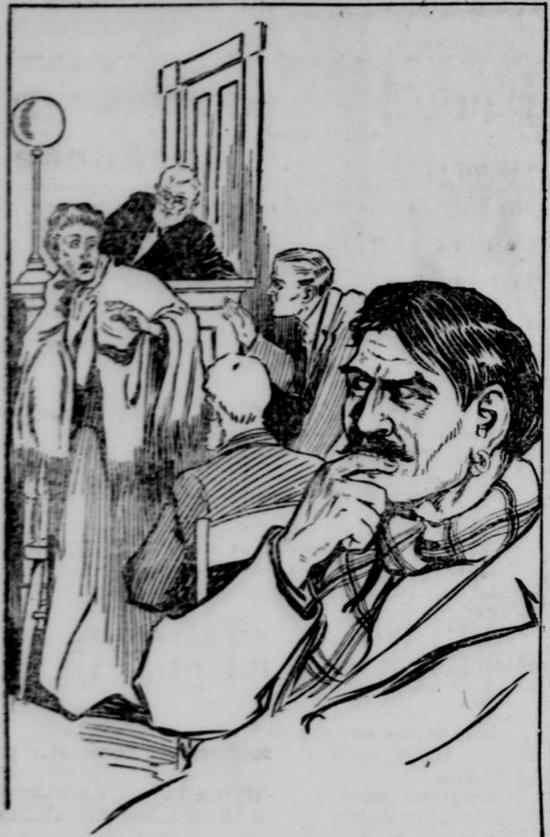


THE DEATH SIGN THAT DEFEATS JUSTICE



In open court, where justice sits silk gowned, the very embodiment of law and order, and in the certain atmosphere of an authority against which no man may raise a hand; here, in this very city of New York, witnesses under oath to speak the truth only, have halted with unspoken word on lip and become as mutes at the sight of the sign of death.

The sign of death? A fiction? No. A meaningless motion made to disconcert the overtimid? Again no. A death sign—a reality? As certain as there are courts of law; a sign behind which lurks the murderous blade in the hand of a killer of men; a sign of as malign significance as that of the skull and crossbones on the black flag at the peak of the pirate ship of old.

This sign was made in New York, in Justice Paucet's court, and a witness quailed and became speechless. It was made again in Justice O'Sullivan's court, and a witness covered and shook like one with the palsy. What is this sign of death? William F. Flynn, head of the detective bureau, second deputy commissioner of the police department, for years a secret service man, shrewd, resourceful, successful, knows it well. He has seen it. They put one sign of death on the body of a victim—a sign of death accomplished, for to kill for vengeance without it would not strike terror. The sign about which Chief Flynn tells is the other—the warning.

BY WILLIAM J. FLYNN
(Head of the Bureau of Detectives, New York City.)

THE death sign, used exclusively among southern Italians and Sicilians, is made by placing the forefinger of the right hand between the teeth. The instant the sign is seen by the one for whom it is intended the finger is withdrawn. The entire movement rarely takes more than two or three seconds. Often it is made in a single second, and for that reason it escapes the notice of even the sharpest observers. When this sign is made by a leader or representative of a gang of bad men it never fails to strike terror into the hearts of witnesses, no matter how bold or courageous they may be. I have seen witnesses who had previously declared their willingness to testify and who were assured of protection suddenly turn white as a sheet and refuse to utter another word against the prisoner who was on trial. The death sign had been given to them in open court, and they knew they would be killed if they said another word. And it is undoubtedly true that their lives would be forfeited if they disobeyed the sign. Not in open court, of course, for the members of those gangs are arrant cowards, but sooner or later some of their number would murder their victim.

The uneducated southern Italians and Sicilians with whom the police have to deal are more superstitious than any other race of people living in New York. Sign omens have a peculiar significance for them. The death sign is a tradition with them. They have heard about it before they could even talk. They are brought up to dread it, just as they are brought away from it, because they can't get away from themselves. They have heard of fellow-countrymen who disregarded the death sign and met terrible fates. So when the death sign is given to them it is little wonder that they turn white with fear and refuse to testify.

