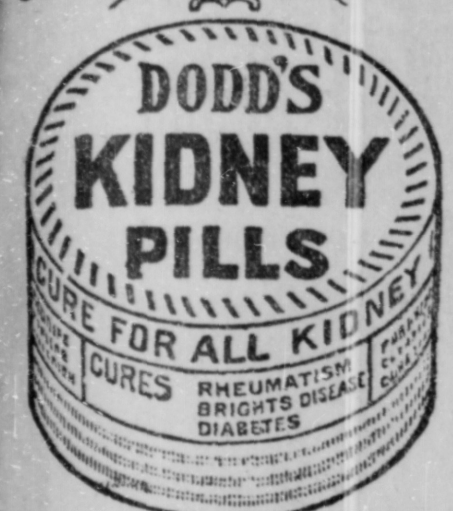


Substance & Shadow

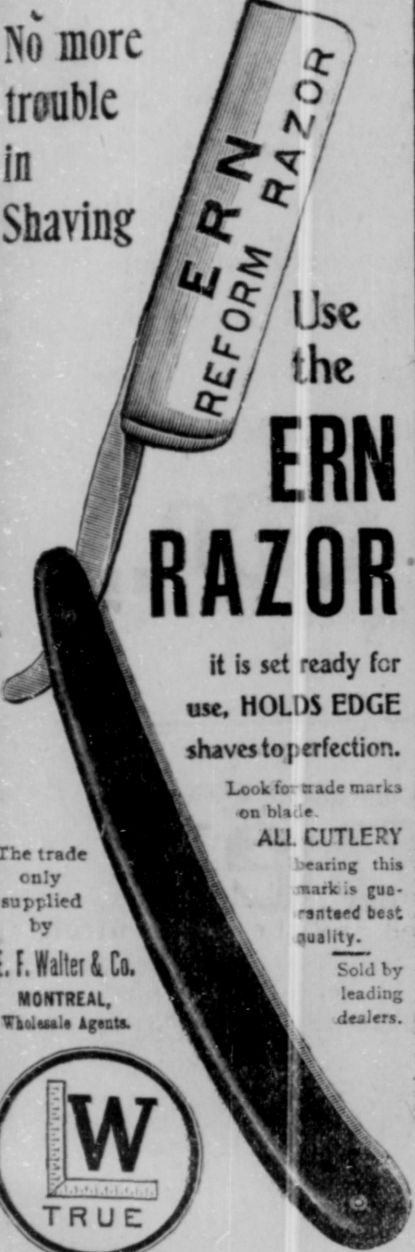


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When Chapin learned this, his face whitened a little, but he still affirmed his innocence, explaining the presence of the blood by saying that his right hand was cut by a ring on Burke's finger when he was warding off the blow the latter had aimed at him. Some of the blood from this cut must have got upon the handle when he was walking out to the bluffs. In support of this statement he showed a partly healed cut on his right hand.

The sheriff believed the story to be a fabrication, and in his own mind had little doubt that Chapin had killed Burke. The money less incurred through him and the humiliation afterward received at his hands were to the sheriff's mind ample motive for the deed.

The presence of Burke's boat in its usual place on the east side of the river and the fact that his watch and money and other valuables were not missing were matters that he would study into and explain later. For the present excellent progress had been made, he believed. He went to bed that night feeling that his reputation as a swift detector of crime—already fairly good, he thought—had this day been very well sustained.

CHAPTER IV. THE DETECTIVE CHEWS GUM.

Eugene Chapin was not without friends. One of the most powerful was old General Kerr, a man of wealth and position in the neighboring town of Jefferson. When he heard of Chapin's arrest, he uttered two or three unproductive sentences and then sent a telegraphic message to the city. In response Phineas Fosdick, a private detective of more than ordinary reputation, met General Kerr at Dobson's hotel the day following. Together they went to the undertaker's establishment where Fosdick made a very careful examination of the wound in Burke's skull. He even made a little diagram of the shape of the break in the skull. Later he went to the sheriff's office and examined the handle to Chapin's stick.

The sheriff treated the detective with mingled coldness and deference. He regarded him as an interloper, but at the same time the distinguished reputation of the private detective had its effect on him.

Fosdick expressing a wish to take Chapin's stick over to the undertaker's, the sheriff somewhat reluctantly granted permission, and the two walked over together. The detective once more made a careful inspection of the wound and of the handle, looking closely first at one and then at the other. Presently he handed the stick back to the sheriff and withdrew from his pocket a small package. From this he extracted a stick of peppermint gum, which he put in his mouth and began to chew vigorously.

If the sheriff had looked for any expression of opinion, he was disappointed. The detective's lips were dumb, so far as the case was concerned, and the expression of his face indicated nothing.

A LITTLE LIGHT.

Every young woman needs a little light upon the subject of health. There is far too much new-fashioned prudery among mothers. Every young woman should have explained to her the supreme necessity of keeping herself pure and wholesome and free from weakness and disease in a womanly way. Her general health, her future happiness, her good looks, her physical strength, her capability as a wife and mother, and the health and strength of generations to come are dependent upon this.

Nothing in the world will destroy the good looks, wholesomeness, the amiability, and the usefulness of a woman quicker than disorders of the delicate and important organs that bear the burdens of maternity. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is the best of all medicines for women who are ailing in this way. It makes a woman strong and healthy where a woman most needs health and strength. It relieves pain, soothes inflammation, heals ulceration and gives rest and tone to the tortured nerves. It cures all the ills and pains too commonly considered an uncomfortable inheritance of womanhood. It has been used for over thirty years with an unbroken record of success. More of it has been sold than of all the other medicines for women combined. It is the discovery of Dr. R. V. Pierce, for thirty years chief consulting physician to the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, at Buffalo, N. Y. He will cheerfully answer, without charge, all letters from ailing women.

