

# The Medical Bulletin

Volume 5, Number 4

December 1979

## FROM THE CHIEF SURGEON

by David Poole

A reminder to all Neglected Patients. Don't forget to fill out your reservation form for the Annual Dinner, celebrating the birthday of the Master. The Annual Dinner will again be held at the Phipps House, on Saturday January 5, 1980. The program for the evening will include Sherlockian games, dinner with the traditional **and not so traditional toasts, and a short (very short) business meeting** including election of officers. Entertainment by the Buskers will follow. The food, fellowship, and entertainment will be great (?). Guests are welcome, and I hope that all the Denver area Patients can attend.

Beginning this year dues are payable the first of the year, rather than in September. A dues notice is enclosed with this issue of the Bulletin. Include them with your remittance for the dinner, pay at the dinner, or mail them to our **Bursar**, John Stephenson.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The nominating committee (Chuck Hansen) presents the following slate of officers and interns for 1980.

For Staff Surgeon -

Chuck Hansen

For Transcriber -

Charlene Schnelker

## TRANSCRIBER'S TRIFLES

Our peripatetic Staff Surgeon, Charles Hansen, has been much in demand on the speaker's circuit lately. The Arapahoe Valley Optimists, who meet monthly at 7a.m. (a sinister group, surely), were prepared with many challenging questions, which Chuck fielded with his customary good humor.

The other engagements were for two literature classes at Heritage High School. The students were delighted with the tongue-in-cheek description of Watson's wandering wound and of the Scions which keep Holmes and Watson forever fresh.

## COMING EVENTS

Two Neglected Patients will be offering Sherlockian classes in early 1980. The class which Nancy Wynne offers regularly through DU will focus on "The Ambience of the British Detective Story." Steve Dixon's class at CU will feature a more intensive look at Sherlock Holmes, as a 3-credit class. Nancy's class is offered through the evening Continuing Education department.

For more information, call Steve Dixon at 442-4804 and Nancy Wynne at 798-6430. As all Neglected Patients, they welcome an opportunity for consultation.

---

For Intern (two to be elected) -

Jack Arthur  
Ren Lies  
Bob Peterson  
Jill Stone

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

## W A S I T R E A L L Y B A R T ' S

by Roy Sparkes

Though it cuts deep at the very foundation of revealed religion, we must question, in all seriousness, whether Holmes and Watson ever studied at Bart's Hospital and whether their historic first meeting really took place there in the chemical laboratory. It is true that that laboratory contains a stool with Holmes's name inscribed on its back. Such stools, however, are unlikely to survive more than a century's rough usage, and we may safely dismiss this evidence with the Master's own words, "Pooh, Pooh! Forgery." It will be seen that there are several pieces of evidence which point away from Bart's as the location of that meeting and which indicate that there are two other hospitals whose claims should be seriously considered. When that plaque is finally removed from the wall it is not at present certain where it should be properly re-erected.

First let us look at the Redheaded League, that idyll with its feat of Clay. In his account of this adventure, it is clear that Watson is quite unfamiliar with the neighbourhood. He speaks twice of a road which is "one of the great arteries which carry the traffic of the city to the north and west." Why does he not mention its name? Not for reasons of secrecy as he gives the name of the station and the bank and several other buildings in the neighbourhood. It can only be that he did not know the name of the road, yet Aldersgate is only a few hundred yards from Bart's where he is supposed to have studied for five years or more. While it is true that a medical student would be unlikely to know the names of all the byways and alleys in the region round his hospital, he should be familiar with the names of the main roads. We must not accept too readily that Watson had ever studied at Bart's.

Likewise with Holmes. When he first came up to London, he had rooms in Montague Street, just round the corner from the British Museum, and there he waited, filling in his too abundant

leisure time by studying all those branches of science which might make him more efficient. And an excellent place it was, being near not only to the British Museum, but also to London University Library and University College with its many and varied facilities. There is not the slightest reason to doubt this statement, it was the most suitable place in London for his requirements. But why, if he wished to make use of a hospital laboratory, should he make a long journey to Bart's when the Middlesex Hospital and University College Hospital were close to hand? Both of these hospitals are teaching hospitals of London University, enjoying exactly the same status as Bart's if not its antiquity.

