

## Psychologist Finds Unger "Infantile Clinical Type"

Dr. Bolton, of Temple, Presents Expert Study of Young Embezzler

Declares Him Victim of Kleptomania, Aggravated by Personal Vanity

By DR. THADDEUS L. BOLTON, Professor of Psychology at Temple University

The case of Walter Unger presents no extraordinary new features in the psychology of crime. He is simply a victim of kleptomania. Kleptomania is now a well-recognized form of mental disorder.

The disease can be characterized as being due to over-suggestibility, and in Unger's case it is perhaps aggravated by extraordinary developments of personal vanity and a disposition to accept flattery.

By over-suggestibility we mean an impulse to act upon a situation without restraint and without the intervention of any contrary thought as to the propriety of the act. The over-suggestible person then may take on the habit of acting by way of appropriating money or some particular line of goods. The disposition is inherent. The particular direction of the action depends perhaps upon early circumstances.

Unger, being placed in the situation where he had the access to money and where there was a suggestion to swindle this money in speculation, soon developed the habit of appropriating money and offering this money up for speculative purposes. Had he been placed in some other situation where there was no money, but some attractive form of speculation, he might have formed the habit of appropriating such goods as these.

**Self-Importance Inflated**

Kleptomaniacs have been known to accumulate books, firearms, knives or hotel linen. The particular direction may depend upon the opportunity that is offered for appropriation. Unger, according to his own confession and the declaration of his attorney, was very much affected by the flattering words which the speculators poured out upon him. Instead of being made angry by being called a young plunger, his vanity was unquestionably very much increased and his sense of self-importance highly inflated.

Once he began to appropriate the money, the impulse met with no check until the money was all gone. This is the history of the kleptomaniac. He continues on his course until some extraneous circumstance brings him up short.

When the kleptomaniac has been found out, he seems to present, so far as my experience is concerned, two types: The first is the one who confesses his guilt and begins to whimper and snivel around about influences which people had exercised over him, such as his business associates had not properly inspected his accounts, that he was in no way checked up so that he could get away with being dealt with in a business-like manner.

The claim that he was trying to support a widowed mother and that his speculations were wholly in the interest of maintaining a family standard than his salary would allow, is not to be accepted as being anything more than the outcome of a tendency when confronted with crime to confess and try to shift the blame for a weakness and delinquency on somebody else. This kind of case is well known.

Such kleptomaniacs confess their guilt and promise to reform and make protestations against being thought guilty of any criminal intent. They are, however, recidivists and turn again to their criminal conduct as soon as an opportunity is offered.

There is, however, another type of kleptomaniac. These persons when confronted with their crime protest their innocence and adopt some formal phrase such as: "I am not guilty; I will die before I will acknowledge that I have stolen anything," and repeat this insistently to their accusers.

These cases frequently hold out until long after the evidence against them is so great as to leave no doubt. They then may make a hesitating acknowledgment of their guilt, but just as soon as they get away from their accusers they protest their innocence again and continue to repeat the formal phrase which they have adopted, such as: "I am not guilty, etc." They, like the other form, will almost immediately begin their stealings soon as another opportunity offers itself.

**No Real Promise of Reform**

The kleptomaniac does not give any real promise of being reformed. If he is placed in a situation where there is no opportunity for him to steal in his accustomed way, he may show no tendency to steal at all, but if he should again be placed in the situation where it is possible to steal after the accustomed fashion, he is likely to begin again.

In other cases the kleptomaniac steals small articles, perhaps pencils, paper or something of that kind.

The kleptomaniac appears about as frequently among women as among men. The present writer has seen more kleptomaniacs among college girls than among college men. Some one has worked the matter out and finds about two kleptomaniacs to 100 girls is the right proportion. If any college then seems to take pride in the fact that it has not any kleptomaniacs among its girls, it may be said that they have not received their proper share.

The girl kleptomaniac is frequently the most popular and the most respected girl in the dormitory. She chooses to spend the money she steals in some particular direction. One is known to have made lavish presents to the other girls, another is known to have distributed chocolates among the girl students, another made a large collection of silk stockings.

Boys spend their money sometimes in this way, but more likely they make a display of their capacity for spending money by dinners and make lavish purchases of flowers and such like things for girls. One case is known to have made a large collection of old pistols.

