THE POISONED **BOOTS**

By H. M. EGBERT

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SUSPECTED Louise Carey from the first; but in that I was no different from the farmer's neighbors. John Carey had married a second time, late in life, when his three sons were growing up to manhood. Jim, the eldest, was twenty; Frank, eighteen; Leonard, the youngest, fourteen.

John Carey was rich, and Louise Brand had been a poor girl in'the city when the elderly man, making a business trip there, saw her working as a stenographer in the lawyer's office. The courtship was brief, and they were married three weeks after their first meeting.

John Carey had been a close-fisted man, but a good neighbor and had been generally esteemed. He fell under the rule of his young wife. His yons resented the stranger's presence in the home. Quarrels between father and sens ensued. There was a bad one a week besore the farmer's death. He changed his will, leaving werything to his wife, with reversion to Leonard, the youngest, the only one who cared for his stepmother. Between the two a devoted attachment

The motive for murdering John Carey? Fear lest he should change his will again. Three days later Carey came in from the field, where he had been binding, in high spirts, He had his supper, pulled off his boots, complained of feeling ill, and lay down on the lounge. Nobody else was in the When his wife entered, an hour later, he was dead, his lower limbs and body terribly swollen.

It was like snake poison; the experts said the condition of the body rescmbled that of a man who had been struck by a rettler. But there was no rattice in the house, though they were plentiful in the field. If Carey had been killed by a snake, the poison would have taken effect before he en-

John Carey was buried, and the few whispers on the part of the neighbors died away. Jim and Frank had left the house at the time of the quarrel. They started suit, alleging undue They had removed their personal effects, including some clothng, the property of their father. Close-fisted like him, they did not see the sense of leaving his effects to Louise; and she offered no objection.

It was just a month later that the second death occurred. Jim Carey had gone to the stepmother's house to talk things over with ber. Louise Carey was a sensible woman and had volun teered to come to a settlement. Ac cording to her story, they had practically reached an agreement. She had given her stepson ten, and he had complained that his father's boots hurt nim and pulled them off. A few moments later be began to complain. She ran to the telephone and summoned the doctor, recognizing the same symptoms as those of which her husband had died. Before the doctor arrived, Jim was dead, and dreadfully swollen.

The boots? They were a pair of high, farmers' boots, and John Carey had worn them for nearly a year be fore his death. If there was poison in the boots, it would have taken effect long before. Jim had worn them during his four-mile tramp from where he lived to his stepmother's house. It was suspected that she had a store of poison, which she had socretly admin istered. The police ransacked the house from roof to cellar, but could find nothing. It was then that I was

Universally suspected, universally shunned, Airs, Carey lived a wretched life. The little boys had begun to call out after her in the street. She would have left the house but for Leonard, who believed in her, and to whom she was passionately devoted. I resided in village, assumed the guise of an intending purchaser of real estate, and in that capacity I visited the Carey farm, to talk over the price. Carey was willing to sell, after the trouble had been cleared up. She strack me as a sensible woman, and I had my doubts as to ber zulpability.

The farmer's boots had been thrown away in the attic, with the rest of his clothing. I found an opportunity, by going to the house when Mrs. Carey was away, to look at them. It did occur to me that there might be some snake venom in them, but I assured myself that this was not the case. Besides, as most people know, snake venom acts as a toxic agent only when introduced through an abrasion. Swailowed, it is harmless. And it seemed improbable in the extreme that, even if there were poison in the boots, there would have been an abrasion on the foot of each of the two men exactly where the poison would be free to enter.

And, again, rattlesnakes, for all their reputation, only inflict a maximum of discomfort, not death. I think the number of cases of fatal rattlesnake poisoning is less than a dozen. It would have been impossible for the men to have died in so short a time.

Quite by accident, however, I learned that a circus had passed through the village six months before. Among its attractions kad been a Hindu snake charmer, who had amused and astonished the people until the circus passed, to be soon forgotten. I

the circus with Leonard, and had been seen to speak to the man

This looked bad. After all, if it was snake polson, Mrs. Carey was the only person with a motive to kill. I withdrew my favorable opinion.

watched her more narrowly. I had actually invested \$200 in an option on the property. This gave me plenty of opportunity to visit there. I was at the farm one afternoon when Leonard came out of the house; and

I saw the woman's face blanch.

"Leonard!" she gasped. "Your father's boots!"

I looked and saw that the boy was wearing the identical boots which the two men had worn before their death. They were much too large for him, but they came up toward the knee, and were very serviceable for barvest

"Why, that's all right, mom," he answered. "They'll come in handy out In the field. Why, mom, I've had these on for nearly two hours, and if there was poison in them I guess I'd have felt it before now."

