

HOW SAFES ARE BROKEN.

An Authority in Burglary Gives a Few Instructive Points. The Boston Herald gives an interesting account by a Pittsburgh authority in the burglar's art: There are in this country just about an even score of men whom no bank vault or safe, however strong, can resist. To reassure society, I will say that more than half of these are safe behind prison bars. Safe-breakers have more than kept pace with improvements in safes, including time locks, chilled steel chests of eight or nine thicknesses and electric protective attachments. Their tools are made by some of the finest mechanics and inventive geniuses of the world. A full kit of the most approved modern safe-worker's tools costs about \$5,000.

The modern safe burglar is an exceedingly keen, intelligent man. He can open a safe having all the modern improvements in from ten minutes to two hours without the aid of explosives, and by only slightly defacing it. Sometimes he leaves scarcely a mark.

A first class modern safe, whether large or small, generally has double outside and inside doors, with a steel chest in the bottom, forming really a safe within a safe, the inside one being the stronger. The outside door is usually either "stuffed" or "skelton." The inside one is made of eight or nine sheets, of different temper, of the finest steel. These sheets are bolted together with conical bolts, having left-hand threads, after which the heads of the bolts are cut off, leaving what is virtually a solid piece of steel, which no drill can penetrate. The best locks are of the combination type, with time-lock attachment. In both cities and towns safes containing the most valuable have an electric alarm attachment. Any tampering with it will communicate the fact to the owners, or the safe's guardian, which in cities is either an electric protective bureau or a central police station. Weeks, and sometimes even months, are spent in putting up a job of magnitude, and often a number of smaller jobs are done to carry out one where the proceeds may run up into the tens of thousands of dollars.

Keys are fitted to every door which stands between the street and the bank vault by means of a thin sheet of brass, as hard as possible the same size as the keyhole, and covered with a thin coat of carbon, which may be applied with a match. A dozen entrances may have to be made to the bank before it is finally robbed. A key is fitted first to the outer door. This course is continued until keys are had of every door leading to the vault. Having the watchman and officials of the bank down line, one of the last things to do is to select a favorable night.

Then the bank burglar proper appears. He has usually three assistants. The gang never appears until the night of the robbery, and then not till eleven or twelve o'clock. If there is a watchman, his habits and disposition have been carefully noted, and having access to the bank by keys, it is an easy matter to surprise and overpower him. A "crow" is next planted outside or in an upper window, if there be one, to give notice, by means of signals or a cord reaching to the workers, of the approach of patrolmen or chance passers-by. A regular code of signals is used, telling when to cease operations and seek cover, and when to resume work.

Next is brought into use the simplest and yet strongest and most complete tool for the purpose. It is six inches in length and two inches in diameter at one end, tapering to nothing at the other. It is pear-shaped, and a thread extends from end to end. It is made of Muecher's tool steel, the best in the world. A second wedge-shaped tap works inside this tool. When this tap is screwed home it exerts a spreading force of many tons. This tool, "the persuader," is inserted in the most minute crack or drill hole, and, properly blocked at the right time, will force the strongest safe door open with a sound no louder than an ordinary fire-cracker will make. The outer and inner doors open. If there be a time lock on the chest, a small dynamite cartridge is placed opposite, a detonating fuse lighted and the outer door closed. The jarring caused by the explosion, which makes a noise scarcely as loud as a pistol shot, disarranges the works of the time lock, which runs down, and is useless, the clock running down with exactly a clock's worth when it is doing the same. The heavy outer door of the vault being closed, scarcely an audible sound reaches the street.

When drilling is necessary a light, compact machine, which fits the combination dial plate, and which rapidly drills a small hole above the water rim of the combination dial plate, is used. A small steel broach is then inserted and the combination knob turned until the tumblers are brought into position, thus permitting the "dog" or fire-cracker will make. The outer and inner doors open. If there be a time lock on the chest, a small dynamite cartridge is placed opposite, a detonating fuse lighted and the outer door closed. The jarring caused by the explosion, which makes a noise scarcely as loud as a pistol shot, disarranges the works of the time lock, which runs down, and is useless, the clock running down with exactly a clock's worth when it is doing the same. The heavy outer door of the vault being closed, scarcely an audible sound reaches the street.

If the operators find on entering the vault that the steel chest is an improved one, they then proceed to "strip" it. Sheet after sheet is taken off until the works are exposed. This is done by using a "crow," which is sectional—that is, it may be extended or contracted, as may be necessary. To an ordinary observer the "crow" looks like the bar which holds the "manhole" plate of a steam boiler in place, and is worked on precisely the same principle.

Should it be necessary to "wedge" a safe open, a modified form of the old "drug" is used. It is a light but rigid and strong steel bar, sectional, as to suit different sized safes, and for ease in transportation, which clamps the outer side of the safe. Through the bar is run a screw-threaded bolt, with a ball joint at one end for a receiving wedge. On the other end is worked a railroad wrench, used by track hands for tightening rails, and which can be procured from any railroad section-house. With wedging and blocking, no door can resist this instrument. Sometimes a miniature railroad "jack," such as engineers carry, is substituted. A heavy cleat is firmly fastened in proper position and placed on the floor. The wedge in the crack, the "jack" in place, the result is but a question of time.

Walter Scott's Works. Never was there a more healthful and health ministering literature than that which Scott gave to the world, says Andrew D. White in Scribner's Magazine. To go back to it from Flaubert and Daudet, and Tolstoi is like listening to the song of the lark after the shrieking passion of the midnight pianoforte—say, it is like coming out of the glare and heat and reeking vapor of a palace ball into a grove in the first light and music and breezes of the morning. It is not for nothing that so many thousands have felt toward Scott a deep personal gratitude, which few, if any, other writers of English fiction have ever awakened.

Sure Cure for Small-Pox. "I am willing to risk my reputation as a public man," wrote Edward Hise to the Liverpool Mercury, "if the worst case of small-pox can not be cured in three days by the use of cream of tartar. One ounce of cream of tartar dissolved in a pint of water drunk at intervals, when cold, is a certain, never-failing remedy. It has cured thousands, never leaves a mark, never causes blindness and avoids tedious lingering."

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MRS. J. MARTIN, Olex, Oregon.

SOFTENED EYES CURED. EUGENE, Or. Feb. 23; 1889.

MR. EDITOR: My little girl 5 years old has been for the past eight or nine months afflicted with granulated conjunctivitis, complicated with ulcers on the eye ball. I had her treated by some of the most prominent physicians in Chicago, where I resided before coming here, but without success. The child was getting worse every day. Hearing of Drs. Darrin, I consulted them in regard to her case, and now, after three weeks, she is pronounced practically cured. Refer to me at Springfield, Oregon.

D. J. GRAHAM. CROSS EYES STRAIGHTENED. SALEM, Or., January, 1889.

TO THE PUBLIC: It affords me pleasure to say that Drs. Darrin cured my little girl, 11 years old, of a very bad case of cross of the right eye. The eye was straightened as good as ever in two operations. The eye had been in a crossed condition for more than seven years. This is not intended for an advertisement, but as an expression of gratitude due to Drs. Darrin for their careful and proficient work.

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EDITOR—Dear Sir: I have been troubled with deafness for over fifteen years. I applied to the Drs. Darrin, and after a few treatments by their wonderful electro-magnetic method of treatment, my hearing was entirely restored, and now I can hear my watch tick for the first time in many years. I can be referred to and seen in regard to my case at any time at Howell Prairie, or address me at Macleay, Oregon.

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Washington, D. C. Feb. 1, 1889.

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