More impressive than spoken words. The reason a sign is employed rather than a spoken word or token is due to the fact that Italians and Sicilians of the more ignorant class

carry on a large part of their intercourse by means of gestures. A shrug of the shoulders, the raising of the eyebrows, a gesture of the arms may mean more to them than whole sentences. Then, too, a sign is more impressive than a spoken or written word. And of course it can be made more quickly and is far less likely to be detected.

The origin of the death sign is obscure. I doubt if any of the men who have used it could tell how it originated. It is very evident that the placing of the finger to the lips means silence—a sign of silence it is as old as the hills. Probably the pressure of the teeth on the finger is significant of the fate that will follow if the injunction covered in the sign is disobeyed. The sign has been employed in southern Italy almost as long as tribunals have existed, and it has doubtless been used many times here in America since we began to receive so many Italians that a distinct criminal class arose among them. Trials of Italians for such crimes as counterfeiting, Black Hand and kidnaping cases in recent years have brought it to the attention of the public. When witnesses in these cases suddenly refused to testify in open court the judges, the prosecutors and the police knew the death sign had been given, but it had been done so quickly and mysteriously that few knew how it was accomplished.

While I was in the secret service I had to deal with many Italian and Sicilian counterfeiterers, and in several of the cases my witnesses whom I felt certain would "come through"—this is police parlance for telling the true story on the witness stand—stopped short in the middle of their testimony, and nothing could induce them to utter another word. So in subsequent cases I watched the people in the court room very closely and I was rewarded by seeing the death sign made clearly and distinctly. It was made just as I described it—a quick motion to the teeth with the forefinger of the right hand.

Two Cases That Prove Potency of the Sign.

Maria Rappa, who with Stanislaus Pattenza was on trial last December for kidnaping Giuseppe Longo and Michele Rizzo, was given the death sign in open court. She would have told her whole story but for that reason. A member of the gang of Black Handers who were associated with her gave her the sign and she positively refused to talk further. Nothing would move her. She knew if she made any disclosures she would be killed. Justice Lewis Fawcett, who tried the case, admitted it. No one saw the death sign given to her, but the fact that she stopped in the middle of her testimony and turned deathly white is conclusive evidence that it was given to her.

If her testimony had not been halted by the death sign we should have been able to round up every member of that gang of kidnapers. She knew them and was ready to tell all; but when the death sign was given to her she knew if she divulged a single name her life would not be safe, even in jail. So it will be seen that the death sign is often a serious hindrance to our work.

In another kidnaping case the death sign was plainly seen. Rosina Martinese, a woman held for complicity in the case of Pietro Pampinelli, had agreed to tell the truth about the affair on the condition that the charge against her be withdrawn. Her lawyer and the assistant district attorney had agreed to this, and she took the stand to confess her part in the crime. Even Judge O'Sullivan asked her if she was ready to confess and she answered in the affirmative. But a moment later her face turned white and her black eyes grew fixed and staring, as though something had

suddenly frightened her into dumbness. She clutched at her throat and placed her hand before her face as though to shut out the hideous vision.

Impossible to Make Woman Give Testimony.

Suddenly she shrieked: "No, no; I know nothing! I swear I know nothing at all." Her lawyer jumped to his feet and told the court that she had confessed her part in the crime to him and that she had agreed to tell it on the witness stand. But the Martinese woman was immovable. She would not utter a word except to deny her knowledge of the crime.

While she was protesting her innocence a policeman rushed to the prisoner's pen and caught Pietro Pampinelli, the man on trial, by the arm. He had seen him give her the death sign and he so informed the court.

Subsequent attempts were made to get the Martinese woman to confess, but without success. Like others who had received the sign she knew any confession on her part would be followed by a hideous death.

Of course, there are scores of written death signs. The skull and crossbones has been a sign of death for centuries. The Chinese have a death sign with which they mark the house of a man selected for slaughter, and I suppose every race has some sort of written sign which is synonymous with death and which has come down from the earliest times. To this day when an Italian is murdered his relatives dip their fingers in his blood and make a cross with it. The cross, by the way, has been the symbol of death in almost every clime and age.

