## SPOTTING CRIMINALS

Plans of London Shops and Banks For Foiling Thieves.

A CODE OF SECRET SIGNALS.

The Moment a Suspect Is Discovered In an Establishment the Warning Is Quickly Given to the Employees, Who Are Instantly on the Alert.

"Do you know if Brown has returned that parcel of stones yet?

The scene may be the shop of a fashionable west end jeweler Costly ems glint in velvet lined cases. One tock coated shopman turns casually another with the perfectly natural question quoted above.

To those customers who may be in establishment the remark means nothing, but to the man who is ad dressed it spells volumes. "Brown" is secret code word, and it means that the elegantly elad woman to whom the speaker is displaying a tray of sparkling stones is suspected by him of being a thief and that her every action must be watched.

Quite recently in connection with a terrible outrage in the west end of London, in which an unfortunate money changer was done to death in his ffice by a desperate robber, the fact vas disclosed that in the case of a udden attack it had been arranged nat one of the assistants should em-oy the "distress signal" of hurling a rass paperweight through the winpw of the office.

Although most people are quite unrare of the fact, practically every nker, money changer and leweler i the fashionable quarter of the meopolis has some prearranged code by which one employee may warn his fellows that a dublous character has entered the establishment.

In one well known bank this is the system adopted: Should a cashler's suspicions be aroused by the actions or speech of a man upon the other side of the counter he will step across in a perfectly innocent way to a cer-tain desk which stands quite apart from the others. The custodian at the doorway sees the action, knows its 'gnificance and is instantly on the

In the case of another bank the shler whose suspicions are aroused eed not even move away from his to warn the watcher. The scheme employed is this: Along the guarding rall of the counter are a series of plates bearing the word "Prayer" or "Receiver," according to the duties of the cashier in each particular section.

These, by design, are all placed slightly askew. Should one of the officials behind the desks suspect the good faith of an individual to whom he is attending all he has to do in oror to place the patrol in uniform upon the qui vive is to reach up a leisurely band and turn one of these so that it is in a perfectly aight line with the rall from which projects.

The ingenuity of this idea lies in the act that, while the action is perfectly natural, it is so unmistakable that even when the bank is full of people it cannot fall to be observed by the man who is upon the lookout.

Quite the most elaborate system of which details are obtainable is that installed by a firm of electrical engineers for one prominent west end jeweler The manager who is on duty sits at a glass screened desk in the rear of the shop in such a position that, while carcely being seen himself and cerainly without making any movement. he has an absolutely unimpeded view of every counter and show case.

Near him, on a small board, shielded om view, is a row of tiny red electric light bulbs One corresponds to the osition of each of the suave assistants who attends to the wants of the fewel buying public. Sunk in the floor, ar the foot of each assistant, is a ufton, and his duty is done when. suld be think a customer he is serving may not be "on the square," he es his foot on this convenient button. The little glow lamp lights up at the other end of the wire, and the manager's attention is promptly focused in the direction indicated.

Should his keen scrutiny reveal an actual theft from the articles displayed on the counter or from some unpro tected tray he himself presses a butshop. This serves to warn a smart at-tendant who is on duty at the portals, and the wrongdoer finds his or her pathway barred without a word hav-ing been uttered or sign of warning given.—London Answers.

The Oldest Universities. The earliest date which any univermakes that it was founded 635. Its continuous history however, from 1100. Paris was ed in 792 and renovated in 1200 oxford dates back to an academy menas ancient in 802; the schools ere founded by King Alfred about 79, and King Henry III. granted the charter in 1248. Bologna dates from

Too Much Hustle Muggins-So Bjones is dead, ch? the grass grow under his feet. Bug-gian-No: perhaps it be had it wouldn't be growing over his head now.—Phil-adelphia Record.

1116. Salamanca was founded in 1239

given force applied for a given

#### ORIENTAL SERVANTS.

All Around Ability of the Indispensable "Boy" In India.

In these days of loud walling about the haughty domestic, exorbitant wages and small returns it is soothing to recall the efficiency and submissive service of the oriental servant.

