

# POISON HER PASSION

JANE TOPPAN CONFESSES TO KILLING THIRTY-ONE PERSONS.

Long List of Persons Done to Death by Trained Nurse—Alienists Puzzled Over Most Remarkable Case in History.

Jane Toppan, spinster, aged 45, a trained nurse by profession and by confession a murderer of thirty-one persons, is now safely confined at the asylum for the insane at Taunton, Mass., to which place she was taken after the alienists appointed by the court had declared her of unsound mind and irresponsible for her conduct.

Her crimes outrival those of Lucretia Borgia. She stands singly and alone as the greatest criminal of modern times. Holmes, who was hanged at Philadelphia in 1895, was an amateur; Garcia Palasco, executed in the City of Mexico in 1867; Valdivia Mas-



Jane Toppan.

sini, garrotted in Barcelona forty years ago, and Maria Polloch, put to death in St. Petersburg in 1856, were angels of mercy as compared to this woman. Her recital of her crimes makes one's blood run cold. She has told of the death of her victims as if she were talking about a summer picnic at which she enjoyed herself; of the fiendish subtlety she employed in ending human lives, the patience she maintained during the paroxysms preceding dissolution, the exuberance and joy which came to her when she saw their eyelids pressed down. No ghost has come to her in the midnight hours to disturb her dreams, no smarting of conscience visited her unnatural brain that excited either tears or sorrow.

The three alienists who examined into her sanity marveled and thought she was an extraordinary criminal when she confessed that she had poisoned eleven persons and attempted to kill two others. But to these men she told only one-third of the tale of her career.

For the purpose of his further investigation from a medical standpoint, Dr. Henry R. Stedman was told of the confession of Miss Toppan that she killed by the uses of narcotic poisons twenty persons in addition to those she had mentioned to him. Dr. Stedman has in preparation a work for psychologists, with Jane Toppan as the subject of investigation. He had intended writing merely of his own observations and detailing the admission of eleven murders she made to him. When he was told of the other twenty he decided that the magnitude of the case required the most careful investigation, and he intends to consult the attending physicians of each patient Miss Toppan says she poisoned to ascertain if her story of the manner of death is consistent with the symptoms observed by the doctors.

The following is a list of those she has put to death within the past seven years. She has promised her attorney that as soon as her mind becomes fresher she will prepare for him a complete roster of those she has killed with morphine and atropine.

Israel P. Dunham of Cambridge, died May 26, 1895, aged 83. Cause given, "strangled hernia." Ill four days. Jane Toppan nursed him.

Mrs. Lovey P. Dunham, wife of Is-



Mrs. Mary D. Gibbs.

(Woman for whose death Miss Toppan was tried.)

rael, died in Cambridge Sept. 19, 1897, aged 87. "Old age." Jane Toppan nursed her.

Mrs. O. A. Bridgman of Lowell, died Aug. 29, 1899, aged 69. Two days' illness. "Heart failure." Jane Toppan was in the house when she died, and waited upon her a part of the time she was ill.

Mrs. Mary McNear of Cambridge, wealthy widow, died Dec. 28, 1900, aged 70. Two days' illness. "Al-

plexy." Jane Toppan nursed her for three hours before death.

Mrs. Florence M. Calkins, house keeper for O. M. Bridgman of Lowell died Jan. 15, 1900, aged 45. Ill three days. "Heart failure." Jane Toppan was in the house when she died.

William H. Ingraham of Watertown died Jan. 27, 1900, aged 70. "Heart failure." Jane Toppan nursed him.

Miss Sarah E. Connors, matron of St. John's Theological school refectory, died in Cambridge Feb. 11, 1900, aged 48. "Complication of diseases." Under care of Jane Toppan.

Mrs. Alden P. Davis of Cataumet died in Cambridge July 4, 1901, aged 62. "Chronic diabetes." Jane Toppan nursed her.

Mrs. Annie E. Gordon of Chicago daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alden P. Davis, died at Cataumet, July 31, 1901. Short illness. No death certificate. Jane Toppan nursed her.

