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CORNERING CRIMINALS.

WHAT FRENCH INGENUITY HAS DONE TO AID THE POLICE.

The Bertillon System of Identification and How it Works—Individual Peculiarities Noted and Recorded in a Way That Leaves Little Chance of Mistake.

At Paris in 1882 there was inaugurated by the Prefecture of Police a system of identification of criminals which in its minute completeness was without precedent even in that home of perhaps the shrewdest police department in the world. Until that time the police of the French capital employed for the identification of criminals a system which time and experience had demonstrated to be not only faulty, but also inadequate. Under the old French system the color of the hair, for instance, was described as being one of four shades, brown, blonde, black, or red. Statistics carefully gathered showed that .87 of criminals examined had brown hair, .10 had blonde hair, .027 had black hair, and .003 had red hair. Respecting the color of the eyes, .33 had hazel eyes, .25 had gray eyes, .17 had blue eyes, and in .25 the color was indistinct. There were three degrees or limits as to the height of the criminals examined, 33½ per cent. were included in the class between short and dwarf height, 33½ per cent. in the class between short and tall, and 33½ per cent. in the class designated as tall. Describing a criminal as tall with brown hair and hazel eyes would therefore have been a description which would have exactly fitted the great majority of criminals examined. Something much more minute, a system much less vague was needed to do away with the chances of mistaken identity which the old system made possible. To obviate such difficulties a system of identification was invented by M. Alphonse Bertillon, and to-day the Bertillon system is recognized the world over as the most complete and accurate system ever devised.

About two years ago the Bertillon system was adopted by the Police Department of the District. In 1887 the system was adopted by the Warden's Association of the United States and Canada at its annual meeting held at Toronto during the month of September. At the Joliet (Illinois) Penitentiary a school of instruction, having for its object the elucidation of the Bertillon system, was held in February, 1888, which was attended by representatives from some ten or twelve of the most noted prisons in this country and Canada. Although the system is universally acknowledged to be all that its advocates claim for it, its adoption cannot be said to be general throughout the United States. Inspector Byrnes, of the New York City Police Department, believes that the old system, reinforced by the aid of photography, is quite good enough, and for that reason has so far refused to use the Bertillon system. Photographs, however, while being a great aid in establishing or verifying the identity of a criminal are altogether impotent as an aid in discovering the criminal's identity. But, as the photograph is one of the means used in the French system, that system not only serves as a means of discovering, but equally as well as a means of verifying the identity of the criminal.

Inspector Swindells, of the District Police Department, explained to a reporter of THE HERALD the other day the details of the Bertillon system.

The Bertillon system is based upon certain anatomical features or characteristics of the human body, the theory of the inventor being that, as the dimensions of these features or characteristics remained unchanged once the growth of the person is attained, an exact and fully recorded measurement, reinforced by the noting of such peculiarities of, or marks or scars on, the body as appeared during the examination would, together with a photograph of the subject examined, prove a reliable and ineffaceable record of identification. Therefore, the following measurements are first made:

1. The length and width of the head.
2. The length of the left middle and little finger.
3. The length of the left foot.
4. The length of the left forearm.
5. The length of the right ear.
6. The height of the figure.
7. The length, from finger tips, of the outstretched arms.
8. The height of the trunk, i. e., the height from the bench or stool to the top of the head of a subject sitting upright.

The first measurement, that of the head, is made by means of a scalpel-like instrument, especially designed for the purpose, the rule or tape being, of course, impracticable. A noteworthy fact discovered in head measurement is that in heads of the same length the width is never the same.

The length of the fingers and of the ear is made by the use of a small sliding rule. The measurements of the foot and forearm are made by the means of a long sliding scale placed upon the floor or upon a table. The height of the subject is attained by standing him barefooted in an erect military position

heels close together, with the back against a perpendicular scale board set in the wall of the room. The extent of the outstretched arms is ascertained by compelling the subject to stretch his arms to their fullest extent at right angle to his body against scale boards running at right angle to the height scale board. As these measurements are made by the examiner they are given to an assistant who carefully records them in a record book especially designed for such a purpose, and the name, age, occupation, residence, and similar notes are also carefully recorded.

