

Origin of the Name of This Group of Daring Criminals.

According to the United States secret service, the Black Hand is a title common to innumerable groups of criminals operating under the direction of some secret central government.

Delehanty's Four Homers and a Single in Five Times at Bat.

The baseball expert Hugh S. Fullerton, in an article on "Batting" in the American Magazine, describes as follows the greatest hitting feat recorded, executed by Ed Delehanty, and which it was his good fortune to witness:

Doubling Her Capacity.

"I want a nurse girl who is capable of taking care of twins," said a woman to the manager of an employment agency.

The Wolves and the Meat.

"I had thought that it was peculiar to human nature to regard that which one has as of less value than that which one has not, but I had reason to change my opinion the other day," said a visitor to the zoo.

A Mean Trick.

Algernon—What's this I hear about Miss Gilcoin agreeing to marry you and then going back on her word? Percy—That is the swart of it, I'm sorry to say. Algernon—Beautiful trick, dear boy. Why don't you sue her for non-support? You've got a clean case, doncher know.—Chicago News.

Minor Operations.

Surgeon's Son—What is a "minor operation," pa? Surgeon—One for which the fee is less than three figures.—New York Times.

HER POKER HAND.

Mrs. Bunsen Knew It Was Good and Played It to the Limit.

The Bunsens went over to spend the evening with the Gotts, because people get tired of staying at home all the time and just listening to each other's palaver.

Gott suggested that they all sit around Mrs. Gott's little sewing table and have a nice friendly game of poker for an hour or so.

It was only a penny ante five cent limit game, but then people have been known to clean up a first rate little bunch of pin money in even such a juvenile game as that, and Bunsen soon had his chips stacked up in four little cylinders in front of him.

Bunsen would reach over and borrow ten chips or so now and again, and a momentary frown would fit over her husband's brow, but he didn't say anything.

By and by Bunsen took notice of the fact that Mrs. Bunsen was reaching over into his subtreasury vaults and picking up chips half a stack at a time and putting them into the pot as fast as she could meet Gott's bets and raise him.

Bunsen looked at her when he saw his board of chips disappearing in a way that inquired plainly, "Are you sure you've got it on him?"

"Got a straight," whispered Mrs. Bunsen when she found opportunity to whisper without being observed.

Then Bunsen gave her a look that said, "Go as far as you like," for straights had been pretty good that evening, and the pot, after the way it had been sweetened, looked worth while.

Finally Gott called her. "All I've got is three ladies," he said in a tone of polite inquiry, laying down his hand.

"Well, I have a straight," gurgled Mrs. Bunsen. "See—queen, king, ace, deuce, tray."

Bunsen shot her a glance that told her something was amiss before anybody had time to say a word.

"Why, the ace comes after the king, doesn't it?" she inquired. "And doesn't the two-spot come after the ace and the three-spot after the two-spot? I'd just like to know why that isn't a straight."

Bunsen watched Gott rake in the pot and didn't say anything—not just then.—Chicago News.

A Perplexing Inquiry.

In a New York furniture store a young engaged pair were looking at mahogany tables for the nest they were about to furnish. As the clerk was doing his best to make a sale the young woman turned to her betrothed and said: "Mamma has one just like this. Perhaps she'll give it to us."

The clerk hastened to expound the beauty of curved legs, and the Benedict to be turned to his sweetheart and asked innocently, "Are your legs curved?"

It was sixty seconds before he could account for the furious blushes of his betrothed and the uncontrollable merriment of the clerk.—New York World.

Hypnotic Triumph.

A doctor related the following story: "I had a patient who was very ill and who ought to have gone to a warmer climate, but whose means were insufficient, so I resolved to try what hypnotism would do for him. I had a large sun painted on the ceiling of his room and by suggestion induced him to think it was the sun which would cure him. The ruse succeeded, and he was getting better rapidly when one day on my arrival I found he was dead."

"Did it fail, after all, then?" asked the doctor's hearers. "No," replied the doctor; "he died of sunstroke."—Circle Magazine.

Made Him Feel Quite at Home.

A tourist in the Welsh mountains who had been caught in a violent rain-storm and who after much difficulty had succeeded in making his way to a solitary cottage congratulated himself on his good fortune when he was asked by the man of the house to stay for



GAVE HIM A THUMP ON THE HEAD.

the night. After donning a suit of his host's clothes, so that his own might be dried, he proceeded downstairs and on his way met the mistress with a big Bible in her hand. In the fading light she mistook the stranger for her husband and gave him a thump on the head with the book, remarking, "That's for asking the man to stay all night."

Trade in Human Hair.

Among the most peculiar trades is the traffic in human hair. In the year of 1907 the amount of hair invoiced at Hong Kong, China, for shipment to the United States was 53,133 pounds, and in 1908 the amount reached 207,414 pounds. In the first year three-fourths of the amount traveled by way of the Suez Canal and one-fourth was shipped by way of the Pacific.

The greater part of the hair is brought to Hong Kong from the interior of China, where it is cleaned and sorted, according to its length and quality. It is then packed and shipped, the greater part of it going to New York.

In the latter city the hair is treated in such a manner that the color and texture are changed, making the switches, curls and puffs that are so fashionable at the present time. The demand for the hair has been great and many of the importers have been unable to supply their customers. Many of the American firms send men to China to contract for their supply.

At many of the fashionable week-end house parties it is the custom to serve the guests with their grape fruit, muffins, etc., in their own rooms. Every well-regulated home now has its daintily appointed breakfast tray for the use of guest or invalid, and these trays are to be had with all the details of the breakfast service in matching china. Such a tray, decked with snowy napery and garnished with a fresh flower from the garden or window box, makes a very cheery beginning for the invalid's day.

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A few people of considerable mind have always known how to treat the cat with honor. It is, perhaps, hardly necessary to repeat the ancient story of Mohammed—how, rising from his seat and fearful of awaking the cat that was sleeping on his sleeve, he cut off that part of his garment and left her undisturbed.

Richelieu, also, found pleasure and relief in the society of cats, yet he can be regarded as only incompletely a cat lover. As kittens they appealed to him, and as kittens only. He loved to keep a family of them in his study until they arrived at a certain age; but when they were three months old he had them taken away, and replaced by others that were younger.

The Elevator Man's Joke. Hobbs—I guess the elevator is out of order. What is that sign on the door? Dobbs—The elevator man must be a bit of a wag. It says, "Please pardon me for not rising."—Boston Transcript.

She Got It. He (time 11:30 p. m.)—And you will think of me when I am gone? She (suppressing a yawn)—I'll try to if you'll ever give me an opportunity.

Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands do likewise.—Life.

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