

# DOUBLE KILLING IN QUIET RESIDENTIAL SECTION OF NEW YORK COMPLETELY Baffles ENTIRE POLICE AND DETECTIVE DEPARTMENTS

## CRIME STANDS OUT UNIQUE IN HISTORY

### Detectives Declare It Different From Any They Have Known.

(Continued from First Page.)

### Several Motives Discussed and Discarded.

Half a dozen possible motives have been suggested. Robbery, hatred, fear—these have been considered and discussed over and over again. Insanity on the part of the murderer; an obsession such as makes its appearance once in a decade, perhaps, when a "Jack the Ripper" startles the world; possibly it was either of these, but none of the detectives who have been closely in touch with all the details of the case will venture a positive opinion.

Theories of the crime? There are fifty of them. Every person who has studied it, be he professional or amateur in detection, has a theory.

But every theory that has been advanced has a weakness. Each seems to be controverted by some known fact of the double murder. In each there is some necessary link that is not supplied.

### FACTS IN CASE.

WHAT the police know is that in the neighborhood of 3:30 o'clock last Monday afternoon some one murdered an old woman and a butler. The woman had been with Dr. Cannon, and with his wife before their marriage, for forty years. The man had been employed only two days.

The murderer or murderers, not satisfied with having killed the pair, beat and hacked at them with a weapon which is believed to have been a burglar's "jimmy." Then he, or they, got away without detection, as completely as though they had vanished in air.

The police have discovered positively nothing which is serviceable as a clue. A newspaper of the date on which the murder was committed, which was creased as though it had been wrapped about the "jimmy," believed to have been used, was discovered. It was printed in English, and might have been bought or picked up in an alley.

Near the body of Miss Meehan was found a dolly smeared with red, on which the murderer evidently had wiped a bloodstained finger. But microscopic examination has failed to reveal any print which later might be used in the identification of any suspect.

The wife of Dr. I. Levin, who lived at 123 West 123d street, next door to Dr. Cannon, saw two men of suspicious appearance in the neighborhood early Monday morning, but she paid little attention to them and could not now identify them, she says.

### Little Girl Talks to Murderer.

One person is known to have talked with the supposed murderer. This is thirteen-year-old Helen Hammond, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Frederick Hammond, who live at 143 West 143d street, a few doors from where the tragedy occurred.

She went to the house on an errand and rang the bell. A man's voice from the house told her to go away. She was surprised and frightened, and went back home. She did not see the owner of the voice, but she says it was not that of anyone she knew.

Nowhere in their search, the police say, have they been able to obtain the slightest help.

On the other hand, the puzzling questions which confront them run into the dozens. Was there a lone murderer, or were there more? How was entrance to the house obtained? What was the object in going into the house? If it was robbery, why were the burglars content to take less than \$100 worth of money and a few stickpins, when there were jewelry and silverware worth several thousand dollars within reach and unprotected?

### Reason for Killing Woman Still Unsolved.

Why was it necessary to kill the old woman? She was feeble; a blow in the face would have prevented her from making the thief's presence known until he should have had time to make his escape. Or was it that the old woman knew the man who killed her? Was it this knowledge that signed her death warrant?

These are only some of the questions which the best detectives in the country have canvassed.

What the police actually know is the story which has been made known to every one through the newspapers the country over. Dr. Cannon is a physician of prominence, a homeopathist, who has made a reputation as a bacteriologist. He is, perhaps, sixty years old, perhaps sixty-five, a well-preserved, seemingly substantial citizen, and in appearance of a type not unusual among professional men.

For years he has been a widower. His wife was a native of Richmond, Va. They were married twenty-six years ago. With Dr. Cannon lived his sister, Miss Cannon, the Misses Freeborn, two sisters, who are school teachers; Miss Meehan, and the butler.

### Buried in Plot Next to Former Mistress.

Miss Meehan ranked higher than a servant. She had nursed Mrs. Cannon when she was a child, and had lived with her many years. After the death of the doctor's wife she continued in his house, looking after him and his sister. She was regarded by both as a member of the family. She superintended the household affairs, and "mothered" every one else in the house. She was buried Thursday in the lot in Greenwood Cemetery beside the grave of Mrs. Cannon.

Beniam, who was called Dhanukdharie Beniam before he was converted to Christianity, had entered the Cannon household on Saturday preceding the murder. He was to be a butler and general servant, under Miss Meehan's direction.

### THE CANNON HOME.

THE Cannon home is a three-story house, standing in a row of three-story houses such as are to be found throughout the entire city. The front room on the ground floor

## FIGURES IN HARLEM MYSTERY; HOME INVADED



DR. MOTT D. CANNON EMPLOYER OF THE VICTIMS.

