

In sympathy with her and shall do everything I can to shield her from annoyance.

The Sheriff denied that he had any interest in the case other than in his official capacity.

District-Attorney Cook, who for two years occupied an office under Couch's place of business without having the faintest idea of the fact that there was an unlisted tenant in the rooms above, was equally reticent.

SHERIFF IN CHARGE OF CASE.

"I may order a hearing for the woman at any time," he said. "Then again I may hold the woman. I will not say what I will do. Sheriff Kinney is now in practical charge of the case. The papers which the Branch woman had in her hand when she was arrested on the threshold of the secret room were two mortgages on property owned by Edward P. Smith and Josephine Smith, his wife, of Monticello, and were dated the seventeenth day of February this year. One was for \$12,000 on Smith's house and the other for \$18,000 on some lots.

It is probable that Miss Branch will be held in custody until after the funeral this afternoon in order to prevent a scene at the grave. She has begged and pleaded piteously to be allowed to go, but the officials are determined not to permit her to follow the body.

Mrs. Couch talked to an Evening World reporter today. She was pale and nervous, but collected enough to hold herself well in check. "The whole thing is over now," she said, "and I want to say nothing about it. I will not discuss it except to say that it is a closed incident in my life."

Mrs. Couch was asked about the rumors that she was aware of her husband's double life. "It was as much in ignorance of it as you were," she said. "I thought nothing of my husband spending his nights in his office," said the wife. "Frequently his foot gave him almost constant trouble and he complained of about how fatiguing it was to him to walk home, up the hill leading to our house."

WOMAN SAYS SHE LOVED HIM

To an Evening World reporter today Miss Branch gave the first authentic story of her life in the "inner room" of Couch's apparently normal law office, where he daily consulted dozens of clients. The woman is of a type perfectly familiar in the business district of New York. Trig, plainly dressed in dark, unobtrusive clothes, with pale eyes, thin hair and pallid, unadorned features, she is the last creature on earth the man in the street would pick out as the heroine of a romance that outdoes the wildest dreams of Flaubert or Gautier. As she talked to an Evening World reporter today, the impression she gave was that of an unworried housekeeping woman, terrified (not unnaturally) at the first light of publicity in which she has found herself suddenly enveloped.

"I met Mr. Couch in 1898, when I was selling a publication by Murat Halstead, and gotten out by the Progressive Publishing Company of New York. The Life and Adventures of Admiral Dewey."

"I came from Cooperstown, where I have a half-brother named Charles. I won't tell his last name. My parents are dead. I'm glad they are."

"How I drifted into my association with Mr. Couch I don't just know. I loved him, I suppose, and was willing to make any sacrifice for him. From time to time I got mail from home. It was delivered to South Fallsburg, where Mr. Couch's brother Stephen was postmaster and took care that he got my mail without any one being the wiser."

"I don't know why I'm telling you all this, except that some time I think I am not quite right in my head. God knows I did all I could for him. I used to dress his poor, injured foot and cook him little things he liked on our little oil stove. He often told me he liked the excitement of our dual existence, and that he would give up the world for me."

"What woman would resist that? For all these years I've sat here in this little cubbyhole listening to the talk that drifted over the partition and looking out of the window, when I dared, but he always worried me about being seen by anybody. I was his veiled secret, as he called me."

"We always lived well here, and, strange as it may seem to you, I was perfectly happy. I loved Mr. Couch. I simply lived in him and in his presence. Simply to be near him all the time satisfied me absolutely. I wanted nothing else. His wife and children? Yes, I thought of them sometimes. One night, not so long ago, I walked past his house to see for myself Mrs. Couch, a woman I had never set eyes on."

"I looked through the window and saw the family gathered about the table, chatting and laughing. I remained there a few moments and then walked back to the office, the office I had I earned to call my home."

WAS HAPPY IN HER SHELTER.

"Don't for a moment imagine I was unhappy. I revelled in the great love of my life. I would have worn chains for Mel. I suppose to the outside world, I must call it that, my existence must appear to have been that of a slave. But to me it was sheer happiness."

"My delight was to handle Mr. Couch's business, do his typewriting and fix up the details of his professional business in general. Of course this work was done at night, for, known as I was to citizens of Monticello from my poor selling abilities, I dared not venture out for fear of being recognized."

"I can say nothing more except that I am sorry for Mrs. Couch and hope she will forgive me. What she is suffering now I have suffered at rare times. At such intervals I used to plunge into my work on Mr. Couch's typewriter and gradually get rid of my blues. Then at night Mr. Couch would get me and I was happy again."