Alden P. Davis, died in Calumet Aug. 8, 1901, aged 65. Few days' illness. No death certificate. Jane Toppan nursed him.

Mrs. Mary E. Gibbs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alden P. Davis, died at Cataumet Aug. 13, 1901, aged 40. Two days' illness. No death certificate. Jane Toppan nursed her.

Mrs. Edna Bannister of Tunbridge Vt., sister of O. M. Bridgman, died at Lowell Aug. 27, 1901, aged 77. Two days' illness. "Heart failure." Jane Toppan was in the house when she died.

Of the whole number there was no one case that had aroused any suspicion on the part of the physician who, depending upon the nurse, was using his best skill to restore the patient to health. Miss Toppan said she had heard of no question by any doctor that she had not carried out his instructions to the best of her ability or that she had not shown professional enthusiasm and faithfulness. The same doctors, she said, had engaged her in subsequent cases.

Her counsel was satisfied with homicidal details long before she finished. But she declared that she wished to tell the whole story.

"Well, how did you kill them?" she was asked.

"I gave them doses of morphine and atropine tablets in mineral water and sometimes in a dilution of whiskey," she said. "Then I also used injections just as I did at Cataumet. I do not remember how I killed them all, but those that I recall were poisoned by atropine and morphine. My memory is not good; I forgive some things."

"No, I have absolutely no remorse I have never felt sorry for what I have done. Even when I poisoned my dearest friends, as the Davises were I did not feel any regret afterward."



James Stuart Murphy.

(Miss Toppan's junior counsel, to whom she made her confession.)

do not feel any remorse now. I have thought it all over, and I cannot detect the slightest bit of sorrow over what I have done."

Upon successive visits of her counsel Miss Toppan added details to the narrative of crime that had been the history of her career as a nurse during the last ten years.

This confession was made to Judge Bixby and he instantly advised with the state authorities that a committee of experts be selected that would be satisfactory. To the physicians she was uncommunicative for some days, refusing to answer questions and otherwise acting ugly. Finally she agreed to tell them of her life. For five hours the doctors listened to her story, the strangest and bloodiest they had ever heard. She told them that she had killed her first victim when a young girl and while attending an undergraduate school for nurses; that a desire to see one die as a result of her own methods was so strong as to overpower her. The victim was a young man well on the road to recovery when she gave him poison. To her death rattle in his throat was set as music and when she saw him cold in death she kissed him.

"Soon the mania became an uncontrollable passion," she said. "No voice has as much melody in it as the one crying for life; no eyes as bright as those about to become fixed and glassy; no face so beautiful as the one pulseless and cold."

Getting the "Tip" Question. The awkward question of the tip was solved by a big New Englander from the State of Maine who was dining in a London restaurant the other evening. Having paid his bill he was informed by the waiter that what he had paid did "not include the waiter." "Wal, said the stranger, 'I ate no waiter, did I?'" And as he looked quite ready to do so on any further provocation the subject was dropped.

Has Charge of Public Playground. Rev. Charles V. La Fontaine, pastor of the Ada Street Methodist Episcopal church of Chicago, is supervisor of the first public school playgrounds in the city. He originated the idea.

# SALISBURY RESIGNS HIGH OFFICE: BALFOUR NOW PRIME MINISTER

Lord Salisbury has resigned the premiership of Great Britain and his nephew, Arthur J. Balfour, is now prime minister.

Like Gladstone, Lord Salisbury has been prime minister four times, but the duration of his four administrations was nearly fifteen years, whereas his great rival held the premiership only a little over twelve.

Lord Salisbury first became premier in June, 1885, Gladstone having resigned office in consequence of his defeat in the house of commons on the proportional duties on beer and spirits.

The conservative minister remained in office until the following February, when Gladstone entered upon his third administration. After an existence of only 178 days the liberal cabinet was reconstructed and remained in power three months longer, when it was killed by the famous Cordite division and Salisbury became premier a third time, with a solid majority of 152 in the house of commons.