But the death sign we are confronted with today is the quick gesture which I have described. It is peculiar to the southern Italians and the Sicilians. I have never known it to be employed by criminals of any other nationality, and in my career I have dealt with men of all races. It is a serious thwarting of justice, but I have no doubt that it really means death for the person who disregards it. While Italian criminals are cowards when it comes to fighting any one not of their own race, the spirit of the vendetta is born in them. The fact that several witnesses who implicated their fellow countrymen in serious crimes have been mysteriously murdered not long afterward proves that the death sign is a dreadful, horrible reality.—New York Sunday World.

ARROWS THAT CARRY FLAME

Method of Starting Fires in Which Mischief Can Escape Without Detection.

Arrows bearing a box of matches and an ignited cloth, and which are shot from rice fields and dark alleys, are now known to be the means by which the firebugs responsible for several conflagrations during the last week have accomplished their aims.

A strange feature of the present epidemic of incendiarism in Manila has been the utter inability of anyone to catch the firebugs in the act of firing houses, and although the police and private citizens have been on the lookout for these vandals only one charge of arson has been filed so far.

The police had a theory that their theory was correct was proved by the discovery yesterday afternoon of an arrow which had been shot at 241 Calle Singalong. The arrow was about 8½ inches long and about one centimeter in diameter.

To it was tied a full box of matches wrapped with a piece of canvas which had been saturated with petroleum. The arrow was designed so that being fixed in the bow, or when ready to be thrown, the canvas was ignited and the arrow hurled at the house intended for destruction. By the time it reached its destination the cloth would be burned sufficiently to ignite the matches and an explosion would occur, setting fire to the surrounding nipa or bamboo. Standing off at a convenient distance in a paddy field or a dark street the mischief would be able to ignite and fire his arrow and then escape without detection.—Manila Times.

Deprivations Cause Disease.

If from capricious appetite or deprivations certain constituents of food are left out, certain diseases will be sure to follow. To illustrate: The absence of iron, vegetables, salts, as phosphates of lime and soda will cause scurvy. Arctic sailors suffer from this disease. Anemia, common among girls at puberty, is due from an abnormal appetite for slate pencils and pickles for steady diet. Softening of bones, known as rickets, seen in the bow-legged, is caused by a lack of the necessary salts. In health 80 per cent. of the tissues of the body are water. Hence the first consideration is to have plenty of pure water, and to give the patient all he wants in order to keep up the average.

To appease this demand for liquids and at the same time supply nourishment, we can give koumyssa, gruels, broths, milk, malted milk, orange or lemonade, if not forbidden. Keep to the liquid diet if patient is at all feverish.—Woman's World.

What Babylonian Ruins Reveal.

The German excavators of ancient Babylon believe that they have identified the remains of the Tower of Babel, although there appears to be some doubt as to which of three structures constitute the foundation of the real Babel. Further excavations are to be made, and are expected to settle the question.

The ruins of Nebuchadnezzar's palace, where Belshazzar's feast took place, and where Alexander the Great died, have been shown to cover the remains of quay walls built on the river side by Sargon and Nebopolassar. The enormous brick buildings constructed by the Babylonian architects were veneered with glazed and colored bricks in ornamental designs.

Nature's Provision.

Moles and the mole cricket have the same problem to negotiate in cutting caves in the ground, so here an insect and an animal both have the same shaped forelegs and shovel-like hands and claws.

ALPS ARE PIERCED BY ANOTHER TUNNEL



THE MEETING OF THE ROCK-BORERS

WORK on the Lotschberg tunnel, the third longest in Europe, is progressing so well that the opening of this bore through the Alps has been set for May 1, 1913. At 3:50 o'clock one morning not long ago the two boring parties met. When the first small hole had been made through the barrier between the two, Chief Engineer Moreau, in charge of the south party, was handed a bunch of Alpine flowers by Engineer Rothpletz, in charge of the northern party. Then the chief engineer passed through the opening and embraced his colleague. The other workers followed. The tunnel, which takes its name from the Lotschen Pass, under which it runs, passes somewhat to the east of the Balhorn, a 12,000-foot high peak, and is over nine and one-fourth miles in length. The Simplon is three and one-fourth miles longer; the St. Gothard a quarter mile longer. Unlike other Alpine tunnels, it is curved, its course having been diverted owing to a great disaster of July, 1908, when by an accident, the Kander river was tapped and the water, rushing into the workings, killed 25 men. The result of the work will be a number of modifications in the international railway traffic of central Europe.