The office in which Miss Branch passed a third of her forty years, is a snug, cozy retreat of the law, although situated in the new Masonic Temple Building, erected since the big fire that swept Monticello Couch, since to that time, occupied offices in the old Masonic Temple Building, a rickety, tumbled-down wooden structure.

When she saw the Evening World reporter Miss Branch wore a pink dot dress cut in old-fashioned style, a large black hat with white plumes which she had been so confined to remove although she is normally confined as a sick prisoner, on a charge of petit larceny.

CHARGED WITH ROBBING BODY OF \$600 IN CASH.

Upon this petty larceny charge, including costs, the extent of this extraordinary case. After the discovery of Couch's body and the sudden revelation of the woman of the inner office, Mrs. Couch confronted Miss Branch and openly charged her with robbing the body of her husband of \$600, which the wife insisted, was on the body when Couch died. Miss Branch was searched and all that was found was a \$5 bill, which she asserted was her personal property, and three \$5 bills, which she declared she had taken from the body for safe keeping.

Mrs. Couch, a tall, well-built woman with gray hair, a fitting woman for her daughter Louise, a dark-haired, blue-eyed girl in the twenties, refused to discuss the case at all, except to say that when Miss Branch is arraigned before Justice Niven she will appear against her. As Mrs. Couch talked she was dry eyed, cold and collected. In the front room of the comfortable home they occupied lay the body of her husband.

Not the least extraordinary feature of the case is the fact that Couch was accustomed to go home on Sundays for his meals. At other times he ate with the Branch woman and engineered the deception by an old artifice. It appears that when the fire destroyed the main part of Monticello, Couch injured his foot by stepping in some carbide used for a fire extinguisher. This injury compelled him home, according to the story, and he was found by the doctor of a large bill he made this an excuse for sleeping in his office. Another version of the injured foot story is that he was running a hundred yard race in his youth and that somebody placed a ladder in his path and he fell over it, fracturing his ankle.

Woman and Lawyer Who Lived Dual Lives for Many Years



MISS ADELAIDE M. BRANCH

more than its book value. Many companies into the State have been consolidated into the company and we wrote off \$7,000,000 of their capital. A part of that \$7,000,000 should be apportioned to New York City."

HEAD OF CITY PHONE TRUST IS FORCED TO TESTIFY

(Continued from First Page)

Chairman Decker contradicted Bethell and declared there was a great deal of disquiet among the \$40 a year for 600 calls in New York City."

Mr. Bethell waded far afield trying to show that all these outside plants and absorbed companies should be considered as having bearing on New York City profits and rates. Mr. Winkler brought him back repeatedly to New York City but was unable to pin him down to any definite statements regarding the figures of the metropolis alone.

CHAIRMAN DECKER TAKES A HAND IN EXAMINATION.

Mr. Bethell having declared that the value of absorbed up-State companies had influence on New York City values and rates, Chairman Decker took a hand at cross-examination and concluded a long inquiry into methods and practices which will furnish valuable data for the commission.

Mr. Bethell, in a generous declaration similar to the eulogistic statements of life insurance presidents under the fire of investigation Hughes, said that a few years ago he had wired out \$7,000,000 from the capital account of absorbed companies, so that the people would not have to pay for it in telephone rates. It was, he said, to relieve the rate paying public from paying interest on \$7,000,000.

"In considering changes in rates, do you take into consideration earnings and expenses?" asked Chairman Decker. "Yes, broadly speaking."

Q. Have you not had surveys and studies made of New York City for this purpose? A. No, not alone. I have always felt that the duty of the telephone company to the commercial and business community of New York City demanded that we take into account the surrounding territory.

BETHELL'S VIEWS ON RATES IN THIS CITY.

Mr. Bethell made a long argument against fixing New York City rates on the basis of the city alone. All the State, he argued, should be considered as having a bearing on the city's rates. New York City should furnish the cream to enrich the service to the State. It is the value of the service to the users, according to the company's ideas of value, not cost of service alone, which should be the basis for fixing rates.

Therefore plant investment and profits in New York City should not be considered as the sole basis for rates. "I know him well," said Mr. Kerr, "and I will find him if he is in this town. I know all the corners of the Telephone Building, with its three sets of elevators, its secret connection with the Havemeyer Building next door and its many exits."

Mr. Bethell decided to back down when he heard the subpoena had been issued.

THAW BEFORE SANITY BOARD.

CONCORD, N. H., Dec. 23.—Harry K. Thaw spent the greater part of today before the commission appointed by the Federal Court to determine whether his mental condition is such as to make his release on bail a menace to public safety.

The commissioners first held a brief consultation at the office of Gen. Frank S. Streeter, one of their number, at the conclusion of which they were summoned before them. The proceedings were secret.