The above measurements having been made and duly recorded, the body of the subject is next closely examined, that any scars and peculiar marks thereon may also be noted. For to the measurements already described it is proper to add a description of such scars and marks, and also the color of the eyes, hair, and beard, as well as the form and dimensions of the nose. The nose is measured for the ascertainment of its length, projection and breath, any peculiar or unusual condition of it being as carefully described.

Scars or marks are recognized as playing a most important part in the identification of the criminal, and for that reason they are elaborately described and minutely noted. They are not only measured exactly and their nature and origin recorded, but their exact position upon the body designated; their description being noted as follows: 1. Their nature (or designation). 2. Their direction (or inclination). 3. Their dimensions. 4. Their situation with regard to one or two specified points of the body. Tattoo marks, although their value for the purpose of identification is always less than that of scars, moles, etc., should be fully described. The reason of their being of less value for the purposes of identification, is due to the well-known fact that they may be marked over, altered, and to a certain extent obliterated.

The next point in the examination of the subject is the noting of the anomalies of the fingers, and their description is recorded with respect to three distinctive features: 1. Shortened finger. 2. Nail deviated or thickened. 3. Striated or split nail.

Next follows the noting of the color and expression of the eyes, and this feature is one of the most trying and difficult of the whole examination, owing to the fact that the many changes in the color of the human eye is due to the variety of lights and shadows. For this reason the person being examined is directed to stand before a good, unvarying light and look the examiner squarely in the eye. Of course, in the description of the eyes any and all the peculiarities observable are noted.

After the subject has been carefully weighed and the weight noted, the examination is completed by photographing him. The photographs are taken, full face and profile, and when finished they are pasted to the pages of the record book containing the description of the subject.

From the above description of the Bertillon system it can be readily seen that a person once registered under it, is to use a popular expression, "marked for life," for no matter what may afterward happen, no matter whether lasting sickness or deformity by accident or disease may come, that person is utterly incapable of avoiding identification. For that reason the Bertillon system is not only a safeguard against the prevalence of uninterrupted crime, but it is also the safest mode of protecting one unjustly accused of being some one he is not. The system, therefore, not only protects society but equally as well prevents the hounding of men arrested merely on suspicion. The Bertillon system during its use by the local Police Department, a period of something over two years, has time and time again demonstrated its great value, and the department here is one of its strongest and most earnest advocates.

A Stunning Theatre Cloak.

Harper's Bazar. Theatre and society cloaks are chiefly lined with colored imitation fur, which also acts as facing. The larger number of theatre cloaks are made long, even trailing; they are of deep red, emerald green, or azure-blue plush. An exquisite model is a ball cloak of sky-blue silk gauze with feather ruffles of the same color and gold embroideries. The red velvet circulars trimmed with costly fur seem nothing in comparison with this fancy cloak, which is really a novelty. It is of light blue satin with train, covered all over with a soft, airy, sky-blue silk crepe, has a long boa of sky-blue feathers and is trimmed at the collar with gold and colored embroideries in relief. Gauze knots are on the shoulder seams and spread out downward in fan-like appendage, which contrasts effectively with the somewhat tight waist part.

Only Frocks are Worn Now.

Boston Courier. The words "dress," "gown," and "suit" have been eliminated from the fashion talk; nothing but frocks are in order. Girls, belles, and matrons bring home a frock or two from Paris; they run round town in a cloth frock to shop, call, or do mission work; they have a little silk frock for the theatre, a Bedford or velvet frock for dinner, and get into a gauze frock for the dance or house party. It is all very English, but it is also quite a universal term.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS.

AMUSING AND PATHETIC SCENES IN THE STREETS AND IN THE STORES.

Eager Eyes That Covet the Wonderful Things in the Windows—A Sad Incident—The Boy at the Door and the Baby—In the Throng.

"Say, Mike, git onto dis. Ain't it great?" And Mike straightway and decisively replied, "Dat takes de cake, Jimmie."