The conversation between Holmes and Watson at their first meeting provides us with yet more evidence, Discussing when they will inspect the Baker Street rooms, Holmes says, "Call for me here at noon tomorrow, and we'll go together and settle everything." A glance at the map will show that this was absurd if the meeting took place at Bart's. Watson was staying at a hotel in the Strand, and calling at Bart's would take him miles out of his way to Baker Street. We know that Holmes was often peremptory in his dealings with his associates, but surely, at that first meeting, Watson would have suggested that it would be far more convenient if Holmes were to call at the Strand instead. Suppose, however, that the meeting took place not at Bart's, but at the Middlesex Hospital. This would be directly on the way from the Strand to 221B. Even University College Hospital would not be far out of Watson's way. (Continued)

---

**THE MEDICAL BULLETIN** issued for  
Doctor Watson's Neglected Patients,  
a seion of the Baker Street Irregulars.

Editor: Dorothy Ellis  
Canonical Consultants: David Poole  
Charlene Schnelker  
Special Reports: Charles Hansen,  
Jill Stone

Correspondence should be addressed to:  
The Editor, 2851 South Reed Street  
Denver, Colorado 80227

---

## WAS SHERLOCK HOLMES WRONG IN THE

### THE JACK THE RIPPER CASE ?

By Bernard Kelly

Did Sherlock Holmes solve the case of Jack the Ripper, the mass murderer who terrorized the East End of London from August 31 to November 9, 1888? The time is right; the place is right; the case was right. It could have been brought to Holmes' attention.

The Neglected Patients of Dr. Watson were guests of Jo Ann Sherman, proprietor of Sherman Advertising, 1631 Glenarm Place, Denver, at an advance showing of Murder by Decree,\* a new movie about Sherlock Holmes. In the movie Christopher Plummer, as Holmes, solves the mystery of Jack the Ripper, James Mason is Dr. Watson in the production.

Reaction to the movie was mixed. I enjoyed it very much, all of it, including the story and the wonderful atmosphere of the London slums, the mists, the night and the looming presence of danger.

Some thought the long explanation at the end dragged. Maybe it did, but Holmes was always generous with his explanations, and he certainly owed a full explanation to Watson, and to us, his devoted public.

But was the Duke of Clarence the mad killer of five women? Was he Jack the Ripper?

In 1975 a man who had access to police information wrote a book about the subject. Donald Rumbelow, the author, is a member of the City of London Police force, and a curator of the Black Museum. Much of what I shall have to say comes from his book, The Complete Jack the Ripper.

Experts believe the first Ripper murder occurred August 31, 1888.

One George Cross, on his way to work, thought he saw a bundle in the dark, went close and found it was a woman. He and another man sought a constable,

John Neil, and Neil shone his bull's-eye lamp on her. Later they were to learn that she was a prostitute, Mary Ann (Polly) Nichols. Her throat was cut with such violence that the windpipe and gullet were completely severed. Other horrifying injuries to the trunk and sexual organs were discovered later.

She was the first victim, to be followed by Annie Chapman on September 8, Elizabeth Stride and Catherine Eddowes on September 30 in a double murder, and Mary Jane Kelly on November 8. All died in East London in an area about a mile square. All the victims were prostitutes, all were terribly mutilated. None except Kelly could be said to be even minimally attractive. All were victims of the terrible poverty of their time and place in life.

Police were bombarded with letters - 1,000 a week. On September 25, came a letter they had to notice. It was signed Jack the Ripper and gave the unidentified killer his name. He wrote "I am down on whores" and promised to "clip" the ear of the next forthcoming victim. He tried to do just that with Eddowes and Stride. Police received 128 specimens of Jack the Ripper correspondence and believed at least twenty-four were in the same handwriting. The murders were generally referred to as the Whitechapel murders.