SCHMIDT HEARING NEARLY BRINGS ON LOVERS' QUARREL

Young Woman Listening to Vile Life of Accused Meets Indignant Fiance.

IS GIVEN LAST CHOICE.

Alienist Jelliffe Declares Prisoner Is Victim of Paraphrenic Dementia.

A young man walked into Judge Foster's court-room with a subpoena calling for his attendance before the Grand Jury to-day. This was the Court of General Sessions, where particularly salacious details of the Hans Schmidt murder trial have been brought out in evidence.

He was admitted as a matter of course. He saw a girl in a white coat sitting in the witness seats just a few feet away from Schmidt, dividing her glances between his unkempt face and the witness.

The young man went out to Capt. Thomas Flanagan, the court officer at the door.

"How long has she been here?" he demanded, dragging Flanagan to the crack of the door and pointing her out. "Ever since the first day," said the officer.

The youth went into the courtroom, tapped the girl on the shoulder and beckoned her outside. In the vestibule he seized a tongue-lashing under which the young woman almost curled up.

MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN AT-TENDING TRIAL AND FIANCE.

"If you think I want to marry a woman who will listen to that sort of stuff," he said, "you do not know me. Get out of here and go home or it's all over between you and me. I'm through. Go in or out! Take your choice."

The girl started to say: "But, dear,"

"There is no 'but,' Helen," he said. The girl, noticing the crowd which was gathering, ran down the stairway and out of the building. The man followed her slowly. The name of neither was known to the attendants.

A few moments later a young woman—one of the seven still remaining in the room—was called to the witness stand and was helped out of the room. She was attended by County Physician King of Hoboken. An attendant at the trial as a witness, and refusing to give her name and address, was taken home by another woman, reducing the number of women present to five.

A queer genealogical chart showing Schmidt's descent from persons of tainted minds was offered in evidence. The chart covered the history of sixty relatives of Schmidt, of whom a large proportion had been adjudged insane or had committed suicide. The chart, four feet by six, was not at once admitted in evidence. Assistant District-Attorney Delehanty said that the insanity experts for the State had not yet verified it. The map was a queer-looking diagram in which red and black spots, connected by zig-zag lines, involved Schmidt's mentality in a mass of diseased minds.

Mr. Delehanty indicated that he would admit the chart later if it could be verified to his satisfaction. The jurors nonetheless got a good look at the chart during the arguments of the lawyers regarding it.

SCHMIDT LAWYER AWAY AFTER MORE WITNESSES, IT IS SAID.

Alphonse G. Koebler, counsel for the prisoner was not in court at today's opening. It was understood that he was in Trenton trying to persuade certain reluctant witnesses who observed Schmidt while he was employed in a church there in the unauthorized guise of a priest. Mr. Koebler, leaving W. M. K. O'Connell and Terence J. McManus to conduct the actual trial, has spent much time in Trenton for several days. Persons whose testimony he desires have persistently refused to come to this city to go on the witness stand because they do not want to be mixed up with such an unseemly case and have such a record to be established about them for the rest of their lives.

Dr. Smith Ely Jelliffe, the first of the alienists for the defense, was still on the stand when court opened to-day. Under cross-examination an open quarrel developed between the witness and Mr. Delehanty.

"Are you not using sophistry?" asked Mr. Delehanty. "Only as lawyers use it," said the physician. "But you are?"

"It is necessary with a lawyer as skillful as yourself," said Dr. Jelliffe, smiling.

"But you are speaking to others," said the Assistant District-Attorney. "I will talk plainly if you will permit me," said Dr. Jelliffe.

"But are you using sophistry?" insisted Mr. Delehanty. "That is for you to say, sir," replied Dr. Jelliffe.

Without alcohol or poisonous drugs, Father John's Medicine cures throats and lungs, builds up the body and makes strength.

It drives the impurities out of the system and strengthens each organ of the body, enabling each to do its work properly.

Father John's Medicine is the best remedy ever prescribed for building up the system.

Dr. Jelliffe, sweetly. "You ought to know."

JELLIFFE SAYS SCHMIDT IS TYPE OF PARANOIAC.

Dr. Jelliffe said that he considered Schmidt a victim of "a paranoiac or paraphrenic type of dementia praecox." He did not regard Schmidt, he said, as an idiot or an imbecile.

"Does the accused know he is now sitting on a chair?" asked Mr. Delehanty of Dr. Jelliffe, speaking sarcastically.

"In my opinion," said the expert, "he does. But I don't know w-h-a-t he knows about it. He may think he is on a chair or he may think he is on a throne. He is a sick man, and has been for years."

