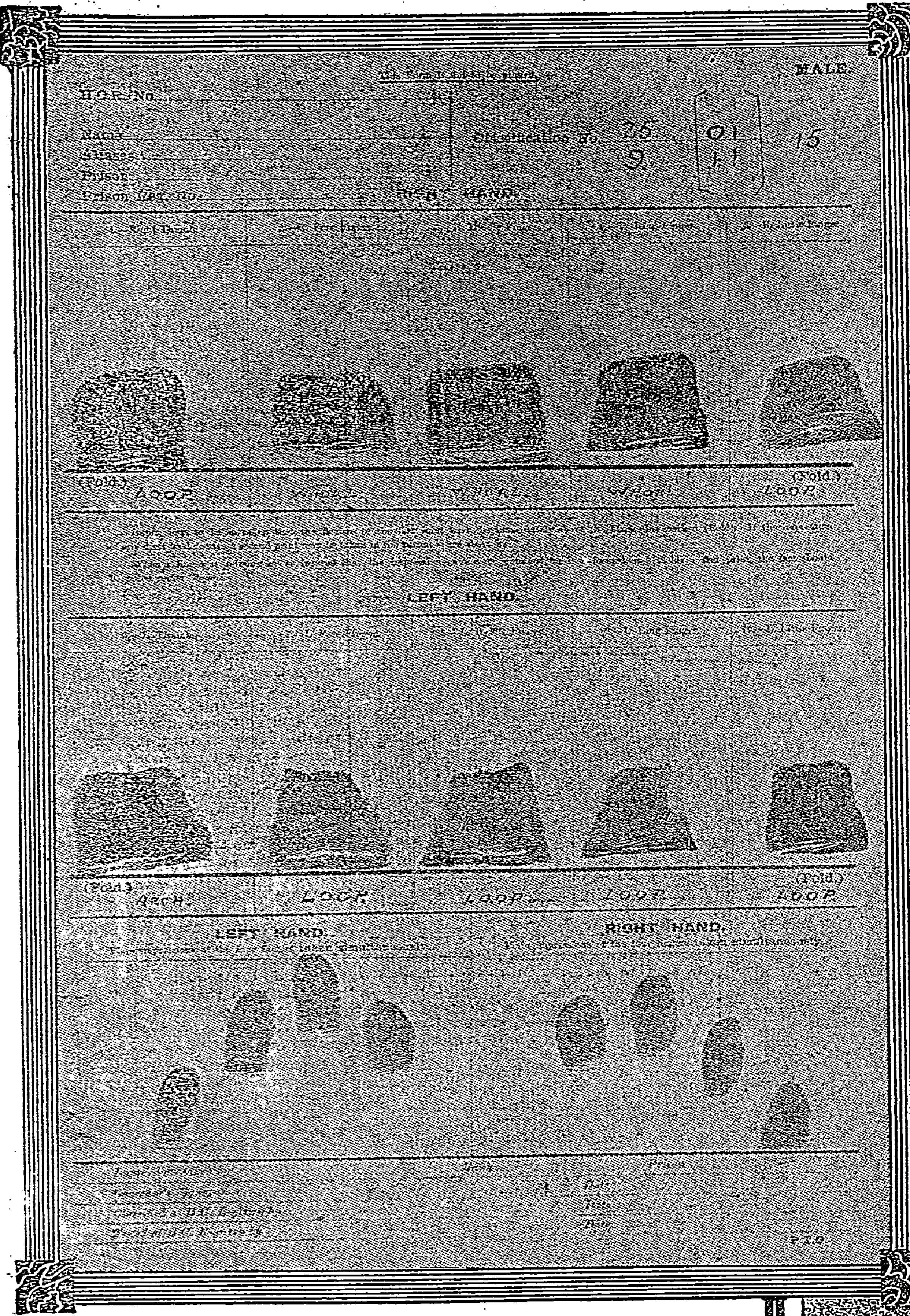


THE INNER WORKINGS OF FAMOUS SCOTLAND YARD

How the Noted Detectives of England's Criminal Investigation Department Do Their Work--Eccentricities of the Law Shown in the Crippen Case.



A Page of the Scotland Yard Finger Print Records. This System Has Resulted in 43,000 Identifications Without a Single Error.

THE popular conception that Scotland Yard, the heart of the Criminal Investigation Department in London, is a luxurious building in which experts in crime work under the easiest of conditions is a misapprehension.

The old brick Gothic building on the Thames Embankment, where are combined the Chief Commissioner's office and Headquarters of the Criminal Investigation Department, is the least elaborate of any public department.

