to lower moderately the tops of high trees by heading them back to vigorous lateral branches. At the time of such a pruning, many of the smaller branches of fruiting wood (an inch or so in diameter) should be taken out all through the top and around the outside of the tree.

"Manure is good for keeping up fertility and humus, and fruit trees which are being cultivated do not generally need commercial fertilizers unless the soil is poor. In sod orchards nitrate of soda or sulphate of ammonia will help the trees, and a grass or straw mulch helps the trees by holding moisture and ultimately enriching the soil."

**Let Purpose of Arbor Determine the Pruning**

Grapevines are not usually grown on arbors for fruit alone, but must also furnish shade and often act as a screen to shut out some undesirable view. For these reasons, says the New Jersey State college pomology department, pruning must be done with these various things in mind, at least for the general purpose arbor.

Where vines are not pruned at all, they may serve their purpose as screens or for shade, but will produce only a small amount of inferior fruit and will become so filled with old wood that they will not be at all ornamental. On the other hand, if the pruning is severe enough for optimum fruit production, the vines will be a little too thin to produce much shade early in the summer.

Fruit is borne only on new wood, so enough vigorous one-year-old canes must be left to produce the crop. It is better to leave renewal canes six to ten buds long than to cut to short spurs. Such canes should be tied in at least two places to prevent their being broken off by the weight of the fruit. For optimum fruit production from 35 to 50 buds should be left on each vine. Where shade is desired, however, this number may be considerably increased, although it will result in smaller clusters and less fruit.

As much as possible of the old wood should be removed each year, leaving only enough to support the productive canes. This will cause the growth to be more vigorous and make pruning easier the next year.

**Cut Scion Wood While Tree Is Still Dormant**

Many fruit growers are planning to top-work undesirable varieties of apples next spring.

In order to insure success, the scion wood should be cut from the desired variety while dormant, advises E. L. Pierstorff, extension specialist in fruit growing at the New Jersey state college of agriculture, Brunswick. Good scion wood, he points out, can be obtained from one-year-old well-matured terminal growth or from sucker growth, giving well-developed buds. The former is more desirable when it can be obtained.

To keep such scions dormant and to prevent them from drying out, they should be stored in moist sand or moist sawdust and placed in cold storage, a cool basement, or on the north side of a building where it is cool. If the soil in such locations is sandy the scions can be buried in the ground with only the tips sticking out.

The best time for grafting is in the spring after the bark slips well and before the trees are in full leaf. Some growers have secured satisfactory results by doing the grafting earlier or later than the time specified, but there is always an unnecessary risk if it is not done at the proper time.

**Fall Planting Hazardous**

The best time to plant fruit trees is in the early spring. Fall planting is more hazardous because of the danger of a dry cold winter which will sometimes kill the newly planted trees. However, if the winter proves to be favorable, the fall planted trees will have some advantage over those planted in the spring. If planted in the fall, fruit trees should be allowed to mature thoroughly before they are dug. This usually delays planting till November 1 or a little later.