"Do you think," shouted Mr. Delehanty, "that Court Officer Carroll, sitting behind him, knows that Schmidt is sitting on a chair?"

"Mr. Carroll," said former Judge O'Connell, "objects to the question, in that it is irrelevant and immaterial."

"Objection sustained," said Judge Foster.

"Are you testifying for pay?" asked Mr. Delehanty.

"I would be glad to make a statement," said the expert.

"You expect to be paid?" insisted Mr. Delehanty.

"I expect to render a bill," said Dr. Jelliffe.

There was a laugh.

"You were paid as an expert in the Thaw case, were you not?"

"Some," said the physician. The Court had to call for order.

Dr. William A. White of St. Elizabeth's Asylum of the United States Government, near Washington, was the second alienist called. Dr. White's narratives of Schmidt's self-revelations differed only in variety and not in quality from those which have been related before. Dr. White's examination by Mr. O'Connell was very brief. He said that Schmidt was crazy from youth.

Dr. Henry A. Cotton of the New Jersey State Hospital at Trenton, was qualified and swore that he thought Schmidt sane, after reading notes of a confession by Schmidt to him.

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—The so-called "Bill Posters' Trust" is negotiating with the Government to follow the example of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and dissolve, it was learned here to-day. Suit against the alleged combination was begun here recently, but the association is said to be willing to conform to every wish of the Government without further procedure in court.

The Government's suit is a civil one directed against the Associated Bill Posters and Distributors of the United States and Canada. In these two countries there are said to be four big associations of bill posters and distributors which are members of the defendant association.

FALL KILLS SERGEANT.

Skull Fractured by Plunge From Car at Coney Island.

Police Sergeant Edmund O. Matthews, who was located at Sheephead Bay, died this morning in Kings County Hospital from a fractured skull. On Dec. 18 he fell from a Coney Island car. He was treated by Dr. McSwaney, who expressed little hope for his recovery from the start.

Last August Matthews accidentally shot Detective Blake in the leg at the station house. He was placed on trial and while he was later restored to duty, final decision has been reserved in his case. Blake is still absent from duty. Matthews was forty-two years old and leaves a widow and five children. He was appointed to the force in 1904.

Stop That Cough with the Old Reliable, most agreeable and effective remedy.

Hale's Honey of Horehound and Tar

Soothes and heals sore throat, hoarseness, dryness and all irritations. Sold by druggists.

Try Pike's Toothache Drops

PERLIN GLOVES

Famous the world over for Men & Women

Every PERLIN glove stamped in the palm.

ONE FIFTY TO TEN DOLLARS

World Wants Work Wonders

WHITE SLAVE FILM OWNERS ARE HELD IN BAIL FOR TRIAL

Mrs. Inez Milholland Boissevain Appears for Pictures, While Other Women Fight Them.

DENOUNCE INJUNCTION.

Magistrate Murphy Declares He Will Sit in Judgment on Any Citizen's Complaint.

The people responsible for the production of the moving pictures, "The Inside of the White Slave Traffic," at the Park Theatre, waived examination before Magistrate Murphy this afternoon in Chief Magistrate McCafoe's office at No. 200 Mulberry street, Henry C. Bonn, manager of the theatre; Benjamin Nussbaum, ticket taker; Miss Frances Pierce, in the box office; William Hurley, operator, and Max Frick, his assistant, were held in \$1,000 bail for Special Sessions.

Assistant District-Attorney Lookhart was present for the prosecution. The defense was represented by Frederick Goldsmith and Abe Gruber, the attorney. Mrs. Inez Milholland Boissevain, counsel for the Sociological Fund of the Medical Review of Reviews, sat on one side of the table to help the defendants. On the other sat Miss Marzette Luther of the Florence Crittenton Mission to advocate the closing of the alleged immoral movies.

Attorney Goldsmith said that the defendants waived examination and asked for a reduction of bail to \$500.

"Not at this time," returned Magistrate Murphy, severely. "Any one engaged in this enterprise just now is not entitled to any consideration, in my opinion."

Then, turning to Third Deputy Police Commissioner Newburger, he added: "WANTS TO KNOW IF INJUNCTIONS RULE CITY."

"If there are any complaints from any citizens as to the production of this show in future I will sit and try their cases, as I consider each case a separate violation of the law."

"I was reading in the law this morning," put in Counsellor Gruber, "that as a Magistrate you can sit only in your own jurisdiction."

"I can sit and try this case in any place in the city of New York," reported the Magistrate. "It's about time that we learned whether this city is being run by law or by injunction."

"Or by the arbitrary act of the Police Department, which is infinitely worse," said Gruber.

