

News of the Churches

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Sunday School 10 a. m.
B. Y. P. U. 6.30 p. m.

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CRACKSMAN AND CLEVER BURGLARS

By WILLIAM K. GIBBS

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 started the steady 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, intelligent 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.

"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 confiding tone, the speaker said:

"You see, I'm anxious to make the 'pitch' 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 a 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 selected off one corner of the room, and screening 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 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's no look 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" undressed 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 'queued' 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," smirked the prisoner, dejectedly, "but I'm no piker. I'll go quietly."

"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 taxi cab 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, suddenly 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 special 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 fool me or I'm afraid I might lose control of my trigger-finger."

"Aren't you going to send us to the 'strut'?" 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.'"

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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 traid 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.

We Belong Already!
There are so many societies, organizations and what not, that some day people who don't belong to anything at all may organize on that account.—Detroit Free Press.

Birds Have Two Speeds.
Birds have two flying speeds. A normal rate which is used for everyday purposes and for migration, and an accelerated speed which is used for protection or pursuit.

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.

Cylinder Measurements.
The distance around a cylinder increases 6 1/4 inches for every inch of thickness of a layer of material placed on it, regardless of the original diameter.—Science Service.

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

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

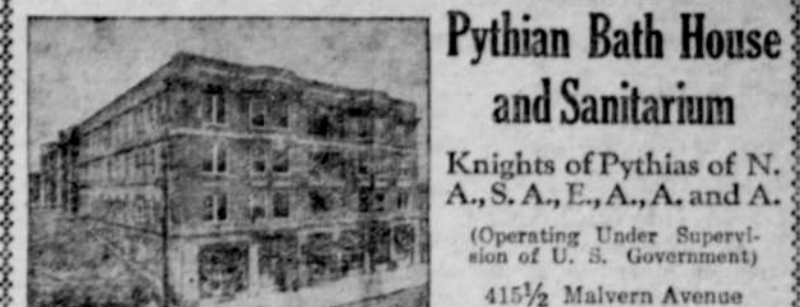
Sea Salt Content Shown.
The salt content of the sea is about 35 pounds to 1,000 pounds of water.

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I. B. P. O. E. OF THE WORLD



NOTICE
Dahlia Temple No. 202, I. B. P. O. E. of W., of Portland, Oregon, meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday nights in each month at Stag Auditorium. All visiting Daughter Elks in good standing in their respective Temples are invited to meet with us.

PAULINE YOUNG, Daughter Ruler.
LULA HUBBARD, Daughter Secretary.

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