

A WOMAN'S LIFE OF CRIME.

Arrested at the Age of 11 Years—At 20 She Goes to Prison to Die. The oldest professional sneak thief in the country has again been arrested. And she is a woman. Sixty-nine years ago she began the criminal career which she still pursues, and yet, strange to say, she bears upon her features but little traces of the life she led. Of the four score years that have passed over her head more than forty have been passed in prison. During that time all the sunshine that came to her was what struggled through the prison bars. Her friends were the companions with whom crime had brought her in contact. Honest people she had scarcely ever known. Indeed, it almost must have seemed to her that she had no place whatever in the great free world outside.

Growth in Machinery.

There is arising here and there a note of protest against the growing subservience of society to machinery. Mr. William Morris, in The November Fortnightly, bewails its deteriorating effect, but is not without hope that there will be in some sort a saving revival of handicraft. The pleasure which the craftsman once took in his work, the individuality he put in it, is gone. A great element of happiness has disappeared from his daily life, and occupation once interesting is dull and cheerless. The machine feeder has not the chance to grow to the status of the skilled artisan. He is not lifted by his work, but depressed by it.

Everything Done by Hand.

It is human muscle that cultivates Japan. Cattle and horses are no part of Japanese country scenes, and an American plow, which I saw in a Tokio store, was pointed out as a curiosity. If it is used at all, it will probably be pulled by men. As it is, the land is made fallow with a sort of mattock, which is heavy, and which has a blade about six inches wide and two feet long. The rice fields of Japan are living monuments of human labor, and every grain of rice you eat represents a certain amount of human muscle. The fields must be flooded again and again with water, and the plants are transplanted from their first growth into rows. I have seen men and women by scores bending their backs and hoeing this rice, and I am told that their wages run from 10 to 20 cents a day.

Coffee and Its Effects.

Coffee owes its stimulating and refreshing qualities to caffeine. It also contains gum and sugar, fat, acids, casein and wool fiber. Like tea, it powerfully increases the respiration; but, unlike it, does not affect its depth. By its use the rate of the pulse is increased and the action of the skin diminished. It lessens the amount of blood sent to the organs of the body, distends the veins and contracts the capillaries, thus preventing waste of tissue. It is a mental stimulus of a high order, and one that is liable to great abuse. Carried to excess, it produces abnormal wakefulness, indigestion, acidity, heartburn, tremors, debility, instability of temper, trembling, irregular pulse, a kind of intoxication ending in delirium and great injury to the spinal functions. Unfortunately, there are many coffee tipplers who depend upon it as a drunkard upon his dram. On the other hand, coffee is of sovereign efficacy in tiding over the nervous system in emergencies. Coffee is also, in its place, an excellent medicine. In typhoid fever its action is frequently prompt and decisive. It is indicated in the early stages before local complications arise. Coffee dispels stupor and lethargy; it is an antidote for many kinds of poison, and is valuable in spasmodic asthma, whooping cough, cholera infantum and Asiatic cholera. It is also excellent as a preventive against infectious and epidemic diseases. In districts rife with malaria and fever, the drinking of hot coffee before passing into the open air has enabled persons living in such places to escape contagion.—Journal of Commerce (Boston).

A Death Bed Salute.

It was the custom among the Romans to give the dying a last kiss, in order, as they thought, to catch the parting breath. Spenser, in his pastoral elegy on the death of Sir Philip Sidney, mentions it as a circumstance which renders the loss of his illustrious friend more to be lamented, that no one was nigh to close his eyelids "and kiss his lips." A little after he notices the "dearest love" of the deceased weeping over him. When Lord Nelson was dying on board his flagship he took leave of his faithful friend Hardy by kissing him. "Kiss me, Hardy," he said, and these were the last words he uttered. And so, too, Sir Walter Scott, when dying, kissed Lockhart, saying, "Be good, my dear, be good."—St. Louis Republic.

A Persian Bazaar.

In the bazaar, Teheran, there are the silversmiths fusing the metal into ingots and bars, hammering at the plates, designing, engraving, chasing and soldering; the work is seen in progress from the very beginning, and woe be to the unfortunate wretch who shall be detected in using alloy or an unnecessary quantity of solder. The workers in leather, in copper, in iron, the manufacturers of textile fabrics, all give a continuous industrial exhibition of their own, which is open to all the world, "free gratis, for nothing." The confectioner produces his sweet stock in trade under the eye of the purchaser. The Persian likes to have everything made specially, and sits by to see it done, to make sure that what he buys is fresh, and that he isn't cheated.

Mexican and Spaniard.

The average Mexican, like the average American, is free with his money—neglectful to those little economies which Europeans understand so well, and, therefore, when a rich Mexican land owner is in need of a manager for an estate he looks about for a frugal, thrifty Spaniard, who, if he does make money for himself, does not neglect his employer's interest. It is a common error among Americans to fancy the Spaniard as a boasting, proud fellow, averse to toil and preferring gentility in a faded velvet coat to hard work and comfort. A witty Spaniard has said somewhere that all Spaniards are either Don Quixotes or Sancho Panzas, and there is some measure of truth in this saying. The Sancho Panza class of Spaniard has the hard, homely sense of the New England farmer, and not a little of the dry humor which the Yankee possesses as by birthright. The Spanish language has thousands of sharp and racy proverbs available for every day use, and the hard working Spaniard makes free use of them.

Odd Devices for Photographs.

There are various ways for providing surprising results in photography, things that in one age would have been called magic, but in ours recognized as scientific tricks. The ghost picture, for instance, in which a shadowy ghost—through which material objects are visible—is seen, is produced by means of a table, playing chess with himself sitting on the opposite side of the table, while he himself stood up in the background looking at his two selves playing. The figures were all on the negative, which was produced by three successive exposures of the plate, parts thereof being masked each time by a black velvet shutter. Still another trick is that by which a person who likes that sort of thing may appear to be photographed riding upon a flying goose, or a fish, or any other desired style of ridiculous locomotion. This is done by the subject holding upon his lap a huge piece of white or sky tinted card with the fanciful figure drawn upon it. His face appears above the upper edge of the card and seems, in the picture, joined to the funny little body mounted on the goose or fish. The statue picture is made by about the same device.—Photographic Review.

Big Money Made by Tugs.

"What is the most money ever made by a tug in one trip?" was asked of an old tug man in South street. "The very largest money ever obtained was when two tugs picked up a derelict off Sandy Hook. She was in good condition, but had been abandoned by her crew, who were panic stricken. She was drifting ashore, and the courts allowed a salvage of \$28,000 for the tug—or \$14,000 for the day's work each. But that wasn't a towing job. The biggest price ever paid by a ship for towing at this port, so far as I know, was when a ship captain had beat his way up to the lights after a long winter voyage from Manila. Reaching this point, with the harbor before him, the northwest wind became a gale he could not face, and he saw the shores of Staten Island fade, and began to think he had Bermuda hard aboard. He couldn't stand that prospect, and was compelled to pay \$1,500 by a heartless tug captain of about my size and disposition. That is a sober fact. You will hear tug men tell stories of larger sums, but then those men were intended by nature for fishermen."—New York Sun.



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