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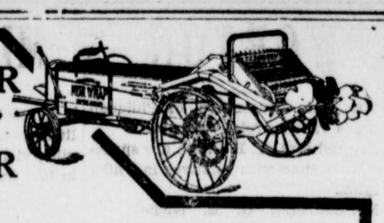
SPREADER



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OPTOMETRIST

Chestertown, Maryland


## On the Billett Case

By AD SCHUSTER

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ED WYLIE'S second case, since he had installed himself behind a lettered door as a detective, came to him through his old friend on the police force, Captain Brown.

"We have cleaned it up to a certain point," the captain explained, "but there is a chance you will go a bit farther. Want to try?"

"You mean," said Ed, "the Billett murder? Sure, I have been giving it a lot of thought."

Ralph Billett, business man, had been found dead in his office. An open file case with papers strewn on the floor indicated the murderer had been seeking a letter or document. Perhaps he had not meant to kill his man, for the police determined that the blow on the jaw would not have been fatal had not the victim fallen in a way to strike his head on a corner of his desk. Captain Brown went over the details with Ed, concluding:

"That is the layout. Now, of course, we must find out with whom Billett had business dealings."

The young detective visited the office of Billett and tried to reconstruct the crime. It was plain that no man would have dared fire a revolver in a place with walls so thin and with so many offices adjoining. The blow had come straight and unexpected and behind it a cool calculation that there would be no outcry and no struggle. Ed opened the filing case, made certain the position of the desk had not been changed and lost himself in study. Several times he shut and opened the steel drawer of the case. At last three came a thought—a theory worth exploring.

"Well, you will have to hurry," Captain Brown laughed over the phone. "We are getting close to our man and may have him in jail before you get started."

"If you will take a tip from me and save yourself the danger of legal action," Ed replied, "you will make no arrests until you hear from me." He hung up the receiver confident he had made an impression and a little fearful that he did not possess the information to carry it out.

Early the next morning Ed visited the Billett home. There he found a nephew of Ralph Billett in charge and also a police officer. Plainly the nephew was worried, but not so much so as his young wife, who kept glancing fearfully at the policeman.

"He's the man Brown's after," Ed decided. "They are just waiting until they get enough to make the pinch. At any time the phone may ring and I rather think he knows it."

"I wish to see," said Ed, "the suit of clothes Mr. Billett was wearing at the time he met his death."

With the air of a man performing a distasteful duty and one he considered of little use, the nephew took Ed into another room where the young detective glowed with pride as he had the opportunity to use his microscope in an important case.

"And now," said Ed, studying the nephew closely, "I am going to telephone Captain Brown to come here. I think we are at the end of the search."

The other sighed and seemed relieved. "I hope you are. It's been a fearful strain on Alice and me. We had to come; there were no others and your Captain Brown has been asking us all manner of questions."

While they waited for the captain, Ed arranged the room with table and a bookcase to resemble, in a way, the one in which Ralph Billett had been killed. The bookcase stood for the filing cabinet and the table for the desk. Captain Brown did not loiter in coming and the lad started his explanation.

"Pretend I am Billett alone in my office," he started. "I go to the filing case for a letter, look at it and put it back, slamming the drawer shut. My coat sleeve catches and the drawer is stuck tight. I jerk and the coat won't come out so I reach around—it is my left sleeve that is caught—take hold of the handle and pull. Still it doesn't open and I give it a ferocious tug." He went through the motions and was standing in front of the case. "The steel door flys open. It strikes me on the tip of the jaw for a clean knockout and I fall back, hitting the table. That is how Ralph Billett met his death. It was a pure accident."

The nephew and his wife looked at Ed in admiration.

"It is so simple," he said, "I wonder why we did not think of that before."

But Captain Brown, nodding slowly as if impressed, was far from convinced.

"Go on," he said, "carry it out. If that is as far as you went there is a lot to be done before I am with you."