"Three years ago," writes Mrs. J. N. Messier, of 1794 Vanderbilt Avenue, New York, N. Y., "the best physicians in this city said there was no cure for me—unless I would go to a hospital and have an operation performed. I could not walk across the room. I took Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription and after three bottles I could work, walk and ride."

Torpid liver and constipation are surely and speedily cured by Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets. They never gripe. They regulate, tone up and invigorate the liver, stomach and bowels. No substitute urged by mercenary dealers is as good.

He made some casual remark about gum being good for digestion and bade the sheriff good morning. He then walked along the road to the pier on the west side of the river. Hailing a boatman there, he hired him to carry him across the river. Arriving there, he made some examinations in the vicinity of the east pier and then walked up to the observatory. Arnold and Professor Gilman were there and another professor named Lewis. Fosdick introduced himself, and they talked about the death of Burke, whom Professor Gilman had been fond of in a quiet way.

Fosdick asked many questions about Burke. His daily routine of life was explained to him and his fondness for rowing, swimming, etc. The particular care that Burke took of his boat was mentioned. Previous to this the detective had learned that the boat was found in its usual place the morning the body was discovered and also practically all the other facts in the possession of the sheriff.

Presently the detective seemed to forget all about Burke and began to talk of the big telescope and the nature of the work the professors at the observatory were engaged in. He showed rather more than the ordinary knowledge of a layman about astronomy. They discussed about sun spots, double stars, comets, etc., and presently when the subject of meteors was touched upon Professor Gilman, turning to Arnold, asked:

"By the way, Arnold, you didn't find any trace of that meteorite you went out to look for, did you?"

"No, sir," Arnold replied. "I didn't much think you would," remarked Gilman. "If it fell in this vicinity, it probably went into the river."

They talked awhile longer, and then Fosdick started to go. Turning back, he asked Gilman:

"Do you remember about what time you saw that meteor?"

The professor gave the detective a quick, keen glance and then said: "Why, I should say it was some time after 10. Do you remember what time it was, Arnold?"

"Yes, sir. It was just about half past 10. I remember because Mr. Ingraham wanted to go also, but looked



"Do you remember about what time you saw that meteor?"

at his watch and found he hadn't time. He said he'd got just nine minutes in which to catch the 10:40 train."

Fosdick bade the others good day and returned to the hotel. For a full hour thereafter he sat on the shady piazza busily engaged in chewing gum. Fosdick did not smoke, and perhaps gum chewing was a substitute for that habit.

Meeting General Kerr that evening and being asked what progress had been made, the detective said:

"Of one thing I'm certain, general. Este's opinion to the contrary—the handle of that stick never made the wound on Burke's skull!"

CHAPTER V. FOSDICK INSTITUTES A SEARCH.

Fosdick was up early the next morning. Crossing the river, he made a very close examination of the ground in the vicinity of the east pier. The nature of the topography here was rocky and uneven. Just south of the pier the path leading to the observatory passed over a ridge. A person walking up this path had to his left a rocky wall, rising several feet higher than his head, while to his right the face of the rock descended precipitously to the water, some 20 feet below. There was no rail or guard of any sort on the outer edge of the path. There was, however, ample room for one to walk there in safety, though an intoxicated person attempting to pass would in all likelihood fall off into the river.

Fosdick examined with the most patient and painstaking scrutiny the face of the rock above the path. At length an exclamation escaped his lips. He was looking at a spot on the rock about five feet above the path. It was nearly

on a level with his head as he stood erect. A casual observer would have noticed nothing peculiar there, but a careful observer would have discovered a spot where the grain of the rock looked fresher than the rest. It was not over six inches in diameter. It looked as if a knob or projecting angle of the wall had recently been broken off.

The detective took a piece of chalk from his pocket and leaned over the precipice to make a mark where it could easily be seen from the water below. He stepped and uttered a low whistle. Some one had thrust a stick into a crevice just at that spot. Fosdick drew a fresh piece of gum from his pocket and for several minutes chewed at it assiduously without moving. At length he said to himself, "That stick may mean nothing, but I'd be willing to wager a new hat that somebody put it there for a purpose."

Fosdick went to the city that afternoon, and when he returned the next morning he brought with him a submarine diver. Securing a boat at Jackson they rowed over to the east pier. The stick in the crevice was still where the detective had first observed it. Rowing the boat toward shore, as nearly as possible under the stick, the diver got into his suit and descended into the water. An assistant saw that his supply of air was not shut off. The depth of the water here was about 20 feet. (To be Continued.)

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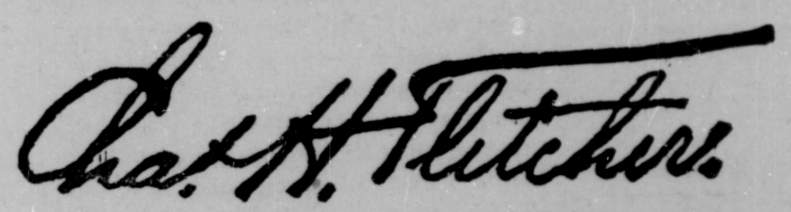
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