They were not possessed of either an extensive or of an elegant command of language, these ragged little wanderers of the street, but nevertheless nothing more expressive, nothing so completely covering the subject matter could have been uttered.

The scene which secured the admiration of theurchins was one of the many holiday dressed store windows, which at this season of the year so delight the souls of both the big and little folks. Inside the great store crowds filled every available foot of passage room and surged here and there about it, all bent upon one errand, the purchase of Christmas goods. It is a very good-natured crowd, but every blessed one of those composing it wants to be waited on at once, notwithstanding the fact that the supply of clerks is not equal to the demand. Of course, you meet almost every one you know, but now there is time only for a nod, perhaps a shake of the hand and a word of salutation. There is a peculiar charm attending the watching of Christmas buyers, for in their midst you will find, as you will in most gatherings of the kind, every form and condition of human nature, pathos and humor, sorrow and happiness. In one of the big stores the city one day last week, a HERALD man beheld a sight which shocked beyond expression those who witnessed it. Before a counter, piled high with a stock of toys such as fill with wonder and delight the little souls for whom designed, stood a richly clad woman and her son, a little fellow of perhaps 6 or 7 years. The mother was in a state of intoxication which clouded her mind and thickened her speech. But the mother-love for her child stood out clear and strong, and in her thickened, rambling speech she sought to assure the child to select whatever he wished. Child-like, the little fellow was bewildered by the inexhaustible stock displayed before him, so much so that he could not fully decide upon just what he would most like. With all the keenness of a child's intuition, he realized that his mother was helpless to assist him. What the outcome was the HERALD man knew not, for he hurried away from a spectacle so at variance with the Christmas spirit pervading all else.

As he passed out of the store, a scene was witnessed so full of pathetic humor that the horrible one preceding it was forgotten. At the door sat a bright little chap, whose duty it was to roll back and forth the door for the ingress and egress of customers. Just within the door some mother or nurse had left a baby carriage in which rested an infant but a few months old. The little fellow at the door had evidently been requested to care for the baby while its mother or nurse made purchases elsewhere in the store. The baby, startled perhaps by the crowd and noise, was restless and seemingly on the verge of breaking forth into infantile sobs. All this the little doorman fully realized, and, between his duties, would lean over the little one, pat its fat soft cheeks, and whisper boyish words of encouragement to it. Then the wee soul in the carriage would forget its fright and laugh and crow in perfect contentment. A most pleasing sight it was, and many a busy, perplexed Christmas buyer stopped for a moment to encourage by word and smile the little man in his labor of love.

Entering another great store, THE HERALD man stopped before a counter behind which a little girl, not more than 7 or 8 years of age, stood selling dolls. It was late in the day, and though she struggled bravely on in her work, it was plainly seen that the frail little body was unequal to the strain, and so remarked a lady to one of the clerks standing behind the same counter. "Yes," replied the young lady addressed, "she is rather young for such work, but she is a determined little thing, and begged our manager to allow her to work, telling him that her father was dead and her mother was so poor. Yesterday she fainted twice, but insisted upon coming on to-day. Everybody is taken by her brave efforts, and the consequence is that her sales are very large."

Passing on, an amusing discussion was heard between two little darkies standing before a counter devoted to a display of Christmas books for children. Their object evidently was the purchase of a book for a Christmas offering to their sister. The youngsters were apparently about 10 and 12 years of age, respectively, and the sister, judging from their conversation, 8 or 9. Their selection had been narrowed down to a choice between the sad history of "Little Red Riding Hood" and the thrilling adventures of "Jack

the Giant Killer." "Les git her 'Jack de Giant Killer,' 'Rastus,' said the elder.

"No, don't go a gittin' her dat one. What does er gal want wid er book like dat, Henry Johnson? Gals don't like books what tells of de likes of dat. They don't like ter read of killin' 'an all dat."

"You're crazy, 'Rastus, you is. Don't dat Little Red Ridin' Hood git eat up by de wolf at de en' of de story?"

"Well, den, what's de matter wid Jack de Giant Killer? Don't he git killed, too?"

