

THE MEDICAL BULLETIN

Roy Hunt

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The MEDICAL BULLETIN is issued quarterly for Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients, a scion society of The Baker Street Irregulars.

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Caligraphy design by Stan Moskal

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"Pray take a seat," said Holmes. "This is my friend and colleague, Dr. Watson, who is occasionally good enough to help me in my cases. Whom have I the honour to address?"

- A Scandal in Bohemia

Cover: Arthur Wontner as Sherlock Holmes.
From The Something Hunt, by Roy Hunt

MEMO TO THE MEMBERSHIP

From: The Chief Surgeon

It is with deep regret that your Medical Board accepts the resignation of Dorothy Ellis as Editor of the Medical Bulletin.

We understand and respect her reasons. We would to take this opportunity to thank her for the years of work and love she put into each issue of the Bulletin. Thank you for a job well done. Dorothy we send you our love and thanks for all you have given us over the years.

Dorothy is not leaving the group. She will continue as a member of Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients and a loyal follower of Sherlock Holmes.

Debbie Butler is stepping down as Staff Surgeon to assume the duties of Editor beginning the New Year, 1987. We know that she will work hard to maintain the fine standards that Dorothy Ellis has set. With all our love to you, Dorothy.

Ronald E. Lies

By Hugh A. Mulligan

London-One evening just before closing time in the Sherlock Holmes Pub off the Strand, young Moriarty made the astounding revelation that the great consulting detective was an incompetent and a fraud.

Holmme's forte, Moriarty insisted, was not "observation and deduction but jumping conclusions."

We all stood aghast of course, the cynosure of all ears in the uneasy silence that had fallen over the place, which has now become a shrine to that "foremost champion of law" in his generation. His study has been recreated in the upstairs lounge.

"Take the first meeting between Holmes and that quack Watson in the chemical lab at St. Bart's Hospital," Moriarty pushed on, oblivious of the bartender's baleful look and bulging biceps and the sullen circle of Holmes-lovers who had gathered.

We knew the young fool was making reference to the opening pages of "A Study In Scarlet," where Watson and Holmes meet for the first time and agreed to share some digs at 221B Baker Street under the landladyship of the long suffering Mrs. Hudson.

"Holmes immediately jumped to the conclusion that Watson was just returned from the Afghanistan wars, because he was frail. tan-faced but still white at the wrists and had a military bearing, except for holding is left arm in a still and unnatural manner." Moriarty went on, clearly enjoying the sensation he was creating," Actually the bogus old butcher had botched a hemorrhoidectomy in Norwich and had been stricken from the rolls. The good docter fled to the French Rivera, where he wrenched his shoulder pulling on one franc slot machines. He had never been in the army in his life, but in gratitude for the great detective's deductive powers invented all that hogwash about being struck on the shoulder by a Jezail bullet that grazed the subclavian artery and being saved from the murderous Ghazis by his orderly Murray. Boozy old Watson wouldn't know the subclavian artery from the A4 dual carriageway in Manchester. The only thing he was saved from was the murderous fury of his

patient, thanks to a dotty old aunt who provided the wherewithall for his cop-out to the Continent.

A murderous mummer went though the crowd, some of them arrayed in Sherlock Holmes T-shirts and menacingly waving their Baker Street souvenir beer beakers. Against the rising tide of discontent, the publican sounded the warning bell and cried "Last orders, now last orders."

Fearless, intoxicated with his evangelism as well as a half dozen pints of 'arf and arf, Moriarty rushed in where Hell's Angels fear to tread and Baker Street Irregulars take no prisoners.

He dared to attack the opening chapter of "The Hound Of The Baskervilles" wherein Holmes jumps to some extraordinary conclusions - I mean makes some brilliant deductions - about Dr, James Mortimer from his walking stick, or his "Penang Lawyer," as Watson so quaintly called the cane,

It was engraved: To James Mortimer M.R.C.S from his friends of the C.C.H., 1884." From the initials, the worn condition of the tip and some teeth marks on the shaft, Holmes deduced that Mortimer was a member of the Royal College of Surgeons who had retired five years ago as house surgeon Charing Cross Hospital to go into country practice and was a "young fellow under 30, amiable, unambitious, absent-minded and the possessor of a favorite dog, which I should describe roughly as being larger than a terrier and smaller than a mastiff."

I thought I heard a howl go up from the stuffed Baskerville hound on the wall near the lavatory door. When young Moriarty suddenly smashed his glass and cried "Balderdash! Mortimer never had a dog! It was a pet alligator, which carried the stick around in his jaws. The doctor was a disciple of my great uncle Professor Moriarty the Napoleon of crime who gave him the cane. The initials M.R.C.S, stood for "Master Revisionist, Canon of Sherlock," an order founded by my great-uncle to combat the ludicrous fictions Watson wrote in his journal to foist the Holmes legend on the public: C.C.H. was the parent group, the Committee to Correct Holmes which Professor Moriarty himself headed..."