The killings ceased without explanation. Who was Jack the Ripper? Why did he stop? How did he escape the scenes of his crimes, when there was so much blood?

Rumbelow's book names a number of suspects whose actions and motives became a matter of record.

#### The Lodger

The Bible-spouting man with a "down on whores" is probably the most popular image of the Ripper. He was raised to a major fiction character in a novel, The Lodger, by Marie Belloc Lowndes. There is a basis in fact for the novel. A certain lodging house keeper in Finsbury, London, noticed that a man who had rooms there wore a different suit each time he went out. He would stay out late

\* February 13, 1979

(Continued)

and creep in silently. One morning, after one of the East End Murders, the maid who made up his bed found a bloodstain in the bedding. His shirt was found hanging up, but with the cuffs freshly washed. A few days later the lodger left, saying he was going to Canada.

He had frequently expressed his alarm and disgust at the number of prostitutes in London. He would scribble his thoughts about them on numerous sheets of paper. Some of these, bitter and violent, he read to his landlord.

Police tried to trace the man, but without success.

#### M. J. DrUITT

Dr. Montague John DrUITt, 42, is believed to have been sexually insane. His body was found floating in the Thames December 3, 1888, a month after the last of the Whitechapel murders.

DrUITt was educated at Winchester and Oxford, tried a law career, and may have undertaken some medical studies. In 1881 he tried his hand at teaching at a school in Blackheath. He was dismissed in 1888, and it has been suggested there was a homosexual explanation for the dismissal, but in any event his behavior was erratic, and he told some people he thought he was going insane. His mother was insane, and she died in an asylum.

DrUITt himself was last seen alive December 3, 1888. Soon after that he filled his pockets with stones and threw himself into the Thames.

There is no shred of real evidence, beyond these odd facts, that Dr. DrUIT was Jack the Ripper.

Just the same, according to Rumbelow: "DrUITt is currently the firm favorite with most Ripperologists as the man most likely to have been Jack the Ripper."

#### Dr. Stanley

It has not been proved that Dr. Stanley existed, nor has a first name for him been turned up.

If he lived, Dr. Stanley was a researcher interested in cancer. He had a son, Herbert, also a doctor, and idolized him.

The son is believed to have met Mary Kelly on Boat Race Night 1886. They spent a week together in Paris and Herbert then discovered Mary had a venereal disease. (In fairness to her it must be said that Mary Kelly's post mortem showed no trace of any venereal disease.)

Two years later, Herbert died of the disease.

The theory is that Dr. Stanley pervowed to extract revenge for his son's death by finding Kelly and killing her. He presumably also vowed to kill all other prostitutes he could find.

Eventually, the theory goes, he did find Mary Kelly and exact his revenge. He thereafter is said to have wandered the world for ten years before he died of cancer. In his last hours, the story goes, he told a former pupil that he was Jack the Ripper.

#### George Chapman

George Chapman was living in Whitechapel at the time of the Ripper murders. He was a genuine killer and was later tried for and convicted of the murders of three women he had lived with. He was hanged in 1903. Although Chapman has always been a popular Jack the Ripper suspect, he does not fit the Ripper personality pattern. Chapman was a coldly calculating wife poisoner. The Ripper was a ferocious, bestial slasher.

#### Dr. Pedachenko

Dr. Alexander Pedachenko was a Russian barber/surgeon living across the Thames River from Whitechapel. Apparently he was deeply involved in Russian revolutionary politics. Pedachenko knew Chapman, but knew him under the name of Severin Klosowski. He was very like Chapman in appearance and is said to have doubled for him, but for what purpose not known. It is theorized they might have established alibis for each other

(Continued)

by "proving" they were elsewhere when a crime attributed to one or the other was committed.

#### Neill Cream

Dr. Neill Cream was another genuine murderer, convicted and hanged, who might have been Jack the Ripper. Cream poisoned four London prostitutes with strychnine. He had all the viciousness and brutality needed to make him the Ripper. And - most astonishing of all - Cream, when on the Scaffold, is said to have exclaimed "I am Jack the --" just as the bolt was drawn. The hangman is said to have sworn this was so.