**Stock Market Furnishes Lure**

The stock market seems to have furnished a lure to a large number of the thieves of this class. Then tendency to make purchases in the stock exchange is a curiosity subject to suggestion. The speculator seems unable in the presence of other persons who are buying and selling to restrain the tendency to leave orders either to sell or to buy, and there is no consideration as to whether the sale or the purchase will yield a return. The impulse is to remain in the game and to keep something doing.

Some of these persons regard this as a legitimate way, or as like any other method of spending money to lose it on the stock market. Like ordinary gamblers, such a person holds that he can afford to lose fifty or two hundred dollars, and so he orders a sale or a purchase, giving little consideration as to whether there is a chance to win or lose.

It is a thrill, he was stily, about a



DR. THADDEUS L. BOLTON

Dr. Bolton, professor of psychology at Temple University, who below discusses Walter A. Unger's case from a psychologist's viewpoint, is a native of Sonora, Ill. He holds degrees from the University of Michigan and Clark University. He has been professor of psychology at the University of Nebraska, at the Temple, Arizona, normal school, and at the University of Montana. He has written extensively, as both editor and contributor, for scientific magazines, and is a member of various learned societies.

He has been at Temple since 1917, and in addition is a trustee of the School of Occupational Therapy of this city. Unger yesterday was sentenced to from eight to twelve years for stealing funds of the Evans Dental Trust Fund of the University of Pennsylvania.

loss—an emotional excitement that seems to recompense the plunger for the loss. He continues in his mad course. Where such individuals have access to negotiable securities they continue their headlong course until their source of supply through stealing is exhausted. This seems to have been typical of Unger's career. Had there been more money he would have taken it. The claim that he attempted to get rich by these speculations is hardly to be

entertained. It was the thrill of the game, combined with the vanity and the habit once formed that are accountable for his downfall.

Unger is a case of what is known as the infantile clinical type. The over-suggestibility of Unger is a part of the general condition of weakness. Kleptomania does not, so to speak, appear alone; it is a part of a general diseased type that might have in other cases a different outcome.

### CHORUS GIRL RECOVERING

Miss Mary Clearwater injured in Crash Which Killed Escort

Miss Mary Clearwater, who was injured Wednesday night in an automobile accident in which her escort was killed near Easton, returned to the home of her grandmother, Mrs. Helen Clearwater, of 5031 North Mervine street today.

Miss Clearwater is known in Philadelphia theatrical circles as "Billie" Clearwater, and has often appeared in this city.

Mrs. Clearwater said the girl is in a highly nervous condition as a result of the accident and is suffering from cuts about the face. She will remain at the home of her grandmother till she recovers.

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## The Curious Tale of a Motorist

RECALL vividly that at first there seemed to be nothing peculiar about the affair which I am to relate. My car seemed to run with its usual ease, it whizzed and back-fired with all the charming regularity I had learned to love.

It was only when I arrived in the heart of the business district that I noticed there had been a change. There were no pedestrians dashing across the street. That was the first thing to attract my attention.

And while I was remarking on this curious state of affairs the crossing policeman approached, touched his hat and said: "Excuse me, sir," he said, "but I have blown the signal for you to proceed. Perhaps you did not hear it. If so, and it is your desire that I repeat the signal, I will be only too happy to accommodate you."

I WAS so startled I could only open my mouth and look at him dumbly. "I gather from your silence," continued the policeman, "that you wish

that he should not have done so. Now you may proceed," he said.

In getting started I proceeded in the next second, when I was stopped by another crossing cop.

In his buttonhole he wore a pink rose and he held a silver-plated badge on which he scrawled the signal for me to halt.

"I presume you are on your way to work," he said to me with a kindly smile. "Perhaps you wish to park in this vicinity. If so, I am at your service."

And with that he led me to a place directly in front of my own building. "Here," he said, "put your car right here before the door and stay as long as you like."