"Cert'ly, he does, but he was nothin' but er giant; an' 'sides dat he deserved to git killed. Little Red Ridin' Hood didn't."

At this juncture the highly amused clerk suggested that they compromise on "Cinderella," and after a moment's reflection the suggestion was accepted, and the sister will be fully presented with that classic.

All Christmas buyers are a perplexed class, but the most perplexed are those little ones on whom the fickle goddess has never smiled. With their little saving of hoarded up pennies, they timidly approach the stores of childish treasures, and price and price everything which especially attracts their fancy. Then it is that the limited possibilities of their slender resources are realized, and, poor little souls, often does the quivering lip and moistened eyes betray the pain their little hearts experience. Sometimes, however, a good angel appears to them in the shape of a well-filled purse controlled by a big heart, as was observed in one instance by THE HERALD man. Two such little ones had out of their little fund of pennies bought gifts prompted by childish thought for brother, sister, and papa, and the selection of one for mamma had been reserved for the last. Unfortunately, they had miscalculated their resources, and great was their grief when it was discovered that but a very few pennies then remained to them. It was impossible to conceal the situation, and the good angel in the form of a great, burly man, rough in appearance and speech, appeared. "So your money is gone, is it, youngsters?" he inquired.

"Yes, sir," they replied, "and," sobbed the little girl, "we can't get mamma what we wanted."

"And what was it that mamma was to have?" he asked, drawing the child to him.

"A pair of nice warm gloves, sir," she sobbed.

"Well, don't cry, little woman. Show me where the gloves are, and mamma shan't be forgotten." And off they took him, and although THE HERALD man followed them not, it is safe to say that mamma will wear gloves warm as a great good heart could make them.

Such are the scenes to be witnessed at this season of good will and gladness, as one wanders in and out of our stores and shops, filled as never they were before. Not a few of them are pathetically sad, but the most of them tell of a year of abundance and prosperity, and while one beholds much to regret, much more is beheld for which hearts should be grateful and because of which our hearts should open out to those lives darkened by want and suffering. Thus open our hearts and through them shall come brightness which will light up our days and make our nights one of rest.

EMANCIPATING WOMEN.

How Two Venetian Ladies Broke a Bad Custom.

The National Review.

In 1672 the two daughters of the Doge Giustiniani effected a complete revolution in the life of Italian women, and this by an act of bold insubordination. These young ladies resolutely refused to wear their *choppines* with cork soles a foot and a half thick. From that time dates the emancipation of the Venetian lady, and instead of being kept in harem-like seclusion in a few years she became the freest woman in Europe, especially after marriage. All the ladies followed the lead of the doge's daughters, cast aside their badge of slavery, and notwithstanding the clergy, who loudly protested against the "diabolical wickedness" of their proceedings, adopted *scarpine ala Francese* (French shoes). To form a fair idea of their mode of life we must read the comedies of Rossi, Gozzi, and Goldoni. "What shall we do?" cries Donna Costanzo to her friend Felicità, in *Le Donne di Buon Umore*. "Why, let us put on our masks and run round the town intriguing the Signor Lello." This leads to a scheme in which about a dozen ladies disguise themselves in the same colored *bauta* or domino, embellished with an identical ribbon, and the unfortunate Signor Lello is tormented to the verge of insanity.

It must have been amazing to see the entire population of a great city like Venice masked. In the National Gallery there is an excellent picture by Guardi, representing a regatta in which everybody in the dense crowd, men and women, rich and poor, wears a white and black half mask; there is also in the same room a curious picture of three or four masked ladies, in company of a gentleman who wears a mask, watching the antics of a hippopotamus in a menagerie. Once a Venetian woman was masked she was free to do as she listed. Neither husband nor brother dared interfere with her, and it was the worst breeding for a man to speak to a masked woman before she condescended to notice him. No wonder Lady Walpole preferred Venice to any other city in the world. "It was the freest."

A SELF-MADE MAN.

HOW A CONGRESSMAN RECONSTRUCTED HIMSELF PHYSICALLY.