Magistrate Murphy said that the law would be continued to be carried out as it had been done since he went on the bench.

"I sometimes make mistakes myself," said Gruber.

"I'm sorry to hear it," returned the Magistrate.

"But I'm glad to have good company," Magistrate Murphy made the order holding the defendants and left the bench.

Solomon Hechter, proprietor of a Second Avenue restaurant, filed summons and complaints in the County Clerk's office this afternoon in two suits for \$100,000 each for alleged damages in the white slave movies in producing his restaurant in the picture play.

One of the suits is directed against the Broadway Theatre, Brooklyn, where, it is alleged, a similar picture to that of the Park Theatre is being shown. Mrs. Hechter also brings suit for \$100,000. It is complained that the movies depict her standing in the doorway of her restaurant, above which is the label: "White Slave Headquarters."

JULES CLARETTE DEAD, VICTIM OF THE GRIP

PARIS, Dec. 23.—Jules Clarette, one of the French "immortals" and administrator of the Comedie Francaise, died to-day of influenza.

Jules Arsene Arnaud Clarette was born on Dec. 2, 1840, at Limoges, but lived the greater part of his life in Paris, where he was educated. He was a prolific writer of books and dramatic criticism, and acted as war correspondent in 1904 with the Italian army fighting against the Austrian troops. He again took part in warlike operations during the Franco-German war of 1870-71, when for a period he was in command of a battalion of volunteers of the National Guard, and was present at nearly all the engagements in the vicinity of Paris.

He subsequently was elected to Parliament, but gave up politics for his literary pursuits.

Clarette's works were mostly of a light, gossip character, but he wrote some volumes of history and fiction. Since 1883 M. Clarette had been administrator of the Comedie Francaise, which office he resigned in September this year. He was a Grand Officer of the Legion of Honor.

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MY! Oh my! But how many of you Christmas shoppers postpone your purchases until the last minute in spite of our repeated appeals to shop early! Not that our supply of Candy may become exhausted, handicap Santa Claus and cause a national calamity. Oh no! no fear of that when we are producing tons of Sweets every day. But we were looking out for your out-of-town friends and relatives to whom you intend sending LOFT Candy by Express or Parcel Post. Again we say "Get Busy!" The time is getting short.

Assorted Hard Candies

A select assortment of long lasting favorites, comprising Buttercups, Molasses Peppermints, Blooms, Fruit and Nut Chips, and many other equally pleasing dainties.

One-Pound Boxes

OLD FASHION CLEAR CANDY, containing collection of sweets in excellent assortment. POUND BOX 13c

OLD FASHION CLEAR ANIMAL TOYS—Wouldn't be Christmas for these delectable goodies. POUND BOX 15c

SPECIAL Mixed CANDY, consisting of Cream Peppermints, Dates, Fruit Jellies, Bonbons, French Cream, etc. POUND BOX 15c

HIGH GRADE ASSORTED CHOCOLATES, 30 different kinds. POUND BOX 25c

HIGH GRADE BONBONS, CHOCOLATES, GLACE FRUITS, etc. POUND BOX 25c

VERY HIGH GRADE BONBONS, CHOCOLATES AND FRUITS, in assortment of all Chocolates, including new and rare candies. POUND BOX \$1.25

THE IDEAL XMAS GIFT PACKAGE

GOLD SEAL CHOCOLATES OF BON BONS AND CHOCOLATES—A collection of the most delicious of the candy-making art in excellent variety, the newest novelties in High Class Sweets. Attractively put up in Beautiful Packages of LUXE. \$1.00

SPECIAL Offer to Sunday Schools, Churches, Etc. A Special Salesman at each store assures committees prompt and courteous attention.

30 Pounds of METROPOLITAN MIXTURE, Absolutely Pure, Wholesome Candy, and 60 Half Pound Boxes, for \$2.70

30 Pounds of OLD FASHIONED BOILED SUGAR MIXTURE, and 60 Half Pound Boxes, for \$3.30

30 Pounds of MANHATTAN MIXED, consisting of Chocolates, Caramels and 20 Other Kinds, and 60 Half Pound Boxes, for \$3.90

To-Night, December 23d, All Our Stores Remain Open Until 11 o'clock. To-Morrow Night, Wednesday, December 24th, OPEN UNTIL MIDNIGHT.

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117 NASSAU STREET (at Broadway) Corner Fulton Street

240 WEST 125th STREET (at 125th Street) Corner Fulton Street

22 WEST 54th STREET (at 54th Street) Corner Elm Place, Brooklyn

475 FIFTH AVENUE (at 5th Avenue) Corner Elm Place, Brooklyn

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