

STEALING IN STORES.

The Ingenuity That Is Shown by the Woman Thief.

TRICKS OF THE SHOPLIFTER.

The Satchel With a False Bottom and the Silt in the Dress Near the Belt. Some Schemes Successful Because of Their Very Simplicity.

As numerous as they are ingenious are the tricks of the modern shoplifters, declare store detectives. It keeps the detectives busy to "get on" to the devices of the men and women who live by their wits in stealing from stores. For tricks that are canny few classes of criminals, it is said, approach them.

The method of stealing by using the satchel with a false bottom is one of the cleverest of the tricks.

Well disguised, the shoplifter enters a store. Her eyes run over the counters. She perceives the object she wants—usually something small and valuable, sometimes a purse a customer has left lying on the counter.

Over the object the shoplifter places her satchel. Pretending to delve into the satchel to extract a purse or handkerchief, the thief lifts a false bottom in the bag, reaches under it, draws inside the desired article, adjusts the false bottom, closes the satchel and walks away.

"But this is only one of many clever ruses employed," declared a detective the other day. "The women especially are ingenious. Their dress, of course, helps them."

"One of the methods of stealing is for the shoplifter to have a silt in her dress near the belt. As she stands near the counter she can deftly seize the article desired, be it a piece of lace or costly fabric or a bit of jewelry, and slip it into the skirt. The folds of the skirt are voluminous and conceal the thing stolen."

"Some tricks are successful because of their simplicity. A fashionably dressed woman may walk into the clothing department, look over coat suits, pick up one, fold it neatly up, place it under her coat and walk away."

"If she is detected she will indignantly declare that she bought the suit some time before and that she has brought it back to be altered."

"Or a woman, her hands glittering with rings and dressed in the latest style, may walk into the store some winter day. She wears only a rich coat of dark fabric."

"In the coat department she will ask to see some fur lined coats. Oh, she is very particular and tries on one after another. Other customers come up, and the saleslady gets busy with them while madam is trying to suit herself."

"While the saleslady is turned she puts on one of the richest sable trimmed coats, turns on her heel and walks away. Perhaps the salesgirl may not notice the loss until there is an account of stock."

"Each month from fifty to sixty arrests are made in the average large department store. The detectives must be extremely careful, for a false charge would precipitate a suit for damages, which would mean many thousands."

"Certain departments hold especial lures for shoplifters. The jewelry department is invariably guarded. When the furs come in we have sleuths who keep their eyes open for the woman who likes to take a fur to the window to examine it, then running for the door; the woman with the false skirt and the woman who puts a fur on and audaciously walks away."

Although the sales departments and the detective departments work together, there exists between them a spirit of justifiable rivalry. If a detective perceives some one getting away with goods it casts discredit on the person behind the counter from which the goods were stolen. Therefore the sales folk keep an alert watch for shoplifters.

One might imagine that goods are dumped pellmell on the counters of the big stores. As a matter of fact, the efficient saleslady will have everything so arranged that she will notice the disappearance of an article almost immediately.

If a saleswoman suspects a person she immediately notifies the head detective. If it is a woman, a woman detective is usually put on the job. It is said store managers usually find women more efficient than men.

Few arrests are ever made in the stores, as an arrest gives only undesirable publicity. The detective usually follows suspected persons from the store and arrests him or her outside.

It is said that arrests for shoplifting in New York exceed 3,000 a year. In that city a full description of all shoplifters caught are sent to the Retail Dry Goods association, which in turn distributes the information to the various members.

Only by concerted action and with highly organized staffs of detectives can the stores cope with the ingenious shoplifters.

The detective system of the big stores, however, is now so perfect that it is dangerous to attempt shoplifting. Even the cleverest shoplifter faces a long jail term in the pursuit of her nefarious work.

More than that, if a shoplifter for any reason should escape paying the penalty of crime in one city she may not be so fortunate in another. Descriptions of all suspected persons are sent out broadcast, and arrest in another city may mean a jail term, even though the thief may have escaped punishment previously. — Philadelphia North American.

PLANT BAROMETERS.

The Dandelion, Clover Leaves and the Scarlet Pimpernel.

The dandelion is a dandy barometer, one of the commonest and most reliable. It is when the blooms have seeded and are in the fluffy, feathery condition that the weather prophet faculties come to the fore. In the weather the ball extends to the full, but when rain approaches it shuts like an umbrella. If the weather is inclined to be showery it keeps shut all the time, only opening when the danger from the wet is past, says the Chicago Tribune.