COYOTE IS MALIGNED

Bravest Animal Alive, Declares Former U. S. Marshal.

That is Information Given Out by Jack Abernathy of Oklahoma, Better Qualified for Talk Than Any Other Person.

Oklahoma City, Okla.—The coyote has been greatly maligned. Instead of being the worst coward in the animal kingdom it is the bravest thing in existence. That is the information coming from Catch-'Em-Alive Jack Abernathy, former United States marshal, and better qualified for discussing the coyote, perhaps, than any other living man.

Recently while discussing coyote-hunting with some friends, Abernathy gave utterance to some statements that are surprising.

"There is a mistaken impression regarding the coyote," he said. "I have caught a thousand of them and I never made one yelp with pain. They would rather run than fight, but when they are cornered they fight like the very old Nick and die without a whimper."

"I would rather catch a wolf alive than a coyote. The wolf is larger, but the coyote is quicker."

"The coyote never hunts trouble. I never had one attack me unless I had started the fight. He sleeps the greater part of the day and forages at night. I have noticed that they are braver at night than in the daytime."

"As to their intelligence—why, dang it, they're the smartest things living. They are more cunning than a fox. They can ambush a dog with more skill than a Mississippi nigger can invade a hen roost on a dark night. Their favorite trick is to 'double' on dogs when being chased. I had a fine greyhound killed once by this trick. Three dogs were chasing a coyote. The trail led through a rough country

SAFETY HATPIN IS INVENTED

Massachusetts Matron Has Novel Method of Fastening Bonnet—Has Tiny Lock Nut.

Cambridge, Mass.—No more dodging the stiletto-like hatpin, according to Mrs. Harry Eldridge Goodhue of this city, who has conceived a means of fastening milady's hat to her head which is not dangerous.

Mrs. Goodhue's invention does not look different from the ordinary hatpin except that it has a tiny screw or lock nut near the juncture of the head and shaft. As in the ordinary hatpin, the point is sharp, and it would be as dangerous a weapon as the kind ordinarily carried were it not that the pin is made to telescope to any desired length.

Money to Burn.

New York.—More than \$3,000,000 in bills was shipped by the sub-treasury here to Washington to be destroyed as worn and mutilated currency. The amount constitutes a record for a single day.

IS ATLANTIC COAST SINKING?

Inquiry to Be Made This Year as to Theory That There Is Drop of Two Feet a Century.

Trenton, N. J.—Whether the coast of New Jersey is sinking about two feet a century is to be ascertained this summer. At a meeting of the board of managers of the state geological survey, State Geologist Kummel reported that he had made arrangements with Prof. D. W. Johnson of Harvard university to make the necessary research.

Some scientists have held that the Atlantic seacoast was sinking at the rate of two feet every hundred years, and the theory has come to be generally accepted. Professor Johnson will come to this state and prosecute the study under a research fund established at Harvard. The result is expected to have an important bearing on the coast levels established in this state 25 years ago.

HENS TRAVEL 12,000 MILES

Descendants of Champion Australian Chickens Arrive in England—Have World's Record.

London.—After a 12,000-mile journey from Adelaide, South Australia, a flock of pedigreed white Leghorn poultry has arrived at the Gairn Poultry farm, Glan Conway, Denbighshire. The fowls were obtained from A. H. Pudman, whose white Leghorns secured the world's record for egg laying in the twelve months' competition which terminated on March 31, 1910, held at Gaittho, Queensland.

The six hens laid 1,531 eggs, valued at \$20, during the year, which works out to an average of about 255 eggs per hen. The hens now at Glan Conway are descendants of these birds.

FLIES DISLIKE BLUE PAINT

Also, Little Pests Are Not Partial to Hop Vines—Idea Comes From France.