HELEN HAMMOND, WHO TALKED WITH THE MURDERER.

is the parlor, opening off the hall. The rear room is the doctor's office, and between it and the parlor is a room which he used as a waiting room for his patients.

The dining room is in the basement in front of the house. A door leads from it to an area opening beneath the high front steps. Back of the dining room is the butler's pantry, and in the rear is the kitchen. Dr. Cannon sleeps in the rear room on the second story, and Miss Cannon sleeps in the front. The Misses Freeborn occupy the third floor front room. Miss Meehan slept in the back room on the third floor, and the Hindu slept in the basement.

Dr. Cannon visited several patients Monday morning, and later received half a dozen others in his office. He sat down alone to a light luncheon at 3 o'clock, as his sister was shopping and the Misses Freeborn were at their school. He left the house, as nearly as he can recollect, at 3:20 o'clock, to make several professional visits.

### Doctor Makes Grievous Discovery.

When he returned at 4:45, he found several patients waiting on the front steps for him. They said they had been ringing the bell, but could get no response. Feeling a little vexed, he unlocked the door and entered, calling for Miss Meehan.

Receiving no response, he stepped into the parlor and there saw the old housekeeper lying on her side, with her head on a blue bag, dead. Her face lay in a pool of blood. Beside her hand was a small pad of paper on which she had apparently been figuring her weekly account of household expenses, and a lead pencil. Pieces of an upper plate of false teeth lay near her, shattered as it was afterward learned, by a bullet.

Her head was beaten and cut as though by the blow of some heavy iron instrument, not a knife. She had evidently fallen when she was first struck, as a lounge which was covered with a white cloth was within two feet of her. There was no stain on it, a tabouret on which a heavy lamp stood, was also near by, but it had not been disturbed.

Her employer friend was stupefied. For an instant he stood motionless, and then ran down the stairway leading to the basement. His first suspicion was directed toward the Hindu butler who had entered his household only two days before.

### Butler Found At Foot of Stairs.

But at the foot of the stairway, with one leg doubled under him, as though he had been running when he was struck down, was the body of the butler, also dead, and as badly mutilated as that of the other victim.

His head was hacked almost to pieces. The back was crushed in, and there was a triangular depression in the forehead as though he had been struck first from the front. He also had been shot, and beside his body lay a revolver which Dr. Cannon recognized as one that had lain unused in his bureau for ten years.

Dr. Cannon, overwhelmed and almost overcome, staggered up the stairs. He requested his guests to leave, and then telephoned to the police that two persons had been murdered in his house.

Within a few minutes Detective McElhargy arrived from the Harlem bureau, two blocks from the physician's house. He was followed by Capt. August Kuehne, his chief, and still later, Inspector Hussey and Inspector Russell, head of the New York detective department, reached the house.

In the meantime, the physician went upstairs to his room. He found that the drawer of his bureau had been opened, and that the revolver had been taken from it. There \$50 in bills were missing, and \$150 in small coins which he had had in a bank.

Seven stickpins had been taken from the bureau. A drawer of a desk in another corner of the room had been pried open, apparently by some thin-bladed instrument. The aggregate value of the pins would not exceed \$100. In another drawer of the bureau was a valuable gold watch which had not been disturbed. The closest examination has failed to show that the intruder did anything except

open the drawers of the bureau and of the desk. The house was filled with handsome and valuable ornaments, but these were untouched. The butler, just before he was killed, had been cleaning a tray of silver worth several hundred dollars. His hands bore the marks of the cleaning powder. The tray had not been disturbed.

These facts are a few of those which have contributed to the mystification of the detectives. Coroner Winterbottom was informed of the murders, and in a short time he arrived at the house.

### SURPRISING DISCOVERY.

It was during the autopsy the following morning that a surprising discovery was made. The detectives, when they examined the house the night before, ascertained that three cartridges had been shot from Dr. Cannon's revolver. Their examination of the bodies then revealed a bullet wound in the head of the butler, Meehan, and one in that of the other.

But Coroner's Physician Schultz discovered that at least four shots had been fired, all of them taking effect. In the case of the housekeeper, there was a bullet wound through the left cheek into the mouth. This bullet was stopped by the plate of her false teeth and lay on her tongue.

A second bullet had entered the right side of her neck two inches below the back of the skull, and the skin about the wound was burned, showing that the revolver had been fired at close range. The third bullet wound was in the middle of the spine, an inch and a half below the base of the skull. This had shattered the vertebrae, and in doing so had been torn into shreds itself.