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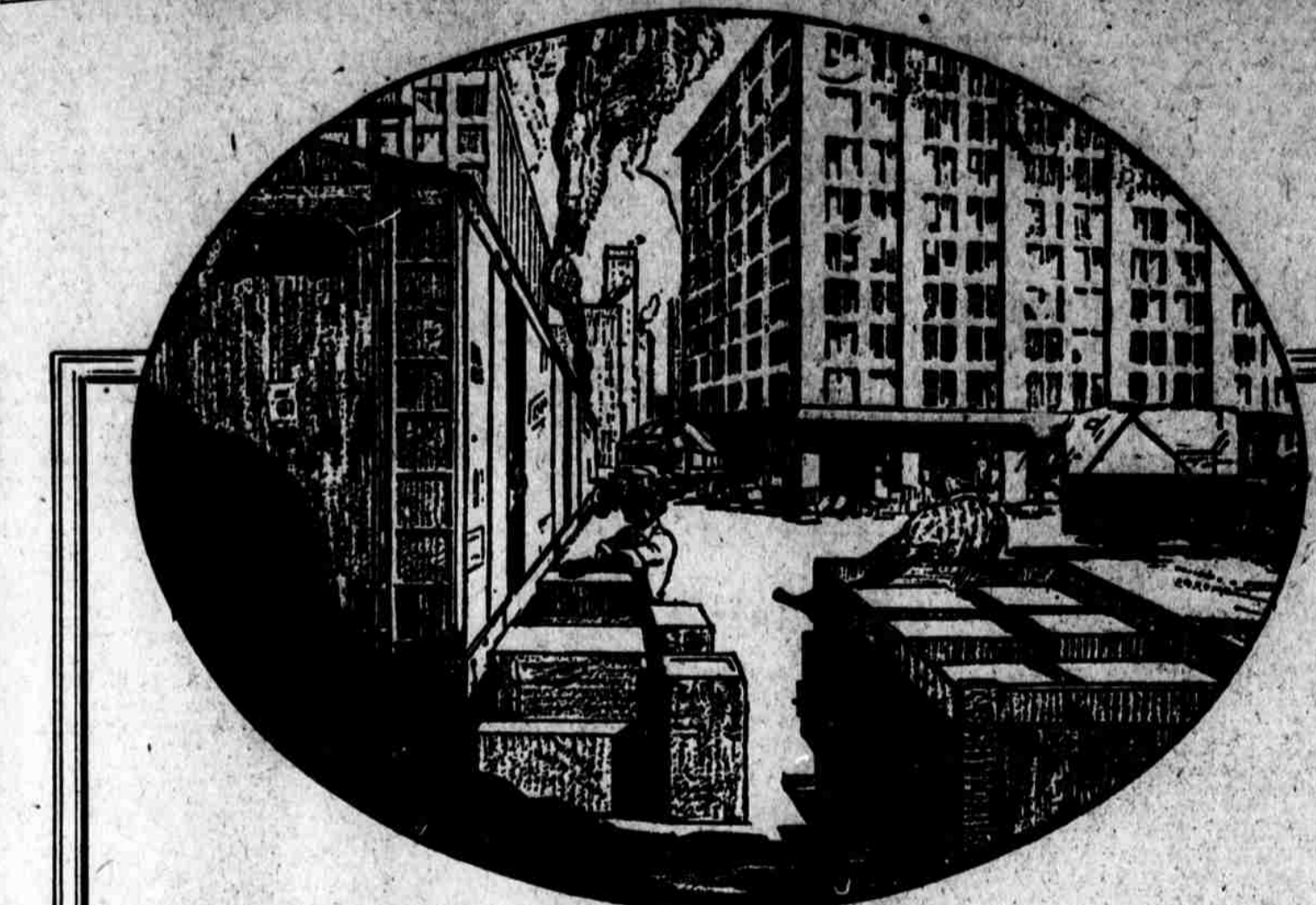
Lotto-Ware Bloomer Dresses in check and plain gingham, 2 to 6 years—\$3.75 to \$4.25.

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Straw Hats in dark and light shades, 2 to 6 years—\$5.00 and \$6.00.

Boys' Wash Suits, dark trousers with white jackets, 2 to 8 years—\$3.75 to \$5.75.

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## From the Shipping Platform to the Selling Platform

**C**UTTING the Cost of Distribution is one of the most vital problems in this period of Economic Readjustment.

Applied to this business it means shipping the shoes direct from the Regal Factory where the leather is cut, to the Regal Store where the price is cut to \$6.80.

In other words it means returning to the policy that I adopted when I opened the first Regal Store twenty-eight years ago, that is, Factory to Feet, All Styles, All Leathers, with One Profit and One Price, from the Shipping Platform to the Selling Platform.

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