

# The Creeping Thing

(Continued from page three)

the undertaker, was before me. I was forced to take an arm and so we helped to place the heavy body on the bed. Al left then to telephone for his "dead wagon." But Dr. Varrant, by perfectly legitimate busying of himself about the body on the bed, kept me from any closer or detailed examination of the scalped head. We looked everywhere about that room for the circular bit of flesh with the hair of the "scalplock," as the Indians term the hair on the top of the head, but search as we would, we could find no trace of it. I wondered and conjectured for a long time about a curious movement that kept recurring to my memory. It was one of those things that we do not note at the time but which subsequent events bring out like

chemical ink-marks that are susceptible to heat but are invisible under ordinary conditions. It was a furtive motion that Dr. Varrant had made as he stooped to examine the body.

I had seen him at first as he stooped. He stood at the head. The whole of the upper part of the body had been visible to all of us as he held that position. But a second later he interposed himself between the rest of us and his examination. I had noted that he reached across and slightly under the head low down about where the shoulder would be as nearly as one could estimate from the viewpoint of all the others in the room who stood behind him.

As he seemed to manipulate the upper part of the body, there had been, my memory visualized very clearly, something furtive in his movements and then—the next step was etched clearly on my memory canvas—he had moved the hand that had been fumbling under the head, across his body, out of the line of vision of those who watched, back toward himself. And now, just at the edge of the lapel of his coat was a faint red smudge on his white shirt front.

I determined to make a close scrutiny of Alene Hardmore's scalped poll as soon as I could get the opportunity, and meanwhile I would keep a careful check upon Dr. Varrant, coroner of Calpus county.

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# The Paris Pepper-Pot

(Continued from page two)

of John the Baptist. She had a control over her "lummy" and the contiguous regions as great as others have over their fingers. It is easy to explain now why rich Americans leave home.

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able man, says he welcomes guests from all parts of the world. There is Viennese, and Hungarian and Russian music. Our friend, Wellmon, who was the life of the place, played selections from Lohengrin and other operas, and the next moment he jazzed them. His wife, a clever dancer, also did her acts, the two proving a very popular number.

There is also the Marcelle Reier Band, and M. Rienz, the happy-go-lucky singer and impersonator, who certainly helped to make things gay. M. Rienz has played in all the leading cabarets of Europe, and is known as "The Stegried of the Cabarets."



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Stars from all the leading Paris reviews also appear nightly, and we had the pleasure of meeting there the charming and clever dancer, Mile. Gaby Bru, of the Folies-Bergere, who very amiably presented us with one of her pictures autographed.

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