In addition to these wounds, the skull between the top of the head and the left ear had been driven in by two bullets with some flat weapon.

### Bullet Lands In Hindu's Brain.

The single bullet wound in the skull of Beniam, the Hindu, coursed upward through the brain. The bullet was found just inside the skull, imbedded in the lining of the brain. Over the right side of the forehead, just below the scalp line, was a large triangular wound, which cut through the flesh and produced a fracture of the skull beneath.

Over the right ear was a smaller wound. Almost the entire left side of the skull was crushed in. Across the back of the skull, over the occipital bone were two wounds, each three inches in length, made with some instrument that crushed at the same time it cut.

It was not learned until Tuesday afternoon that little Helen Hammond had talked with the supposed murderer. This little girl is a pupil of Miss Julia Freeborn in Public School 68, which is in 128th street near Seventh avenue, one of the pupils on Monday morning gave a bouquet of lilacs to Miss Freeborn, and as the teacher wished to make several calls on the way home, she requested Helen to take the flowers to her house for her.

The little girl left the school a few minutes after 3 o'clock and arrived at her own home about 3:25. She entered

the house a minute and then went to Dr. Cannon's door. There she rang the bell but received no reply. She went away, but returned a few minutes later and rang again. This time she heard footsteps in the hall, and then a gruff voice from behind the door said:

"Go away, little girl, in distinct English. There is no one at home."

### Mrs. Levin Gives Point Clue.

It was reported later that the man behind the door had opened it a trifle, and that the girl had a glimpse of his face, but this is not the story she told to the detectives.

The faint clue given by Mrs. Levin was that early Monday morning two rough-looking men rang her bell and asked if the doctor were in. When she said he was still in bed, the men hurried away.

All the facts relating directly to the mystery which are in possession of the police have now been told. On only a few things are the detectives agreed.

### SOME THEORIES.

It is considered certain that the murderer or murderers were on every floor in the house, probably in every room. The paper in which the "jimmy" is believed to have been wrapped was picked up on the third floor; the bureau and desk in the physician's room were on the second; the body of Miss Meehan was found on the first floor, and the dead butler was lying in the basement.

It is generally agreed also that Miss Meehan was the first to be killed. She and the murderer met in the parlor, or else they met in the hall and the old woman fled into the parlor. It is believed that the first bullet fired was that which entered her cheek and lodged in the mouth. From the position in which she was lying, it could not have been fired after she fell.

It is also believed that she dropped at the first shot, and that the second, which burned her skin, and the third, which pierced her spine, were both fired into her body as she lay prone on the floor. Then the blunt weapon with which the crushing blows were struck was swung. The arm that swung it was more than usually powerful, or it was impelled by a strength born of terror.

### Hindu Butler Flees From Death.

The Hindu, it is believed, heard the shots and ran upstairs to see what the trouble was. It is believed he was met at the head of the stairs by the murderer of the housekeeper, or by a companion. The blow which crushed in the forehead, it is believed, was the first struck.

Staggering and in fear of his life, Beniam turned and started down the stairway with the murderer behind him, still striking with the terrible weapon, swinging at full-arm length. The butler, it is believed, was fired after he had fallen, dead or dying, to the floor. There were four wounds on the head of the Hindu, any one of which would have killed him. Three of the wounds found

## NO MOTIVE DISCOVERED FOR MARAUDER'S ACT

### Neither Victim in the Tragedy Had Any Known Enemies. Record of Oriental Employe of Doctor Declared Good.

Every house in the block is occupied, and it would be difficult for a person intending to enter Dr. Cannon's house to have gained the rooftops without being discovered. The rear windows of the houses on West 123d street all offer a view of the rear of the Cannon house, and any one dropping over the edge of the roof and entering a window would almost certainly be seen. Besides, the police argue, the rain through over which the intruder would have had to drop is rusty and would not bear a weight of twenty pounds without showing evidence of the strain.

### MOTIVE BURGLARY.

BURGLARY, Dr. Cannon believes, was undoubtedly the motive of the man who entered the house. The murders, he thinks, were the result of the discovery by Miss Meehan of the robber or robbers. Either she heard the man in the house and went to see who it was, or she came face to face with him by chance, and was killed that she might not identify him later. The discovery by Miss Meehan of the robber or robbers, the intruders were not professional burglars. It is admitted that inexperienced housebreakers might have acted as did the burglars of the housekeeper and the butler. A madman might, in frenzy, have mutilated their bodies.

A professional burglar, it is understood, might have gone to the length of killing the Hindu, who was a large man and powerful, and to be feared. But a man who had entered the house to rob, and would not have gone to the length of shooting three bullets into the body of Miss Meehan, or of hacking her skull as she lay dead on the carpet.