There was a general election in September, 1900, and unionists were again voted to power, with a majority of 134 in the commons.

Salisbury for the fourth time took up the premiership, but he left the foreign secretaryship to Lord Lansdowne and became lord privy seal.

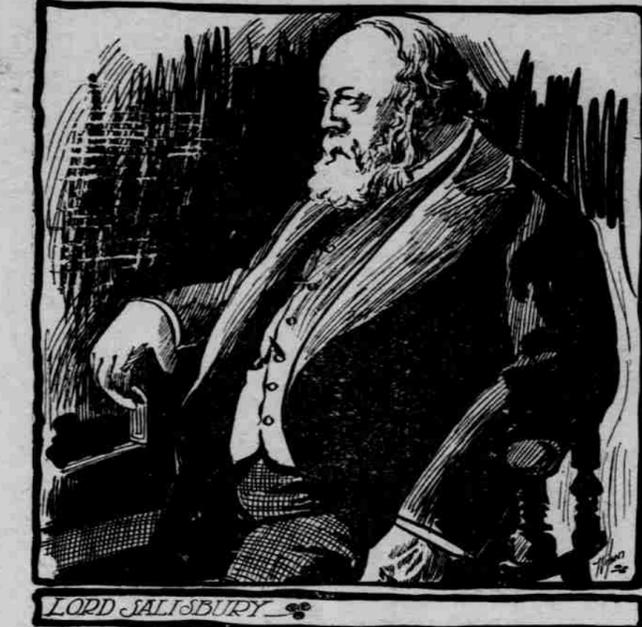
At the time of the death of Queen Victoria he wished to resign and only remained in office at the urgent request of King Edward. But he has gradually lost touch with the affairs of the nation, and the official announcement that the king has at last

accepted his resignation does not cause any surprise.

It is significant that Balfour interviewed Chamberlain before consulting the other members of the cabinet in regard to the situation.

Many people think that Chamberlain must eventually reach the premiership, and it would give great satisfaction throughout the country if the king had chosen him to step into Salisbury's shoes in the ordinary course of events.

His chances of obtaining premier honors are now considerably minimized, as he is many years Balfour's senior. He will, however, be as loyal to his new chief as he was to the old one.



Born	1830
Member of parliament since	1853
Enters cabinet as secretary of state for India	1866
Chancellor of Oxford University	1869
Returns to cabinet as secretary of state for India	1874
Special ambassador to Turkey	1876
Minister for foreign affairs	1878
Attends Berlin congress	1878
Elected leader of conservative party	1881
First term as premier begins	1885
Second term as premier	1886
Third term as premier	1892
Began last term as premier	1895
Retires	1902

eral party was badly beaten on the second reading of the Irish home rule bill, in the largest division on record, 656 members out of 670 passing through the division lobbies.

Then came Lord Salisbury's second term of office, which lasted from August, 1886, until August, 1892, when the house of commons gave Gladstone a majority on the home rule question. Lord Salisbury resigned and Gladstone became premier for the fourth and last time. The second home rule bill was thrown out by the house of lords in September, 1894, and in March of the following year Gladstone resigned the seals of office in favor of Earl Rosebery. The



ARTHUR J. BALFOUR, BRITISH PRIME MINISTER.

Born	1848
Entered parliament	1874
Private secretary to Lord Salisbury	1878
Employed on special mission to Germany	1878
Elected a privy councillor	1885
Secretary for Scotland, with seat in cabinet	1886
Elected lord rector of St. Andrew's University	1886
Chief secretary for Ireland	1887
Elected chancellor of Edinburgh University	1891
Leader of House of Commons	1892
Leader of the opposition	1894
First lord of the treasury	1895
Premier	1902

# The ODD CORNER

The Value of Advertising. He didn't do much, and his thoughts, it is plain.

Were borrowed from various sources. He looked upon toll with an eye of disdain.

As a waste of superior forces. But somehow he kept getting further ahead.