Topeka, Kan.—Dr. S. J. Crumble, secretary of the state board of health, has learned of two methods by which the common house fly can be kept away from kitchens and barns. One is to paint the barn and kitchen blue, almost any old shade, and the other is to grow hops around the doors.

The blue paint idea came from France where two scientists, Marre and Fe, in the course of some experiments with flies, found that cow stables which were painted blue inside were avoided by flies. It was also observed that kitchens and dining-rooms which were papered in blue or painted blue also seemed to keep the flies away as homes within a few feet where the blue paint or paper was not used were infested with the pests.

Doctor Crumble is working out

SHE SUFFERED FIVE YEARS

Finally Cured by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

Eric, Pa.—"I suffered for five years from female troubles and at last was almost helpless. I went to three doctors and they did me no good, so my sister advised me to try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and when I had taken only two bottles I could see a big change, so I took six bottles and I am now strong and well again. I don't know how to express my thanks for the good it has done me and I hope all suffering women will give Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound a trial. It was worth its weight in gold."—Mrs. J. P. ENDLICH, B. F. D. No. 7, Erie, Pa.

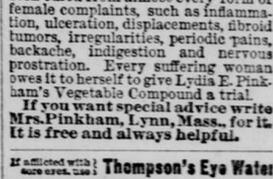


Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, made from native roots and herbs, contains no narcotic or harmful drugs, and to-day holds the record for the largest number of actual cures of female diseases we know of, and thousands of voluntary testimonials are on file in the Pinkham laboratory at Lynn, Mass., from women who have been cured from almost every form of female complaints, such as inflammation, ulceration, displacements, fibroid tumors, irregularities, periodic pains, backache, indigestion and nervous prostration. Every suffering woman owes it to herself to give Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound a trial.

If you want special advice write Mrs. Pinkham, Lynn, Mass., for it. It is free and always helpful.

As afflicted with Thompson's Eye Water

SURE SIGN.



Mrs. Wiggins—Our daughter Mary's in love.

Mr. Wiggins—How do you know?

Mrs. Wiggins—She refers to twilight as the gloaming.

Politician and Preacher.

A politician in a western state, long suspected of crookedness and noted for his shifty ways, was finally indicted and tried. The jury was out a long time, but eventually acquitted him. After the verdict was in and the politician was leaving the court room, a minister who had been in part responsible for the indictment and trial approached the politician and said: "Well, my friend, you have escaped; but you had a close shave. I trust this will be a warning to you to lead a better life and deal more fairly with your fellow men."

"That may be," the politician replied. "That may be; but I ain't pledged to any one."—Saturday Evening Post.

Wanted an Officer.

The sheriff was snoozing away in his seat in the coach, when he heard some one call out: "Is there an officer in the coach from New Castle?" "Yes," replied the sheriff very emphatically.

"Loan me your corkscrew, please, sir," calmly continued the drummer.

Frightful.

"They say she looked daggers at him?"

"Worse than that. She looked long butpkins."

The chief secret of comfort lies in not allowing trifles to vex us.—Sharp

FEED YOU MONEY

Feed Your Brain, and It Will Feed You Money and Fame.

"Ever since boyhood I have been especially fond of meats, and I am convinced I ate too rapidly, and failed to masticate my food properly. "The result was that I found myself, a few years ago, afflicted with ailments of the stomach, and kidneys, which interfered seriously with my business. "At last I took the advice of friends and began to eat Grape-Nuts instead of the heavy meats, etc., that had constituted my former diet. "I found that I was at once benefited by the change, that I was soon relieved from the heartburn and indigestion that used to follow my meals, that the pains in my back from my kidney affection had ceased. "My nerves, which used to be unsteady, and my brain, which was slow and lethargic from a heavy diet of meats and greasy foods, had, not in a moment, but gradually, and none the less surely, been restored to normal efficiency. "Now every nerve is steady and my brain and thinking faculties are quick and more acute than for years past. "After my old style breakfasts I used to suffer during the forenoon from a feeling of weakness which hindered me seriously in my work, but since I began to use Grape-Nuts food I can work till dinner time with all ease and comfort." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. "There's a reason."

Read the little book, "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs.

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.