In India the indispensable "boy" does everything-"boy" being a generic name regardless of age or native dignity-receiving in remuneration the equivalent of \$12 to \$14 a month at the most. He buys your railroad tickets, checks your luggage, settles the clamors of luggage coolies, gives your tips and shoos away the hordes of beggars, telegraphs to hotels for your rooms and takes care of them when you get there, makes the bed, brings the afternoon tea, stands behind your chair at table and serves you, brings your account when you leave and wrangles for you over its inevitable

At the dak bungalows he forages for your meals and, if necessary cooks them. He produces washmen sewing men and all sorts of dealers in everything on demand. He makes up your bed on sleeping cars and replen ishes your supply of ice and soda He runs your errands, cleans your boots and hats, darns your stockings and mends your clothes

When you walk abroad, he attends you and directs you to the bazaars where you will be robbed least, receiving his commission later from an appreciative proprietor.

For every rupee intrusted to him for general expenditure he renders an account, and though he doubtless robs you gently be does not let others do it (and it is distinctly advantageous to be robbed by one person rather than a

He is stient and noiseless, salaams whenever you speak to him and never enters your presence with his shoes on or his turban off.

And finally, his multifarious day ended, he wraps himself in his shawl and sleeps across your threshold.-New

#### SAW THE GHOST.

A Story That Stood the Test of Court of Law.

As a circumstantial ghost story and one that stood the cold scrutiny of a court of law Booty's case is without a parallel. The date given is 1688, when Mrs. Booty brought an action for slander against one Captain Barnaby for what he had said of her late husband According to an extract from a journal produced in court, dated Friday. May 15, 1687, the captain on that day went ashore with a large party of friends to shoot rabbits upon Stromboli, the island off Italy, which, from its ever burning crater, is called "the lighthouse of the Mediterranean." At about 3:30 in the afternoon two men were seen running toward the volcano which was emitting flames. Captain Barnaby then exclaimed, "Lord bless me, the foremost is old Booty, my next door neighbor." They then vanished in the flames, a fact of which every one present took note.

Upon Captain Barnaby's return to England he learned that "old Booty" had died just about the time of the strange occurrence at Stromboll. He then made the remark which was the subject of the action, that he "had seen old Booty running into the flames of hell pursued by the devil." Mrs. Booty claimed £1,000 as damages, and the case came on in the king's beach before the chief justice, Sir Robert Wright. For the defense, in addition to the testimony of Captain Barnaby and his friends, old Booty's clothes were brought into court and identified by several witnesses as being similar to those worn by the foremost man who ran into the crater-even to the peculiar buttons on the coat. The judge was so impressed by this evidence that he said: "Lord have mercy upon me and grant that I may never see what you have seen. One, two or three may be mistaken, but not thir-And so Booty's widow lost the day, and the case remains, perhaps, as the only judicially accepted ghost story on record.-London Chronicle.

Sound In the Air. A writer in the Strand Magazine describes the astonishment he experienced when riding over London in a balloon at a height of more than ball a mile he heard the deafening roar of the great city beneath him as it could not be heard when on the ground. The noise, even at that height, was so harsh and intense as to be painful to the ear. How perfect a sound conductor the air is was shown when the balloon drifted far over the city to a wooded part of the country, where the murmur of the leaves moved by the wind, half a mile below, was distinctly beard

Careful For Others.

"No," said the candid kleptomaniac; "when I'm arrested for pilfering never give my real name. If would oinpromise too many people."
"Indeed! And what is your name?"

inquired the magistrate. "John Smith."-Philadelphia Ledger.

A Chip of the Old Block.

Crimsonbeak Owen Moore's son in to see me today. Yerst-Indeed! Doesn't he remind rou of his father? "Very much. He wanted to borrow

\$5."-Yonkers Statesman

Particular Points. "Shall I touch out the wrinkles in your face?" asked the photographer. "By all means," answered the elder-ly beau. "And also those, if there be any, in my trousers."—Kansas City

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## Over the Wire.