However, from November 1881 to July 1891 Cream was serving a life sentence for murder in the Illinois State Penitentiary at Joliet, in the United States. The scaffold statement, if he made it, was pure boast.

#### Frederick Deeming

Frederick Bailey Deeming killed his first wife and four children in 1891. Before emigrating to Australia with wife number 2 he had disposed of the bodies of wife number 1 and the kids by burying them under the kitchen floor of their home near Liverpool. His second wife was murdered within a month of their landing in Australia. She was buried under the bedroom floor of a house near Melbourne.

Deemings prospective third wife was already on the way to meet him when the body of wife number 2 was discovered.

Deeming was arrested, tried, and then executed May 23, 1892.

In prison he claimed to be Jack the Ripper, and was an ugly enough character to be Jack. But this was just boasting, as it was proved he was in prison when the Whitechapel murders were committed.

#### The Slaughtermen

There has always been a suspicion that Jack the Ripper was a Jewish shochet,

or ritual slaughterman, who was never caught.

In 1888 there was a Jewish abattoir in Aldgate High Street where the slaughtering of animals regularly took place. Expertise in slaughtering of animals might explain why police in at least two of the murders were baffled by the lack of blood.

A shochet was a minor cleric and a familiar figure, which probably would lull suspicion as he moved through the streets.

And it is possible that the Ripper was a psychopath suffering from a religious mania.

And Now: Clarence, Stephen and Gull

In 1970 Dr. Thomas Stowell caused a sensation when he proposed a solution to the Jack the Ripper mystery in the magazine The Criminologist.

His source material was apparently the private papers of Sir William Gull, Physician Extraordinary to Queen Victoria. Throughout the article Stowell referred to the suspect (in the Ripper killings) only as "S". However he disclosed enough to show that he meant H. R. H. Prince Albert Victor (Eddy), Duke of Clarence, the eldest son of the future King Edward VII. Stowell died within days of publishing his theory, and his notes were burned by "his distressed and mourning family."

Fortunately it is possible to verify from other sources that Stowell had indeed been referring to the Duke of Clarence, often in England simply called Clarence.

Others have reached the same conclusion, including Sherlock Holmes.

It was believed the Clarence contracted syphilis in the West Indies, became insane, and was thus led to commit the Whitechapel murders.

He was a hunter and ought to have been skillful in gutting animals and, possibly, disemboweling prostitutes.

(Continued)

Clarence died of pneumonia during an influenza epidemic on January 14, 1892.

Clarence had a tutor at Cambridge, James Kenneth Stephen, and may have had a homosexual relationship with him. One theory is that the murders were committed by Stephen out of a twisted desire for revenge because of the gradual cessation of the supposed homosexual relationship between himself and Clarence.

Stephen's father, a judge, died a maniac - and so did Stephen.

The son's madness is believed to have stemmed from an accident while riding.

He thus became, in 1887, the patient of Sir William Gull.

No satisfactory motive for murder has been established for Stephen. It is known that he brooded about blood, castration and murder. There is some similarity between Stephens' handwriting and that in two letters sent by the Ripper to Police.

Finally, there is Gull. In 1871 he successfully treated the Prince of Wales for typhoid fever and Queen Victoria rewarded him by creating him Baronet and Physician Extraordinary to the Queen.

Gull was reportedly seen more than once in Whitechapel on the night of a murder. It was believed he might have been there for the express purpose of certifying the murderer - if caught - insane, and right on the spot.

R. J. Lees, the medium who appears in the movie, was a real person. Whatever may be believed of his powers, Lees allegedly was used by police to trace the flight of the murderer from Miller's Court, scene of the last Ripper killing, that of Mary Kelly. He took officers to a "fashionable home in the West End belonging to a highly reputable physician." The doctor, when questioned, admitted to sudden losses of memory. He had on one occasion found bloodstains on his shirt, and on another occasion scratches on his face which he could not account for. His wife is said to have told police he

had "sudden manias for inflicting pain," and that her husband's absences from home coincided with the murders.