The ordinary clover and all its varieties, including the trefoil and the shamrock, are also barometers. When rain is coming the leaves shut together like the shells of an oyster and do not open again until fine weather is assured. For a day or two before rain comes their stems swell to an appreciable extent and stiffen so that the leaves are borne more upright than usual. This stem swelling when rain is expected is a feature of many flowering grasses.

The fingers of which the leaves of the horse chestnut are made up keep flat and fanlike so long as fine weather is likely to continue. With the coming of rain, however, they droop as if to offer less resistance to the weather. The scarlet pimpernel is nicknamed the "poor man's weather glass" or wind cope and opens its flowers only to the fine weather. As soon as rain is in the air it shuts up and remains closed until the shower or storm is over.

INSECT STINGS.

Dangerous Always and Especially When One Is Run Down.

Stings and bites of insects are extremely dangerous at all times and especially when the system is not in a condition to resist the poison injected.

In many insects the nature of the poison has not been ascertained, while in most of them it is of an acid, irritant nature, in others it may contain a powerful cardiac sedative and depressant, and in still others organisms in pure or mixed cultures may be introduced with the sting or bite. Apart from the natural poison used by insects it should not be forgotten that flies and other insects that live on carrion may easily carry contagion and inoculate the persons whom they bite or sting.

In the case of ordinary bites and stings the chemical antidote is an alkaline solution, such as a strong solution of bicarbonate of soda or potash, which counteracts the acid of the sting. Suction at the wound in all these varieties of stings and bites will draw out some of the poison and until some antitoxin treatment can be found which will prove an antidote to the bacterial poison introduced little can be done beyond a stimulating and supporting treatment with attention to symptoms.—Health.

Old Mail Box.

Among the treasures held by the Antiquarian society in Portsmouth, N. H., there is an old box the history of which is given on a label which it bears. The box is of tin, painted green, and shows signs of much usage, which is not surprising when one considers that it carried the United States mail between Portsmouth and Boston during the Revolution. It is about nine inches long, four and a half inches wide and a little more than that in height. It was carried on horseback by Captain John Noble, otherwise known as Deacon Noble, who was post rider until 1783. This box contained all the mail and made every week one round trip, occupying three days in the journey—from Portsmouth to Boston the first of the week and three days at the end of the week from Boston to Portsmouth. The distance between the two places is a little more than fifty miles.

He Knew No Fear.

Prince Metternich was driving in Vienna one day during the congress of 1815 when the horses bolted, the carriage was overturned and Metternich was thrown into the roadway. Finding he had no bones broken, he picked himself up and walked quietly away. The same evening he met the king of Naples, who had seen the accident.

"How horribly frightened you must have been," said the king.

"Not at all," answered Metternich. "It is no merit of mine, but I am constitutionally inaccessible to fear."

"It is as I thought," replied the king. "You are a supernatural being."

Hard to Get.

Not long ago at a village near Durham a quack doctor was selling recipes for rheumatism, so a pitman bought one. It told him to catch a common housefly and tickle its ribs with a clothes prop until it cried. Then catch the tears in a teaspoon and rub the part affected, and he would get instant relief.—London Express.

Praise.

"Your glasses," she said, "have made a great difference in your appearance."

"Do you think so?" he asked.

"Yes. You look so intelligent with them on."—Chicago Record-Herald.

The Retort Unkind.

Gerald—A gentleman is defined as one who never gives pain. Geraldine—Then you're no gentleman; you give me a pain every time you call.—New York Press.

Finding His Level.

"A man as us finds his level, son," said Uncle Ben, "an' you's lucky to be let down easy by experience instead of arruin' wif a joit."—Washington Star.

OLD POWDERHORNS.

They Were Once Important Implements of Warfare.

TREASURED AS HEIRLOOMS.

Handed Down From Father to Son and From Friend to Friend—Engraved and Ornamented, They Were Used as Gifts Instead of Jeweled Swords.

Modern inventions have robbed warfare of much of its romance and the soldier of much of his old time picturesque. Although the powderhorn as an implement of war disappeared long before the magazine gun of today was dreamed of, it wasn't so very long ago, as a matter of fact, that men were carrying powderhorns. Some of the soldiers in the Mexican war, for example, used them.

