

Circumstantial Evidence

By SAM H. PARANEE.

Silas Mangum sat in his little office reading copy and ordering the city editor to bolt it down. Mangum was managing editor of the Daily Grit, a small town paper with metropolitan pretensions, acknowledged as the best afternoon sheet in his section of the country.

It was near the time for the home edition to go to press and the reporters were preparing to leave for the day. I had been in the habit of easing into the Grit office without formality for a number of years, and I had become such a constant visitor that occasionally my advice was sought. Quite naturally my regard for Mangum and the Grit force was raised, and in a pinch they could get a deal of work of a sort out of me. In college Mangum and I were friends and when he came to our town to do newspaper work, we renewed our friendship along with its citizens, it was admitted, and those pleasures.

Mangum, as became a good newspaper man, was avowedly cynical and asserted that he could read men's minds the minute they showed the front of their heads. He did seem to possess clairvoyant powers. He had the measure of our prominent individuals, with interests to promote, did not hesitate to seek his advice on the best ways to approach the jeans of men with whom they had been intimate for years. He could read male nature, he did read it, and he read it correctly.

After office hours Mangum usually went to his club for a game of cards—bridge or poker—both of

know, a good many things are associated with cards—mostly high stakes, late nights and liquor—none of which I affect. But you can't get away from the suggestion.

"A few nights ago I went down to the office, did some work and engaged the night operators in shop talk. Instead of returning home by 10:30, as was my custom, I was 11:20 in reaching the house, and my wife had retired. Without disturbing her, I went quietly to bed and soon was asleep.

"An automobile pulled up at my corner as the hall clock struck two. The driver seemed to be having some motor trouble. I went to the window and peered out through the curtains.

"What time is it, Silas?" my wife asked in a tone in which I detected a trace of sarcasm.

"Just struck two," I replied, my voice reflecting apprehension that all might not be well.

"Your friends seem to be having trouble with their cars."

"That was not a question, but a positive statement, and I knew without introductory notes that Mrs. Mangum thought that I had just that moment entered the house. I explained that I had been in bed a long time, and had merely got up to see what was the matter with the car.

"My wife knows human nature pretty well, and her mother had told her that all husbands were not absolutely truthful, and she had accepted without much trouble St. Paul's statement that all men are liars at times.

"We have had very few differences in our married life, but the conviction had been growing on her that I spent too much time at the club and that cards were more interesting to me than my family. A debate ensued for something like three hours, during which I explained 21 separate times that I was at the office until 11 o'clock, when I came home and retired noiselessly, to be aroused three hours later by the accursed motor.

"I also explained my contempt for cards and assured her that I had played my last. Finally she dropped off to sleep, but I remained awake the rest of the night trying to find the answer."

Mangum's eyes twinkled. He lit a cigar and continued:

"The Grit fortunately carried the answer that afternoon. Two prisoners had broken jail, borrowed the jailer's automobile and tried to get away. Their car stalled in the mud at my corner and, after worrying with it a few minutes, they managed to pull out. They lost so much time, however, that they were captured early the same morning."

I had read the story in the Grit, which played it up prominently on the front page, and I observed another unusual thing. Mangum had stated in the article in three different places that the stolen car stalled in front of his house, and followed this up with an editorial demanding, in the interest of fairness and common decency, better streets in the suburbs.

"Our streets in the outskirts of town, as is the case everywhere else, are woefully neglected," Mangum continued, "and the commissioner of public works has promised speedy relief. The Grit has picked up some 200 new subscribers in the suburbs, as a result of that editorial, an anonymous friend has left a turkey, and I'm happy to say that I will spend Christmas day with my family."

"I'm not so strong on circumstantial evidence," Mangum added, as he left the club.

MEDICINE IN GERMANY IS UNDERGOING CHANGE

Leaving Laboratory Work to Study of Functioning of Human Body.

DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS

Berlin, Dec. 16.—(By Associated Press).—Somewhat of a transformation is taking place in Germany's medical world as a result of the limited funds available for experiments and studies, according to the opinions expressed by prominent surgeons and physicians.

Attention is being turned from laboratory work—which is expensive—to a closer study of the actual functioning of the human body. The laws of heredity, psychic reactions and the structure of the body are coming to the fore, medical circles assert thereby opening up fields of investigation that are just as promising as the former studies, yet requiring less material and hence less expenditure.

In this connection attention is called to Germany's need for more men in other walks of life who are sufficiently interested and wealthy to support science.

"If one compares our paltry means with the sums America devotes to the scientific work," one writer declares, he is inclined to lose all hope."

This writer also cites the local pride which American citizens bear toward their institutions and the widespread popularity which these enjoy as evinced by the donations to their support.

Medical men assert that the crying need in Germany today is contributions which will keep pace, to some extent at least, with the rate of exchange. Physicians and surgeons declare that high prices not only rob them of the opportunity of obtaining necessary apparatus and other material but deprive them of foreign technical literature, libraries and institutes, as well as individuals. It is pointed out, are not in a position to afford a large selection of professional books and periodicals. Gratitude is expressed that an exchange arrangement is being effected through which books and journals from several other lands, including the United States, are being made available through an exchange.

Individual physicians are urged to contribute any such literature they may obtain privately to a common pool at some central institution.

Leaders in the movement to cope with prevailing conditions also call upon members of the profession to adopt such American customs as the production of popular lectures and press articles by scientists. Professor Wilhelm His, one of Berlin's most prominent surgeons, admitting that the prestige of German science has suffered considerably since the war, calls attention to the conditions under which German medical scholar are struggling. He asserts that American medical men have passed from their apprenticeship to the positions of masters."

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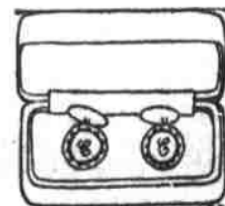
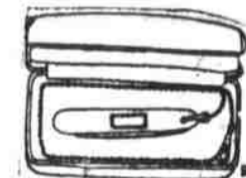
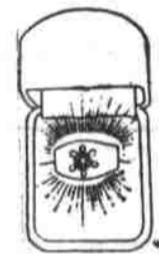
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