The several detective inspectors upon whom devolve the responsibility of tracking down international criminals as well as those in London, do not work in sumptuously appointed private offices with American roll-top desks and telephones at their elbows. The room in which most of the consultations which have led to the arrest of world-famous criminals are held is a bare apartment much resembling a classroom of an elementary school.

Desks as in a schoolroom run around the oblong apartment, and in the center is a plain deal table on which detectives, whose names are world famous, write out their reports.

Supt. Froest, the head of the executive branch, is the only officer of the Criminal Investigation Department, apart from Sir Edward Henry, the Chief Commissioner, who has an apartment to himself.

His office contains what is perhaps the most perfectly guarded safe in the world, and in it are stored from time to time jewels and valuables worth fortunes, which have been taken from arrested criminals, or are required as evidence in some sensational case.

The famous Cullinan diamond, presented to the late King Edward by his South African people, is kept here under seal as the safest place outside the Tower of London.

The long corridors of the huge red-bricked building are bleak above. Leading from them are the various departments by which the Metropolitan Police keep law and order in the great city.

The ground floor is given up to the carriage departments, where all motor omnibuses, taxicabs, and street vehicles have to be brought for examination before they are licensed, and where drivers have to present themselves for examination.

The yard off Whitehall in front of the building is usually noisy with the trials of these vehicles, and so stringent are regulations that a new type of motor bus may have to be examined five or six times before its smooth running and silence satisfy the chief of the department.

At the top of the main building is the telegraph room. Here tape machines are clicking throughout the day and night, giving the record of the crimes of London, for each police station is thus in touch with the Chief Commissioner.

Messages are here being continually flashed from all parts of the world, and from this room are sent the expensive foreign cables when a murderer or other famous criminal has eluded the vigilance of the watchers in London.

From this room cables costing £1,700 were dispatched when Dr. Crippen and his companion, Miss Leneve, were missing after the strange discovery in Hilldrop Crescent, Camden Town.

By the side of this room is an up-to-date newspaper office and printing works, where is produced several times daily the strangest newspaper in London. Its official title is "Informations," and although it has no leading article its columns are read with interest by 17,000 policemen daily. It contains a record of all persons missing, the description, often with pictures, of stolen valuables, and the photographs of men and women who are wanted for crime.

The "Black Museum," appropriately enough at the end of a dark corridor, is the only room at Scotland Yard that has gruesome associations. In it are kept the relics of many sensational crimes—revolvers, knives, bludgeons, and life preservers that have taken lives, and gold bricks made of brass, by which confidence tricksters have deluded the credulous.

Piled in a corner are flash banknotes drawn on the "Bank of Engraving." "Hanover Jacks" and false coin give record of countless attempts made to defraud the public.

The chief work of the Criminal Investigation Department at Scotland Yard is carried out by six Chief Detective Inspectors and twenty Inspectors.

Each one of the senior officers is an expert in some particular form of crime investigation. To one will be given the elucidation of any matter affecting the State or royal family, in which the utmost secrecy and discretion are necessary. Another through long acquaintance with jewel thieves and their methods will be deputed to look after all police mysteries of this kind; a third, an excellent linguist, and who has acquired a knowledge of many foreign countries, has to watch all undesirable foreigners and Anarchists who flock to London after expulsion from their own countries.

Scotland Yard is not, as is generally supposed, officially responsible for the safety of the royal palaces. This responsibility falls upon the Whitehall division, and Inspector Stevens Spencer is the chief of those who travel about with the King and members of the royal family and sees that royalties are not worried by Anarchists, lunatics, or bores.

When any particular class of crime is committed the detective Inspector whose duty it is to deal with that work knows at once that the men competent to plan and execute it are limited in number and definitely known. Some of these, however, may be in seclusion for past offenses, others are known to be out of London in the course of their "business," and, again, others are proved to have been at their registered addresses on the night of the crime. Thus the list is reduced to working dimensions, and one name after another is eliminated until the criminal is discovered.

It is this system of dealing with criminals instead of with crimes that the great success of the C. I. D. of Scotland Yard is largely due.

Each morning early from the various London police districts come reports of cases that require investigation by the trained detective staff. And the morning post brings many letters from private individuals who wish to call attention of the authorities to suspicious

circumstances which may reveal some great crime.

Each of these communications is dealt with by the Superintendent, and then just as assignments are given out to the newspaper men, so the Inspectors are given their orders and proceed to clear up, so far as is in their power, the mystery with which they are intrusted.

A special staff of Sergeants act as assistants to the Inspectors, and in this way gain the experience that is necessary to be classed among the well-known names at Scotland Yard in the future.