"Take them off!" screamed Mrs. Carey. And yet, agitated though she was, there was no sound of gulty knowledge in her voice, only of fear.

"I wish I'd buried the things," she sobbed wildly. "If it hadn't been for your father and brother having worn them, folks wouldn't accuse me of having killed them."

Leonard ran to her and put his arms "why. own, fo ks are llars, that's all, he said. He denched his fists. "Just let me see the man who says you are a murderess!" he cried. "And, mom," he added, "I'll take them off right away."

He sat down in the sun and pulled off the boots. Then, carrying them in his hand, he ran in his stockinged feet back into the house.

I saw the tension on Mrs. Carey's Presently Leonard came back, wearing a pair of ordinary boots. He looked very sober and paler than before. He came rather unsteadily up to his mother.

"I don't feel well, mom," he gasped, and fell at her feet. Mrs. Carey screamed wildly, and I carried the boy into the house and called the doctor.

The doctor arrived in half an hour and diagnosed the case as hopeicss. that time Leonard's legs were swollen to three times their size, and he was black below the waist. But I refused to accept the verdict.

Mrs. Carey and I worked over him all that day. It was a desperate effort to keep him awake, and we could not walk him on his swollen feet. But we punched and struck him, and pulled up his drooping eyelids. We struck him and pushed him from side to side, trundling him about the room. Somehow we managed to prevent the coma of death from developing that night, and by morning the boy was better. The doctor, who called expecting him

to be dead, was amazed. The next day was a critical one, but by nightfall Leonard was able to go to sleep, and by the next morning the swelling had gone down a little and he was on the way to recovery. Thea,

only, did I think of the boots. The story had spread through the village, and warrant for Mrs. Carey's arrest had already been issued. was I who confronted the constable at the door with my evidence. For I had slashed the boots to pieces and discovered the mystery.

In the left boot was nothing. But in the right boot, set near the ankle, was a tiny snake fang, with a perties of the venom sack attached to it. It had been thrust out with such violence that it had penetrated the leather and carried this minute portion of the pel son sack with it.

It was set downward at such sa angle that it would not abrade the skin when the boot was put on, but must inevitably do so when it was pulled off.

The explanation was an obvious ene and it cleared Mrs. Carey, who new resides, with Frank and Leonard, on the old place, esteemed by everyene. The deadly poison was identified with that of the Indian hooded cobra. The make had escaped from the charmer and had struck at the farmer's leg, without his knowledge. The fang, remain ing in the tough leather, had done no injury until John Carey pulled off his boots. Then it had killed him.

Duchesse d'Uzes Leads

in Aristocratic Chase The Duchesse d'Uzes is one of the most characteristic and picturesque figures in that French aristocracy which pays more attention to its cons try estate than to Paris and the reopened the season with her pack of staghounds on St. Hubert's day. pink riding habit and with the threecornered and braided bat which recalled the Eighteenth century, she led her huntsmen, the large brass hunther guests to the pursuit of the But, first of all, a mass of St. Hubert was celebrated in the tallarge church, hunting herms being h.

cluded in the musical part of the
service. After the most the cure,
accompanied by the cheir and the
"sulsse," came outside nod in the traditional manner selemnia blessed the ditional manner selemnly blessed the pack of hounds, who then, duly edified no doubt, proceeded in a Christian spirit to the performance of their task. -Pierre Van Paassen, in Atlanta Constitution.

Bouquets for Judges

Bouquet of flowers and scented herbs are given, every morains in the tootimaste costs dearly in Russia. Six summer, to judges hearing dance in tubes to be mailed to an American London's central eriminal court. The newspaper man here were held up at is a survival from the days when the the soviet post office for minute excourts were made unhealthy by eval amination and then the correspondent learned that Mrs. Carey had attended does from the underground cells.

PASTORS' CHILDREN TO HONOR PARENTS

Memorial Takes Form of Tuberculosis Sanatorium.

Chicago.—"Silver keys to golden memories." In these five words are its headquarters here, which has as its objectives:

Creation of a sunshiny, life and health-giving memorial to the spirits of thousands of America's best-loved men and women, and

A lasting and complete refutation of ministers' children are ne'er-do-wells.

The "golden memories" are those which all of us treasure of the kindly ministrations, the heart-felt sympathies and the helping hands extended to us in times of stress by pastors or our acquaintances.

The "silver keys" are the dollars that are pouring into the Methodist Ministers' Sons' and Daughters' assoclation, for the memorial which that organization has planned and on which construction is expected early this

Plan Great Sanatorium.