The powderhorns carried by the fighters in the early days of this country were often of comparatively simple workmanship, but they were cherished and handed down from father to son and from friend to friend. Strange to say, though cherished in this manner, collectors have had a very hard time in locating any great number of the powderhorns used in this country, and this in spite of the large numbers used in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

In the French and Indian war the English and Americans carried 10,000 powderhorns. It has been estimated, to say nothing of the number carried by those on the French side. In the Revolution there were, according to the best estimates, about 10,000 powderhorns in use in the American army without counting those on the British side. The European troops had long discarded them, of course, but their colonial allies naturally were equipped with them.

A few years ago Isaac J. Greenwood presented to the New York Historical society a collection of water color pictures of powderhorns he had found still in existence.

Although the search was prosecuted with great diligence, the number of powderhorns actually located and sketched was not much more than 400, showing how quickly the horns have been disappearing.

Powderhorns are supposed to have come into use almost simultaneously with the invention of gunpowder. A way had to be found to carry the powder and keep it dry, and men quickly found that there wasn't anything better or cheaper in mediaeval times for this purpose than the horns of an animal.

They were in general use in the sixteenth century and were brought to this country by the first settlers. The oldest horn whose picture appears in the collection was found near Schenectady, N. Y., and bears the date of 1683.

It was generally the horns of their own cattle that the farmer fighters of America used. The loss of a horn in no wise impaired the usefulness of the animal, and bulls frequently were called upon to make the sacrifice. Such horns were easily obtained and wouldn't rust and could be carried in the rain and through streams without the powder in them getting wet.

They were always worn under the left arm by a strap that went over the right shoulder, the curve in the horn conforming to the shape of the body and serving to keep it out of the way of the wearer. There was a stopple in the small end, and without being unslung the powder could be poured into the right hand and thence into the gun.

Boiled, scraped and cleaned and colored with an orange or yellow dye, which was the way most of the powderhorns were prepared, they lent themselves more readily to ornamentation by the owner than did any other part of his equipment, and it is this fact which has made them particularly interesting as historical relics. Admiring friends in the days when powderhorns were in general use instead of presenting a hero with an engraved sword gave him a finely decorated powderhorn.

Sometimes the horns were made to order and the engraving done by professionals. Many of these horns were beautifully colored, the most popular shade being a sort of orange tint.

Perhaps the most remarkable examples of the engraving are to be seen on the geographical horns whose pictures appear in the Greenwood collection. These geographical horns took the place of pocket maps for the early pioneers. They were the work of professional engravers in places like New York and Boston.

Some of the horns in the collection contain practically complete maps of the old trails and waterways. One of the best of these bears the date of 1767 and shows New York with its harbor filled with ships and New York state as far as Lake Champlain and Ontario. The Hudson valley, with its settlements, appears on most of the geographical horns discovered. One horn shows the country between Elizabethtown and Pittsburg, each little settlement being carefully noted.

The horns thus filled a double purpose, supplying the traveler with a map and carrying his powder for him. One of the best specimens in the collection shows Havana, as well as the trail from Albany to Oswego. It is believed to have been owned by a soldier in the English army which captured the Cuban city and who later served in the colonies.—Washington Post.

Make hay while the sun shines, and the sun never shines so steadily and bright as when you are young.

DANGER FROM ICE.

No Article of Food Is So Carelessly Handled.

A writer in the Atlantic Monthly emphasizes one cause of the danger of infection from ice.

Scarcely another article of human consumption receives so much direct handling just before its use as does this food. Milk and water, tea and coffee are poured. Bread, meat and butter are cut. Bread, probably handled more than any other food on the list, has a hard crust which offers a rather unfavorable lodging place for germ life. Ice, on the contrary, washes the hands of every person who handles it and affords an ever ready liquid medium for the immediate absorption of the hosts of bacteria which hands may carry. The carelessness of the handlers of ice, their utter disregard of the resting places where it may receive infection, may be partly due to their lack of realization that ice is a food, as real a food as meat. Whatever the cause, few substances which pass through the digestive processes of man receive such treatment. Its surface contaminated by the passage of men and horses in the cutting, its sides and base fouled by muddled platforms and smeared straw, covered with the filth of black ice cars and dust swept freight stations, your cake of ice commonly receives its only cleaning just before it enters the ice chest. So far as the ice man is concerned, this is generally a hasty brush with a time worn whisk broom well filled with the dust of the street and blackened with constant use. According to the personal testimony of various ice men, not even the precaution of a momentary washing beneath the faucet is ordinarily taken.

MISSION OF THE LAND.