"All right. Measure the height of the filing case drawer. It could hit a man of Billett's height, when he was leaning slightly, square on the chin. Examine it for blood and you will find a trace. Then take a look at the left sleeve of the coat Billett was wearing. There is a tear there, a pinch and tear, both visible. And the coat was nearly new and not likely to be torn in any other accident. You will even find," and Ed was triumphant, "a bit of the red lacquer of the filing case rubbed into that coat when that drawer closed upon it."

And the young detective, feeling that at last he had arrived, made his bow and departed.

### Truly Hospitable

A former college president was invited to lunch at the home of one of his alumni. The five-year-old daughter of the house was delighted to show the distinguished guest up to wash his hands. Opening the door of the bathroom, which was duly fitted out with the best embroidered linens in honor of the occasion, Sally said:

"Just make yourself at home, and" —with a royal gesture—"you may use any of the towels."—Indianapolis News.

Subscription to the Transcript $1.50 per annum.

## Bell Laboratories Develop New Larynx

### Latest Type With Range of Octave Permits of Increased Range of Speech Tones

*Dr. Sergius P. Grace demonstrates new artificial larynx.*

The Bell Telephone Laboratories, the research and development branch of the Bell System is constantly engaged in improving the art of communication. By-product developments of telephone communication have resulted in many humanitarian accomplishments. Not the least of these is the artificial larynx which has made it possible for people who have lost their larynges through surgical operations to talk again.

The latest type of artificial larynx developed by the Bell Telephone Laboratories has a range of an octave. This permits a variation in the pitch of the speech tones and avoids the tone monotony of the earlier design of larynx.

A person in talking uses an instrument much like a bellows to which a rubber tube with a metal mouthpiece is attached. He places the tube in his mouth, squeezes the bellows, his lips move and a monotone voice is heard. The words are all understandable, the sound comes from the artificial larynx which pours into the mouth like a low melodious whistle. However, it is necessary, laboratory engineers say, to remember to squeeze the bellows when speech is wanted and equally necessary to stop squeezing when the speech is finished.

One of the difficulties for beginners in the use of the artificial larynx comes in the fact that the organs of speech seem too surprised to go thoroughly through the motions of talking. They miss the usual warning vibrations coming up from the throat. It is said, however, that a person may learn in a few minutes out of the apparatus how to make himself understood and may acquire versatility rapidly with practice.

## Telephone Repairman Gives Dr. First Aid

### Applies Bandages and Anticeptics Then Calls In Physician and Turns Over Case

The value of first aid to the telephone employees has been proven time and time again. Recently Charles W. Roberts, a combination man of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company, employed at Clarendon, Va., had occasion to use his knowledge of first aid to good advantage.

As he was driving along one of the main highways of that section he came upon an automobile smash-up in which Dr. J. J. Gilbert, a retired physician of Washington had been painfully injured. Roberts immediately took charge of the injured man applied compresses and iodine, secured from the first aid kit in his car to the cuts about the face and hands carried the patient into a nearby home and treated him for shock. Then feeling that internal injuries might have been sustained, Mr Roberts called in a doctor and turned the case over to him.

Telephone men practice first aid for the protection of themselves and their fellow workmen, but hardly a day passes that they do not give treatment to other persons who have been injured, but do not have the knowledge or facilities for caring for them selves. So the telephone men step into the breech and supply the want

The American Telephone and Telegraph Company had 454,1[illegible] stockholders October 1, which [illegible] gain of 33,601 since the [illegible] year officials of [illegible]te.

### "Caracul" Fur

A dictionary of fur names says: "Caracul—also known as astrakhan. Sheep family. Habitat: Tashkent, and some of the provinces of southern Russia which are also called 'Russian Caracul.' The Tashkent caraculs have the highest luster and the finest moire markings. Russian caraculs vary in color as brown, black, brown and black, or brown and white, and occasionally white. Caraculs are bred to some extent in the United States and Canada. They are also found in China and Mongolia. These are generally white, are heavier and have a looser curl."


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