"Time, gentlemen, time," the hysterical publican cut in.

Suddenly the lights went out, and there were cries of "kosh the blighter," "unstick his wicket," "truncheon him" and similar threats.

I managed to lead Moriarty, sobbing, to safety through a side door. A fellow has to keep his wits about him when the nostalgia caper is afoot.

Associated Press



Cookery for the sick-room

BOILED FLOUR

Tie up as tight as possible, in a linen cloth, one pound of flour; and, after frequently dipping it in cold water, dredge the outside with flour till a crust is formed round it, which will prevent the water from soaking into it while boiling. Place it in water and boil it until it becomes a hard, dry mass.

Two or three spoonfuls of this may be grated, and prepared in the same manner as arrow-root gruel, for which it is an excellent substitute.

The Household Physician. A Twentieth Century Medical. Woodruff Publishing Company, Inc. Boston. New edition 1923

Compliments of The Season

John H. Watson, M. D.



*"This is Clapham Junction, if I am not mistaken,
and we shall be in Victoria in less than ten minutes*

In the hundreds of times I have read A Study In Scarlet, chapter five has always made me pause. The chapters' premise seems to me ridiculous, and clearly placed in the Cannon in error, or by a malicious malcontent.

The first inkling of tampering with Dr. Watson's word came in chapter three of the same story where there is a reference to the cab drawn by the horse. When this was done, is not known. It could have been done by the literary agent, Dr. Doyle, or by Dr. Watson who was trying to embellish the facts or who was relying on his sometimes less than perfect memory. A mad typesetter might have been responsible. Who knows?

Many knowledgeable scholars have commented on chapter five; Nathan Bengis "... It almost staggers the belief that Holmes would not have seen through the blatantly obvious disguise..."; and further from "Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson A Medical Digression" by Dr. Maurice Campbell, M.D.; and from the Canon's own Mr. Stanford concerning Holmes '(and Watson's) knowledge of anatomy. Since this information is already known to you, I will pass over needless repetition and state my reasons for rejecting this intrusion.

According to the writer of this piece, the "woman" who visited 221-B Baker Street, was well covered except for the face and hands. Following is a brief list of some of the facial characteristics in which adult men differ from adult women:

1. Thicker, heavier bones, making the male skull slightly larger;
2. More pronounced brow ridges;
3. Larger and generally more angular jaw bone (hence the term ("manly jaw");
4. Facial hair and beard growth frequently seen as "5 O'clock shadow" on the chins of men.

Not a part of the study of anatomy, but certainly appropriate for scrutiny in this situation:

1. Nicotine stained fingers.
2. Smokers breath.
3. Long fingernails on the right hand several of which had blood residue under their tips.

Even with this information, we are asked to believe that this "long chap", (Rance's words) , who according to Holmes deduction was over 6 feet tall, with a ruddy face, small feet and long fingernails on one hand (with blood residue under one or more of the nails, and possible nicotine stains on his fingers and his front teeth) fooled Sherlock Holmes.

There is little doubt that the spurious woman was Jefferson Hope. He, an obsessed lonely man, with an extremely bad attitude, is unlikely to have had many friends, much less a friend who would take a chance on facing and trying to fool Sherlock Holmes.

Finally, we return to chapter 3. Neither the Scotland Yarders nor the Baker Street duo was able to find the "...four-wheeled cab which was drawn by a horse with three old shoes and one new one on his off fore-leg."

Preposterous!

GOOD NEWS

The Patients Library - Baskerville Hall Library - is settled and ready for patient perusal at 52 Washington Street in Denver. To make an appointment, call custodian Charlene Schnelker at 722-5336. (Evenings)

More Good News.

Mystery Weekend in the Mountains at the Stanley Hotel in Estes Park happens May 1, 2, and 3. For information or reservations, call Shirley Beard at 871-9401, or write 1574 S. Pearl St.

Double accomodations are \$300.00 and singles \$350.00. A deposit of \$150.00 should accompany your application. The remained is due by April 1.

At the Opera With Sherlock Holmes?

at Heritage Square, of course! The play Sherlock Holmes opens February 18, and runs through April.26.

The play will begin at 8:30, Wednesday through Friday; Saturday at 7:00 and 10:00; on Sunday there is a matinee at 2:30, and an evening performance at 8:00. Allow time for the dinner that precedes the play. For information and reservations, call 279-7881.

PBS television stations, Channel 6 and Channel 12 are running a new series on Mystery, The Return of Sherlock Holmes. This series stars Jeremy Brett as Holmes. You can see it at 9:00 Thursday on 12, and 8:00 Saturday on 6.

Channel 12 is also showing Sherlock Jones and Proctor Watson at 5:30 on Thursday.



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