That memorial is to be the Methodist Mulsters' Memorial sanatorium at orado Springs, Colo. It is planned as the principal unit of the National Methodist Episcopal Sanatorium for most a million dollars in buildings and equipment.

"Our unit," says Rev. J. W. Irisb. D. D., executive secretary of the assodatton, "will cost about \$300,000 and will afford us the sons and daughters of Methodist ministers-an opportunity not only to honor our fathers and mothers, but also to assist in caring for the more than a million persons in America who are afflicted with this dread disease. The service will be nonsectarian and will be provided without cost to those who are unable to pay the cost of their fights for health.

Doctor Irish added that probably movement in the history of Method ism ever has struck such a populat chord of appeal and that the success of the venture is assured. In his of fices at 740 Rush street, he alreahas the names and addresses of 10.000 sons and daughters of Methodist min-

"Our greatest concern now," he continued, "Is that of obtaining as near's as possible a complete list of the sons and daughters of Methodist ministers and their wives. The opportunity which our association affords these forks of memorializing their parents is such that we have issued a general appeal to the public everywhere to send te sames and addresses of any knows or daughters of our pastors.

"To prest to the interest in our ac-Octorade Springs donated 28 acres of land within the city Hmits for the leonties of our buildings. The site affeins that of Beth-M General hospitel, nationally known for its achieveweeks in surgical and general medical

"One unit of our sanstorium, a beatme pleat and laundry large enough to provide for future expansion, already have been ereeted on our site."

Ministere' Sons Rank High.

Bevelopment of the hospital memo ried to children of preachers, has brenght to light an almost startling array of prominent personages who were the sons or daughters of minis-

John Bancock, first signer of the Declaration of Independence, was a prescher's sex, as were eight others every also of the Presidents of the United States have been ministers' sene, while in one of every four admisistrations, America's Presidents had doughters of ministers as the nu-tion's first hidp."

End of Fame in New York city is the son or daughter of a preacher.

In the industrial field, in science, layenties, literature and the arts, many of the entstanding names are those of unfutators' sons.

Risher Edwin Holt Hughes of Chieage is president of the association; nov. Moria N. English, D. D., of Oak Park, Ill., in vice president. Other officers, besides Dector Irlah, the excentive secretary, include L. O. Jones, Lincoln, Neb., secretary, and Dr. C. S. Woods, Cleveland, Ohio, treasurer.

Snapshote of Cruiser

Emden Stir Germans Wilhelmshaven, Germany. - There was excitament among members of the German navy when the cruiser Em-den departed on a world tour. For ing horns encircling their bodies, and sallers on board a British tank ship were observed to be photographing the German naval vessel as she steamed out of port

quickly dissipated by the Frankfur-ter Seltung, which wrote: "Newadays

there are few jobs for foreign spies. The plans of the Emden are known to members of the interallied military control commission better than they are to the bullders in Wilhelmshaven.

Dentist Cheaper

Moscow, W. S. S. R.—American toothpaste costs doorly in Russia. Six was assessed a duty of \$11 a tube.

of Oregon For the County of Columbia

Alma Urie, (Plaintiff, SUMMONS

Charles H. Urie, Defendant.

To Charles H. Urie: plaint filed against you in the the 12th day of March, 1927, and the 12th day of March, 1927, and once each week for six successive if you fail to answer or otherwise weeks, the first publication thereappear, the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded the old theory that the majority of in the complaint, to-wit: for the

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fendent, and for such other and further relief as to the Court may seem just and meet.

Service of this summons is made upon you by publication thereof o Charles H. Urie:
In the name of the State of Honorable J. E. Eakin, Judge of Oregon you are hereby required the above entitled Court, made, epitomized a national movement, with to appear and answer the com- dated and entered on the 25th day of January, 1927, ordering such above entitled suit on or before publication in the Vernonia Eagle

In the Circuit Court of the State dissolution of the bonds of mat- of being on the 27th day of Jan rimony between plaintiff and de- uary, 1927, and the last publication on the 10th day of March,

J. Mason Dillard, Attorney for plaintiff.-Postoffice address 404 Failing Bldg., Portland, Oregon.

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Sheets, Each VI	2 pair for 2001	Per pair

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PEAS, (BOCANCO) 25c 15c or 2 for Corn 15c or 2 for Corn 15c or 2 for 25c	BACON (Dixie Brand) 25c Per lb. CALUMET 1 lb. can 28c	NUT GEM 2 lbs. PRUNES 5 lbs for 23c	

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