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[Copyright, 1908, by T. C. McClure,1 Job Strong kept a grocery in the town of Medina, and he was an old bachelor. It had been said of him a hundred times over that he was the homeliest man in the state.

Job Strong had a brother living in Brunswick, and, as each bad a telehone, messages often passed between them. The grocer had a good voice, It was deep and rich and clear, and he was accounted one of the best singers in his church choir. One day when he went to hello for Brunswick he found limself answered by a new voice. It was that of a female, and it stirred his heart at once. It was pitched to a gentle cadence. It reminded him of his own New Orleans molasses gently gurgling from the spigot into a cusomer's jug. It rolled along the wire like a new tire on a blke, and he held on to it as long as possible. Curiously enough, that deep, rich voice of his awoke an answering echo in the heart of the operator at Brunswick. She thought of knights and cavallers and squires and dames, and it was with a sigh that she switched him over to the prother.

It may be giving away the plot too oon, but there is a curious coincilence here to be explained. The Brunswick operator was an old maid named Miss Judking. She had reached the age of forty and for the last twenty ears had been a match for Job Strong in homeliness. "As homely as Miss Judkins" was a saying for thirty miles around. They said of her that she had once scared a cow to death by entering the barn and that when farmers drove to town they double hitched their horses to the posts on her acount. And, like Job Strong, she didn't snow that anything was amiss.

After the first call over the wire Job Strong had a longing to hear that voice again. Not many hours had passed before he found an excuse. This time he did not inquire for his brother, but asked about the price of real estate and other things in Brunswick and also introduced himself. The operator could do no less than give her own name in reply, and thus began the courtship, for such it truly was. At least three times a day the grocer had something to say over the wire and found a ready and sympathetic listener. He had a pleture in his mind's eye of the lady with the voice that thrilled, and whether he was weighing out sugar or drawing molasses it was ever before him. She was tall and stately and gentle and smiling and would make a wife to be proud of. Miss Judkins also hugged a mental photograph to her heart It was of a knight on a black charger.

When three months had gone by the grocer determined to visit Brunswich and know the worst or best. He found himself absentminded by day and sleepless by night, and this wouldn't do at all. The first he knew his rivals would be selling wagon grease 2 cents a box cheaper than he was and frawing away his trade. He notified Miss Judkins of the day, and she put on her Sunday dress and extra false hair for the occasion and also got a substitute for the day. Two hearts were beating tumultuously as Job knocked at the door. Then two people surveyed each other for a moment and sat down, and there came a painful silence. It was broken at last by Miss Judkins' brother, who was present After letting out a guffaw to be heard forty rods be exclaimed:

"Well, may I be durned!" with flaming cheeks she turned on Job Strong and severely said:

"Sir, how dare you come here and play such a trick on me!"

"Trick! Trick! What do you mean?" "You are passing yourself off as Mr. Strong of Medina, but you can't be

"And I expected to see Miss Judkins instead of you."

"But I am Miss Judkins." "And I am Mr. Strong."

"I'll be durned again!" shouted the brother after another guffaw.

"Sir, this is unbearable!" said Miss Judkins as she rose up. "Miss, it is a joke that I don't understand at all." replied Mr. Strong as he

also rose up. "I expected to see a rather handsome

"And I a rather handsome woman." "But instead of that you are the nomeliest man I ever laid eyes on.

"Ditto. "You insult me, sir!" "And you insult me!"

"Good lands, but if I'd have known you were the man you are I wouldn't have wasted a minute on you!"

"Ditto again!" "Look a-here," said the brother when he could stop laughing, "you two are foolish to quarrel. Destiny has brought this about. You are well matched for homeliness. You both take the cake over anything I ever saw. If you don't get together you will never have an other chance on the face of this earth. Julia, you know that I've told you a million times that you'd scare crows into fits. Mr. Strong, you'll excuse me, but I've seen more beauty in old stumps than you can boast of in your face. I'm going outdoors to laugh. Get together."

It is a pleasure to record that they followed the well meant advice, although there were some awkward tervals, and that they were married six months later and have lived as pencetully since as if they had each taken a prize at a beauty show; also that New Orleans molasses at a fixed price per the year round continues to be a drawing card at Strong cash grocery.