Fate ne'er seemed unkindly to caper; For all that he did and whatever he said He carefully put in the paper.

It he made a small speech or was ill with a cold.

He sent for a journalist quickly. Till the people would anxiously wait to be told.

If his status was robust or sickly. And at last the community looked upon him.

As a power; a destiny-shaper. While the worker remained in obscurity dim.

Cause his name didn't get in the paper.

Her Nest in a Monster's Mouth. Of the many strange places in which an English sparrow is satisfied to shelter her young, the one which is probably the most amusing, and which is seldom noticed by those in its vicinity, presents itself to the observing passerby as he walks through the Fifty-seventh street arch, which serves as one entrance to the University of Chicago.

The arch decorations consist of large, ungainly monsters carved from stone in such a manner as would give them the appearance of crawling up the sides of the arch. Above the keystone of this arch stands the king of the griffins, while over each pillar where the arch rests is carved still another hideous creature with wide open jaws and bulging eyes. In truth a more unshapely and uninviting animal could not be conceived, even including one of King George's dragons.

One day a little sparrow, after tugging at a straw, an end of which was deeply rooted in the ground, flew up with the dry blade and alighted on the head of one of these animals.

She chirped to her mate two or three times, accidentally dropping the straw in doing so, when she immediately started to fly after it. A slight wind was blowing at this moment and the straw was forced between the very jaws of this lifeless monster.

The courageous little bird followed it, and alighted in the mouth of the animal, but, alas! the straw had caught in some wedge-shaped fissure in the stone, and the persevering sparrow pulled and tugged in vain.

A few days passed, when to the observer's surprise, the single straw had been hidden by leaves, strings and feathers; in fact, soft substances of every description nearly filled the monster's mouth, and on the top of this delicately-built nest, chirping in defiance to any bird which dared to come near those awful jaws, sat the same little sparrow, while snugly protected under her were four tiny eggs.

—Chicago Tribune.

New Monte Carlo in Serbia. Despite official Serbian denials it is true that a concession has been granted to a Franco-Belgian syndicate for a gambling establishment in the Toptchidere Park, a quarter of an hour from Belgrade. The concession has only to be confirmed by the Skupstchina. The king is in favor of it, and so are the members of the government, with one exception. The state will receive £40,000 a year and 10 per cent of the profits for eighty years. The Toptchidere Park is very prettily situated, with forests and mountains surrounding it. This is the spot where Prince Michel Obrenovitch was assassinated in 1868. The park at one time was used by the Turks as an artillery practice ground. Toptchidere means "the artillery headquarters."

The First Lucifer Match. There have been many claimants to the honor of being the maker of the first lucifer match. Some old account books at Stockton-on-Tees afford documentary evidence which tends to prove that one John Walker, a Durham chemist, was the original inventor and maker of the match. According to a diary, in which Walker carefully noted all his business transactions, the first box of matches was sold for 1s 6d in April, 1827. It appears that they at once became popular, and people traveled from the adjacent towns to purchase them. Walker employed the poor of Stockton to split the wood, but dipped them in the phosphorous mixture himself to insure their perfection.

Effects of Chloroform. Prof. William James of Harvard university in a recent address in Edinburgh spoke of the curious half-conscious states, marked by apparent increase of intellectual powers, experienced by persons who are being put under the influence of chloroform, ether, nitrous oxide gas and other anesthetics. He noted, however, that all the exaltation of mind disappeared when the subject began to approach the normal state again. Still, he was inclined, he said, to believe that our ordinary waking consciousness was one type only of that mental phase, and that other potential states lay beyond it and often parted from it by the faintest of screens. "That may be," says Dr. Andrew Wilson, commenting on the theory of Prof. James, "but I scarcely think the stimulating phase of chloroform or ether administration is likely to yield much that is certain to the psychologist. I remember an experiment made in which a physiologist, determined to test this question of brain stimulation, arranged to keep writing his thoughts till he passed into unconsciousness.