### Everything Points To Amateurish Work.

The housekeeper was sixty-nine years old, a frail little woman. A blow in the face from the arm that had strength to wield a weapon with such effect as the murderer did, would have silenced her until a burglar could have gone through the whole house, or at least have ran away.

And it is this fact which makes the police believe the slayer was admitted at the front door. They believe he was known to the old housekeeper, and that she was killed in order that she should not be able to say later who it was that had been there.

The fine disregard of the man who took the \$250 in money and the seven stickpins, instead of the expensive silverware and the gold watch, does not seem consistent with the character of the professional burglar. There was nothing in disorder such as would have been the case, the police declare, if experienced housebreakers had gone through the place. There is not a feature of the crime, they say, which remotely partakes of the ethics of burglary.

It is known that Dr. Cannon had a habit of letting money paid to him by patients accumulate until it reached a certain sum. The police say that as late as the Saturday before the killing he had several thousand dollars in the bureau drawer which was opened, but that he took it to the bank several hours before the tragedy.

Because of this they have spent much time trying to discover whether anyone may have known of this custom of the physician. If so, they believe they might have a clue to the murderer. The doctor denies that he was in the habit of letting large sums of money lie about the house, and he says he knows of no one who might know anything about his habits whom he would for an instant suspect.

### Suspect Answers In Straightforward Manner.

The theory that the man who entered the house knew the habits of the occu-

pants as well as the interior of the residence, led to the sharp cross-questioning of William Carter, the negro butler of Dr. Reuben Cronson, who lives at 132 West 123d street, the house adjoining the Cannon house on the east. Carter was butler for Dr. Cannon until Saturday when Beniam, the Hindu took his place.

For three hours Carter was questioned by Chief Kuehne. His replies were straightforward, and were substantiated by members of the Cronson family afterward. His room was searched, but no incriminating evidence was found. Both Dr. Cannon and Dr. Cronson express the utmost confidence in the negro's honesty.

Carter was in the Cronson house, as was a son of Dr. Cronson, at the time the shooting must have occurred. There were occupants also in the house of Dr. Levin, on the west side of the Cannon house. No one heard the shots, but this is not considered surprising, as the Cannon house is built independently of the others, and there is a thick double wall separating his home from those of his neighbors on either side.

### NO KNOWN ENEMIES.

NEITHER the housekeeper nor the Hindu is known to have had an enemy. Miss Meehan knew few persons and had been away from the Cannon household only once in the last five or six years. That was two years ago, when she visited relatives of Mrs. Cannon in Virginia.

A theory advanced at first was that the Hindu might have been marked for vengeance by some secret society of his countrymen, similar to the Italian Camorra or the Black Hand. Hindu friends of the butler say Beniam was born in Calcutta and was of a low caste, and not, therefore, eligible to membership in any secret organization of any strength or prominence.

He had been in this country for more than a year, and was secured by Dr. Cannon from the employment bureau of the colored branch of the Y. M. C. A. on West Fifty-third street. His life since he came to the United States has been investigated. He had worked in a number of places, but his record was clear. It is said he has a mother living in the island of Trinidad, and that a wife and three children are in Calcutta.

### List of Jewelry Said to Be Missing.

Another report that gained credence was that the men who committed the murder obtained a large amount of jewelry from Dr. Cannon's house. The value of these articles was placed as high as \$10,000. The complete list of articles that were taken from the house, according to the police, follows:

One gold bow-tie diamond pin, one diamond double knot pin, one diamond fancy pin, one moonstone pin with face of a man in the moon carved in the center, one gold stickpin, owl's face with ruby eyes; old gold stickpin, round shape with intagli on outer rim, and one gold stickpin, bird's claw clasping a diamond.

Since Monday night every pawnshop in New York has been watched by detectives, in the event that the man who took the jewelry might venture to dispose of some of it. For several days every available detective was at work on the case. Twelve men are still detailed to it, six from the Harlem bureau and an equal number from the central office.

In direct supervision of the work is Captain Kuehne, of the Harlem bureau, an upstanding young man who is recognized as one of the most successful detectives in the country. It was Kuehne who worked on the mysterious murder a few years ago of Lena Whitmore, whose nude body was found sunk to the waist in mud in the Black Swamps near Harrison, N. J.

Every suggestion that has offered possibility of a clue has been followed. Everything which has seemed to bear even remotely on the crime has been investigated. The net result to date is zero. The police are as much at sea as they were the night the tragedy became known, and motive and murderers are both still the unknown quantities in the criminal equation known as the Harlem Mystery.

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