Could this "highly reputable physician" have been Dr. Gull?

In any event, Gull eventually died of a stroke

All of the suspicion lying against the Duke of Clarence., and to a lesser extent against Gull, stems from the belief that Clarence had frequented an artists' colony in the Cleveland Street area, where he fell in love with a Tobacconist's helper, Ann Elizabeth Crook. In 1888 he married her. The affair had to be kept secret because the girl was a Catholic, and presumably public knowledge of such a marriage would "endanger the throne."

The marriage was broken up and Ann Elizabeth was committed to Guy's Hospital for four months, and subsequently to Fulham Hospital, where she died in 1921.

Mere marriage, unsuitable as it may have seemed, hardly would account for the murders.

One further theory is that Clarence became infected with syphilis and became insane, and his insanity caused him to commit the Whitechapel murders, presumably in vengeance against prostitutes who, he might have believed, infected him. But the best information is that Clarence caught syphilis while on a visit to the West Indies.

The most recent story of Clarence and his marriage to Ann Elizabeth Crook, the tobacconist's helper, began with the appearance of one Joseph Sickert on a BBC television program. Sickert said one of the witnesses to the marriage was Mary Kelly, and she was killed as part of a cover-up.

Says Rumbelow: "Surely if officialdom could commit Clarence's wife to an asylum for thirty-three years, then it could have avoided murder by doing the same thing with a mere servant girl (Mary Kelly)."

Moreover the Royal Marriages Act was still in effect, and under the act any such

(Continued)

It seems quite certain that the names Colonel Lysander Stark and Dr. Lysander Starr were aliases devised by Watson from association with the name of that friend of Cecil Rhodes, Leander Starr Jameson whose ill-fated raid on the Transvaal made his name a household word in England. Yet the Jameson raid did not occur until 1895 and The Engineer's Thumb was published in 1892. While Jameson's name might have been known to a close student of South African affairs at any time from 1890 onwards, it is unlikely that Watson would be familiar with it unless they had been previously acquainted. Leander Starr Jameson studied medicine at University College Hospital, taking his M.D. degree in 1877 and holding various hospital appointments until he emigrated to South Africa in 1878. He was, therefore, an almost exact contemporary of Watson who took his M.D. degree in 1878. If Watson also was a student at University College Hospital they would know each other well. London medical schools operate quite independently of each other; a student at Bart's would be unlikely to meet one from another hospital nearly two miles away. They might, it is true, have a common interest in rugger, but, as it was ill health that caused Jameson's emigration to South Africa, this seems unlikely.

We must not, however, decide too readily that it was the University College Hospital which masqueraded in the Chronicles as Bart's. There is a small but significant clue in the Final Problem which points in a different direction. In this story Watson tells us that Holmes made his departure from the house by clambering over the wall which leads into Mortimer Street. Now Watson was living in Kensington at the time and there is no Mortimer Street in Kensington. Either by a slip of the pen, or his natural discretion, Watson used the name of a street well familiar to him in place of the correct one. The Middlesex Hospital is in Mortimer Street and if Watson had been a student there for several years it is easy to understand how the name Mortimer Street came so readily to his mind.

Inspection of all the records at Bart's has so far failed to produce any evidence that either Watson or Holmes ever studied there, or Stamford either for that matter. If just a fraction of the energy that has been expended in investigating Oxbridge colleges for signs of Holmes is turned to these London hospitals, definite proof of which one of them deserves renown may well be brought to light. Personally, I hope that the Middlesex Hospital will be the winner as I am deeply grateful for the excellent care which I have received within its walls on three occasions, when I was given not the slightest cause to complain of being a Neglected Patient.

Aldersgate • • Barts

British  
Museum

University  
College  
Hospital

Middlesex  
Hospital

221b Baker Street



Strand

# BILL OF FARE.

Ready from 12 noon to 3.00 p.m.