He experienced the exaltation of mind and on coming to his senses anxiously inquired what he had written. 'A strong smell of turpentine pervades the whole,' were the words he had traced."

Eggs and Milk in Bookbinding. It seems a somewhat surprising statement to make that eggs, condensed milk, olive oil and vinegar are all used in the binding of books. Yet such is the case.

The white of egg is used for "sizing" to cause the delicate ornamental gold-leaf to adhere to the leather. To make the "sizing" perform its adhesive work even more delicately, a little milk is added; and to help further in the important work of adhesion, a coating of olive oil or diluted vinegar is sometimes applied to the leather.

Wise old bookbinders have been seen to use the light froth of ale as a coating over a binding of silk. The froth holds the gold-leaf with perfect success and does not stain the silk.

Lightning on the Wing. In a recent communication to the British Institution of Electrical Engineers, Mr. Leonard Joseph reported the following unusual occurrence. During a thunderstorm a wild goose was seen to fall to the ground, apparently directly out of the storm clouds. After the storm was over an examination revealed the body of another goose at some distance from the first. The only wounds found upon the birds were a narrow cut on the neck of one and a small puncture at the point where the neck joins the body on the other. At these points the feathers were slightly singed. Both birds proved perfectly fit for the table.

For Bald-Headed People. Bald-headed people who have not yet decided where to go for their summer holiday should go to Casciana, in north Italy, to test the virtue of its waters, which are reputed to be natural hair restorers, equally capable of restoring hair to the bald and pluming to naked birds. There is a tradition that in the eleventh century the pet blackbird of the Countess Matilda had lost all its feathers, but recovered its plumage after bathing in the marshes of Casciana. The bird's example was followed by the ladies of the court, whose hair was greatly increased in quantity and beauty, and whose bodies became stronger and more youthful.

Saved Life by Eating Tail. Workmen building a new house at First and Neil avenues have been worried over a noise they have heard in the plastered wall of the structure. They became nervous and tore the wall out to ascertain the cause.

Here they found a cat, still alive, but worn to a skeleton and the strange part of the affair was that the cat had eaten her tail off bit by bit to sustain life during the three weeks she had been a prisoner.

The feline had evidently strayed into the space between the plastering the night before the flooring was nailed on, and had been there until discovered by tearing out the wall.

Cultivation of Cocoa. A traveler in South America, where the cocoa tree is largely cultivated, speaks of the great care with which the young plants have to be protected from the sun, which if very strong is fatal to them. To secure this protection the planters shield them by banana trees and plantain trees, the broad leaves of which give them the needed shade. And even when they are fully grown they need protection, which is given by trees known as "immortels," or, as the planters call them, "the mother of the cocoa." Thus the whole cocoa plantation has a sort of canopy.

In the French Chamber. M. Bourgeois, the new president of the French chamber of deputies, has a rather weak voice, which is drowned in the noise of any parliamentary hubbub. He must resort even more frequently to the bell than his predecessor, M. Deschanel, was wont to do. The latter, when president of the chamber, cracked three brass bells with hard ringing. A bell is used instead of a gavel to maintain order.

Bullet in Babe's Brain. Three-year-old Emil Wagner of Wautoma, Wis., was discharged from St. Joseph's Hospital with a bullet in his brain, which, it is believed, he will carry for the remainder of his life, but without inconvenience. The boy was wounded by a 9-year-old brother May 5 with a small rifle while the two were walking in a field on their father's farm near Wautoma.—Milwaukee Sentinel.

What Might Have Been. There is a tale of a man who spent his life in wishing he had lived differently, and when he died he was surrounded by a throng of spectral shapes, each one exactly like the other, who, in his asking what they were, replied: "We are all the different lives you might have led."—Edith Wharton, "The Valley of Decision."

Automobile for Doctor. The largest automobile in the world is being constructed for a Parisian doctor. In it, accompanied by two medical students, he intends to make a trip around the world. It will have two sleeping apartments, a large workroom, and four big tanks for storing oil.