A POISON EPISODE.

When a Famous Chemist Was Silanced In Court by a Judge.

There was a famous poisoning case in England many years ago in which the strong point of the defense was to show that the accused, who was an expert chemist, would not have used a poison which could be so easily found after it had been taken into the human system. Sir Robert Christeson. professor in Edinburgh university, a famous expert on toxicology, whose works are still standard on that subject, was put on the stand to prove this point. When he declared that a chemist would certainly use some polson which would leave no trace, the prosecuting attorney asked him if he meant to say that there were such

Sir Robert replied in the affirmative. The prosecutor asked, "Name them!"
"No!" shouted the judge. "I forbid

you to answer that question!" In spite of the protests of the prosecutor the judge would not allow the expert publicly to give the name of a polson which would leave no trace, and the question remained unanswered.

Now comes the curious part of the story. During the next two years Sir Robert received more than 4,000 letters from all parts of the world asking, begging, offering to buy, the name of the untraveable poison alluded to in his testimony. Many of these he kept as curiosities, showing them to his friends as evidence of the depravity of human nature. Some of the excuses for wanting the name of the poison were very ingenious. One man was writing a novel based on a poison plot and wanted to make use of the untraceable poison idea. He did not want to give the name of the poison in his book, but just wanted to have it by him in case any scientific critic should deny the possibility of such polsons, when he could send him the name in a private letter and quote the "distinguished authority" from whom it came, etc. Several persons professed to be studying chemistry and asked for the information on the ground of professional courtesy. To all such Sir Robert would send the advice to pursue their studies and they would soon know as much about it as he did. Many offered large sums of money for the secret, usually pretending they had bet still larger amounts that they could find it out in a given time and were willing to share their profits liberally with Sir Robert.

The thing which most impressed Sir Robert was the number of persons all over the world who seemed desirous of possessing the secret of an agent that would kill, but leave no trace, and the amazing falsehoods to which they would subscribe their names in order to obtain the information. It is said that whatever poison Sir Robert had in mind at the trial he never mentioned it, not even to his classes, so strongly was be impressed with the danger of letting such a thing become matter of public knowledge.

Washington's\_Spring

The first thing that greets the eyes of a stranger alighting from the train at Cold Spring, a village resting snugly in the highlands of the Hudson, is Washington's spring, inclosed by three bowlders in the rough, which, as one approaches, are seen to contain a thry pool of spouting water An inscription in relief upon the bronze plate announces that "General George Washington, in frequent visits to the American troops encamped near by during the war of the Revolution, drank of this spring and gave it its name, Cold

The encampments referred to were principally upon the famous Constitution island, just below, to which was attached one end of the great chain which was stretched across the river to West Point and checked navigation by the British warships during the Revelution

Nietzsche and the Invalid.

An invalid lady who often met Nietzsche found him the gentiest, kindest and most sypmathetic of men. He "Implored her with tears in his eyes not to read his books." Such was his knowledge of women that he was thunderstruck to find shortly afterward that the lady at once proceeded to rend them all. He was further stupefied by the discovery that, hav ing read them, she was utterly unmoved by the philosopher's unanswerable demonstrations that feeble per sons like herself had no right to live and that women were distinguished by this, that and the other objectionable attribute. It must have been a blow to him.-London News.

Her Awful Sin.

A little girl of six once went in great distress to her mother, saying that she had committed a sin which could nev-er be forgiven and which was too bad to be repeated. By dint of a little coaxing she was induced to make a full confession, which was in this

"I felt so sorry for poor Satan and wanted to give him a little comfort. So I got a glass of cold water and poured it down a little hole in the kitchen floor."

Discourteous.
At a game of "definitions" a discourteous wag gave just offense once by defining woman as "a creature that was made after man and bas been after him ever since!"

Her Exact Age "How old is Belle?" Twenty-four her last six birthdays."

Benevolent feeling ennobles the mo thing actions.-Thackerny.

Boston Transcript.

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