## Salmagundi

Native Oysters - - -	1/2 doz 1/6d	Jellied Eels - - -	1/6d
Curried Prawns - - -	1/6d	Grapefruit Salad - - -	9d
Duck Liver Paste on Toast 1/-d			

SIMPSON'S FISH DINNER - - -	s. d.
Dinner from the Joint - - -	3 9
Dinner from one Special Dish - - -	2 6
Dinner from one Special Dish with Joint - - -	3 0
Dinner from two Special Dishes - - -	3 6

The above prices include Vegetables, Cheese, Rolls and Butter

## Joints 2/6d

Roast Sirloin of Beef & Yorkshire Pudding  
 Roast Saddle of Mutton and Redcurrant Jelly  
 Roast Loin of Pork and Apple Sauce

## Soups

Clear Real Turtle with Sherry - - -	s. d.	Scotch Hotch Potch - - -	s. d.
Oxtail - - - - -	3 6	London Particular - - -	1 0
	1 9		1 0

## Fish

Boiled Turbot with Prawn Sauce - - -	s. d.
Fried Plaice with Fried Potatoes - - -	2 6
Grilled or Fried Sole with Fried Potatoes - - -	1 6
Billingsgate Fish Pie - - -	2 0
	1 6

NATIVE OYSTERS 3/- PER DOZEN

150 YEARS  
 CELEBRATION LUNCHEON

## Special Dishes 2/6d

Kentish Chicken Pudding  
 Stewed Tripe and Onions  
 Steak, Kidney and Mushroom Pie  
 Braised Oxtail

## From the Grill

Lamb Cutlets and Mint Sauce - - -	s. d.	Sirloin Steak - - -	s. d.
Fillet Steak - - - - -	3 0	Mixed Grill (Steak, Cutlet, Sausage, and Tomato) - - -	3 6
	3 6		3 0

The above prices include Vegetables, Cheese, Rolls and Butter

## Sweets

Apple Pie - - - - -	6d	Lemon Syllabub - - - - -	9d
Spotted Dick - - - - -	6d	Apple Tansy - - - - -	6d
Fruit Salad - - - - -	6d	Simpson's Treacle Roll - - - - -	6d
Apple Fritters - - - - -	6d	Prunes & Rice - - - - -	6d
		Cream Caramel - - - - -	6d
		With Cream 3d extra	

## Jces

Vanilla 8d  
 Strawberry 8d  
 Lemon Water 9d

## Sundries

Welsh Rarebit - - - - -	6d	Buck Rarebit - - - - -	9d
Scotch Woodcock - - - - -	1/3d	Stewed Cheese - - - - -	9d
Plain Anchovies 1/-d			

## Dessert

Apples - - 3d  
 Orange - - 3d  
 Almonds & Raisins - - 9d

## Tea and Coffee

Tea, per cup, 6d  
 Tea, per pot, 1/-  
 Coffee, small cup, 4d large, 6d  
 Cream, 3d

BASS & CO. ON DRAUGHT 4d PER PINT  
 FINE OLD TAWNY PORT 8d PER GLASS  
 HOUSE WINE 10/- PER PINT

Attendance 3d each person charged in the Bill

NATIVE OYSTERS 3/- PER DOZEN

NOVEMBER 4th  
 1828-1928

## SIMPSON'S-IN-THE-STRAND MENU

by David Poole

The Simpson's menu included in this issue of the Bulletin is a facimile of a 1913 menu (the prices show this). The bill of fare, and the prices are probably not much different than when Holmes and Watson ate there in the seventies (?). Simpson's figured in several of the Adventures. In The Dying Detective, Holmes suggested that "something nutritious at Simpson's would not be out of place". In The Adventure of the Illustrious Client, Holmes and Watson liked Simpson's so much they ate there twice.

An article on the modern Simpson's, by David Pearson, appeared in the Medical Bulletin, Vol. 4, No. 2, 1978.

The menu was sent to us through the courtesy of Ms. Helen Wright of the Public Relations Office of the Savoy.

### ADDRESS CHANGE

Patient Peter E. Blau now resides at:  
 3900 Tunlaw Road NW, # 119  
 Washington, D. C. 20007