At 19 He Was Almost a Hopeless Invalid, But Now He is as Tough as a Pine Knot—A Story Told for a Dyspeptic's Benefit.

There are not many men in Congress who appear more rugged and vigorous than Mr. McMillin, of Tennessee. And he is fully as hardy as he looks, as all who know his capacity for work in the House and on the stump are well aware. And yet Mr. McMillin when a boy was sickly and consumptive. Up to the time he was 20 years of age so wretched was his health that his family and friends had no expectation that he would live to reach man's full estate.

But one day when his health was at its lowest ebb young McMillin made up his mind that he would not only live but would make himself well and vigorous if it was within human power to do it. He started in on this big undertaking, and the success he met is plain to every one who looks at him now.

The story of how he made himself physically is an interesting one. Mr. McMillin told it the other day for the benefit and encouragement of a young man who was complaining of dyspepsia and general debility. It is well worth repeating as an instance of what pluck, perseverance, and intelligence can do in the way of physical development.

After the House adjourned the other day Mr. McMillin stood with a group of newspaper men in the open space in front of the Speaker's desk. Something brought up the subject of eating, and the Tennessee said he never paid any attention to what or when he ate.

"Yesterday for instance," he continued, "I took breakfast at 8 in the morning. My next meal, dinner, I took at 10 last night."

It was suggested that he might break himself down by this sort of treatment of his stomach, but he declared he wasn't afraid of that. He had schooled himself to endure this sort of thing by years of discipline.

He knew no man who was more hardy than himself or who had a better stomach.

"And yet, I used to be a miserable dyspeptic but I thoroughly cured myself."

This immediately interested one of the group, who was at that moment suffering all the agonies of acute indigestion. He had just eaten half a dozen fried oysters and said he could count them individually at that moment in his stomach. He asked Mr. McMillin what sort of medicine he had taken to cure dyspepsia.

The Tennessee answered:

"No medicine but diet and exercise. I have taken no medicine since I was 19 years old. At that time I was such an invalid that no one expected me to live. I had always suffered more or less with dyspepsia, and within a period of thirteen months had had two attacks of pneumonia and the measles. I was a complete wreck. To-day, as you see, I am a strong, vigorous man in perfect health. I can stand any thing in the way of work or hardship. I never tire. I could stand here from now until midnight without getting tired. Then I could go to bed feeling pretty comfortable and sleep perfectly; and yet, as I say, at 19 I was considered almost a hopeless invalid. It is no exaggeration for me to say that all I am physically I made myself."

The little group had by this time become thoroughly interested, especially the man with the dyspepsia, who was very anxious to get Mr. McMillin's experience in dealing with that terrible foe of good temper and good health. So Mr. McMillin went more into particulars as to the methods by which he made himself physically.

"As I have said," he continued, "at 19 I was used up with a wreck of a stomach and weak lungs. I made up my mind something had to be done. I told the doctor if he could only get me out where I could see the sun rise and set once more I would undertake to do the rest myself. He said he thought he could do that much for me, and he did. For a long time I was so weak that I was barely able to drag myself about. But I kept out doors as much as possible and took a little more exercise every day. As I grew stronger I made it a point to walk two hours every morning, no matter what the weather was. When it was raining in torrents I would put on a pair of high boots, take an old umbrella and start out for my walk. When I got home I stripped off everything I had on, took cold bath, rubbed myself with a rough towel, until my skin was as red as a lobster and then put on dry clothes throughout. Meanwhile, I dieted myself carefully, eating anything I found would agree with me."

"I had to change my diet constantly because food that agreed with me for a while my stomach afterward rejected. Then I would try something else. All this time after I had had my daily exercise, I did the hardest kind of studying, often reading seven and eight hours a day. About all that I know of literature I learned during this time. In the morning before breakfast I made it a point to read and commit to memory a piece of poetry in order to get myself in a pleasant frame of mind. For seven years I rigidly adhered to this regimen of diet and exercise. I never took any holidays, neither Fourth of July nor Christmas. I was determined and persistent and I not only saved my life but made myself as vigorous and hardy and capable of doing as much work as any man, I think."