To Produce Commodities For the Service of Mankind.

The mission of the land is to produce and keep on producing food, live stock, lumber and other commodities for the service of man. He who owns land and is indifferent to this is guilty of a moral wrong, and he who takes good land out of commission and suffers it to be unproductive and useless is guilty of a greater one. This is the only criterion by which we can properly judge of the right of an individual to own land in large tracts.

The good results attendant upon small individual holdings are natural. The purposes of nature in the upward evolution of man are usually better carried out in this way, and not because, as is so frequently argued, every man has an inherent right to its ownership. The lazy, the incapable and the densely ignorant assuredly have no such right, and land is too precious and its mission too high to be thus wasted.

If the owner of a great country estate can farm his land as well as or better than if it were in small holdings; if, following the precept of Swift, he made two ears of corn or two blades of grass grow where one grew before; if he supply his section with a better breed of horses, cattle or sheep, well and good. No one with any knowledge of economics could say he was doing any injury to the world or mankind. It is not the amount of land that he owns, but what he does with it for which he is morally responsible.—David Buffum in Atlantic.

The Invention of the Panorama.

The panorama was invented by a Scotchman named Robert Barker, who obtained a license in London in 1787 and erected a rotunda on Leicester square. He was associated with Robert Fulton, the practical inventor of the steamboat, who introduced panoramas into Paris in 1796, but resigned in favor of Thayer perhaps in order to give his attention to the application of steam to boats. Thayer raised a rotunda on the Boulevard Montmartre, whence came the name of the Passage des Panoramas. Bonaparte caused plans to be drawn up for eight panoramas, in which his conquests were to be shown to the Parisians, whom he always tried to impress with the magnitude of the achievements in order to keep them faithful to his star. But these projects were never realized.

Calve's "Screaming."

I could talk for hours about my country and my own people. I am so fond of both. On my birthday many of them came in procession to see me and I danced what is called the "bourree" with them. They say such quaint things. An old woman once, hearing me sing, asked, "Doesn't it hurt you to scream like that?" A peasant once told me he was sure the proprietor of the grotto would give me 5 francs a day to sing there.—Calve in London Standard.

The Hater of Quietude.

"That man says he will create some real excitement if he gets into congress."

"Yes," answered Senator Sorghum, "he is one of those peculiar patriots who want to climb on board the ship of state simply for the pleasure of rocking the boat."—Washington Star.

Suspicious Circumstances.

"Do you know they suspect that old man of leading a double life?"

"What gives rise to that?"

"Why, he's so mean and cross around home that they think he must be pleasant and agreeable somewhere."—Exchange.

Ought to Have Known Better.

"What's the matter?"

"Just quarreled with my wife."

"What about?"

"She said that a woman whom we met was beautiful and I agreed with her."—Houston Post.

CITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS.

CONGREGATIONAL—Sunday school at 10 a. m. Prayer meeting Wednesday evening at eight o'clock. The public is cordially invited to these services.

EPISCOPAL—Prayer services at St. Alban's church at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Sunday school at 10 a. m. All are welcome to these services.

E. R. EARLE, Rector.

CATHOLIC—Order of services: Mass 8 a. m. Mass and sermon, 10:00 a. m. Evening service at 8 o'clock. Sunday school, 2:30 p. m. Every Sunday.

WM. J. KIRWIN, O. M. I.

METHODIST—Sunday school at 10 a. m. Sermons by pastor at 11 and 8. Class at 12. Junior League at 3. Epworth League at 6:45. Prayer meeting, Wednesday night at 7:45.

M. B. CARMAN, Pastor.

BAPTIST—Sunday school at 10 a. m. Preaching service at 11:00 a. m. Evening service at 8:00. B. Y. P. U. at 7 p. m. A most cordial invitation is extended to all to worship with us.

E. BURTON, Pastor.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN—Regular German preaching services in frame building of East Ward every Sunday morning at 10:00. All Germans cordially invited. REV. WM. BRUEGGEMAN, 607 5th st. East.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE—219 Main Avenue—Services, Sunday at 11 a. m., and Wednesday at 8 p. m. Reading Room open all the time. Science literature on sale. Subject for next Sunday, "Substance."

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONAL—Sunday School at 9:30 a. m. Preaching at 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. by pastor. Junior C. E. at 1:30 p. m. Senior C. E. at 4:00 p. m. Prayer meetings every Wednesday and Saturday evenings at 7:30. All Germans cordially invited to these services.

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