The methods of Scotland Yard, like the "Heathen Chinese," are at times strange and peculiar. A caller who wishes particulars about some matter which the police are investigating but whose identity is unknown, is often shown into a waiting room where three or four quiet-looking men whose appearance suggests city clerks are reading newspapers, apparently waiting their turn for an interview. If he is observant he will notice that one or another of them is taking rapid glances in his direction and he will realize that a number of trained detectives are imprinting his features on their memory so that if it should turn out that he has any friendly connection with the criminal they are shadowing they will remember him again when the time comes.

When any great mystery is perplexing Scotland Yard a daily conference, known as the "Council of Seven," is held in the building. The Commissioner, Supt. Froest, and the five senior Chief Inspectors meet in friendly conclave around the table in the Superintendent's room. The proceedings are informal, but none the less important, as many criminals have found to their cost. The facts of the case, so far as they are known to the police, are laid before the conference by the chief, and each detective, out of his experience, is asked for a suggestion by which the point in doubt may be cleared up. One idea leads to another, and frequently a successful plan of campaign results from a twenty minutes' sitting of the "Council of Seven."

Scotland Yard, unlike the New York Police Headquarters, is under the direct control of the State and is not a municipal department. This fact accounts for the official reserve and reticence that London newspaper men meet with in their inquiries, for an especial Act of Parliament covers State secrets—"Official Secrets Act"—and any member of the Metropolitan Police who divulges information without authority is liable to a sentence of twenty years' imprisonment.

Sir Edward Henry is the responsible Chief of the entire organization, with Sir Melville Macnaughten as his Chief

Assistant. Under these two are five Chief Constables, and next in seniority comes Supt. Froest of world-wide fame, with his staff of Chief Inspectors.

Supt. Froest is as unlike the detective of fiction as can well be imagined. He is not tall and thin with gaunt cheeks like Sherlock Holmes, but a squat, comfortable little figure, with bald head, fresh complexion, and well-trimmed, bristling dark mustache. His manners are genial and his appearance suggests confidences. But many criminals who have been impressed by his free

Department. His chief exploit perhaps was his trip to Buenos Ayres to bring back the famous Jabez Spencer Balfour, ex-Member of the British House of Commons, who had sought shelter in the delightful South American retreat

under the delusion that he was safe from the long arm of Scotland Yard.

International complications of extradition did not worry "Frankie" Froest, as his friends call him. His business was to get his man first and to leave any arguments with the Argentine Republic to lawyers. The Sheriff of the republic, who attempted to raise these points, found that he had not reckoned with the shrewdness of the little Inspector.

The Sheriff's idea was to detain Jabez Balfour on a charge—that could afterward be withdrawn, and with this end in view defied Mr. Froest to remove his prisoner. The British Inspector's only answer to this was to board a train with Jabez Balfour, and when the Sheriff got on the track in front of the train and ordered the engine driver to proceed at his peril, Froest gave a rapid order. "If that man does not get off the track," he said, "drive over him." This was more than enough for the Sheriff, and a few hours later Mr. Balfour, very much surprised at this high-handed proceeding, was on a steamer, which was British territory.

Chief Inspector Kane, Superintendent Froest's deputy, is an equally determined person. He is a typical Irishman famed throughout the force for his bulldog pluck and his willingness to tackle any one even twice his size. Once he was entrusted with delicate

negotiations when the Regatta of St. Patrick, the Irish crown jewels, disappeared from Dublin Castle, and although the result of his work for diplomatic reasons has never been divulged, the court officials at Dublin Castle

land Yard is not responsible for the crime investigation of the whole of England. Its duties are confined entirely to the metropolis—a fact which has been severely criticized when the public have considered that mismanagement by local police authorities has led to the escape of some murderer.

In response to this public clamor a notable innovation has recently been made, giving county police authorities the privilege of calling in the services of a Scotland Yard detective in any case in which they consider expert advice may be useful. The expenses of the special officer who is thus sent down from Scotland Yard have to be borne by the county. In practice, it has been found, however, that the Chief Constables of the various cities and towns are most reluctant to advise this course, having the natural feeling that local talent is as capable of solving any mystery as the much vaunted staff at Scotland Yard.

British police law is vastly different to that of other countries, and consequently Scotland Yard officials are always working under a handicap. It is frequently stated that the English law is admirably devised to allow the clever criminal to escape justice.

Take as an illustration the case of Dr. Crippen and Miss Leneve. Why, it may be asked, did not the police obtain a warrant to search the house? The answer is that under the existing law search warrants can only be obtained where it is suspected there are concealed on the premises explosives, obscene prints, or stolen property. It is impossible to obtain search warrants in cases where either a dead body or a missing person is believed to be hidden.

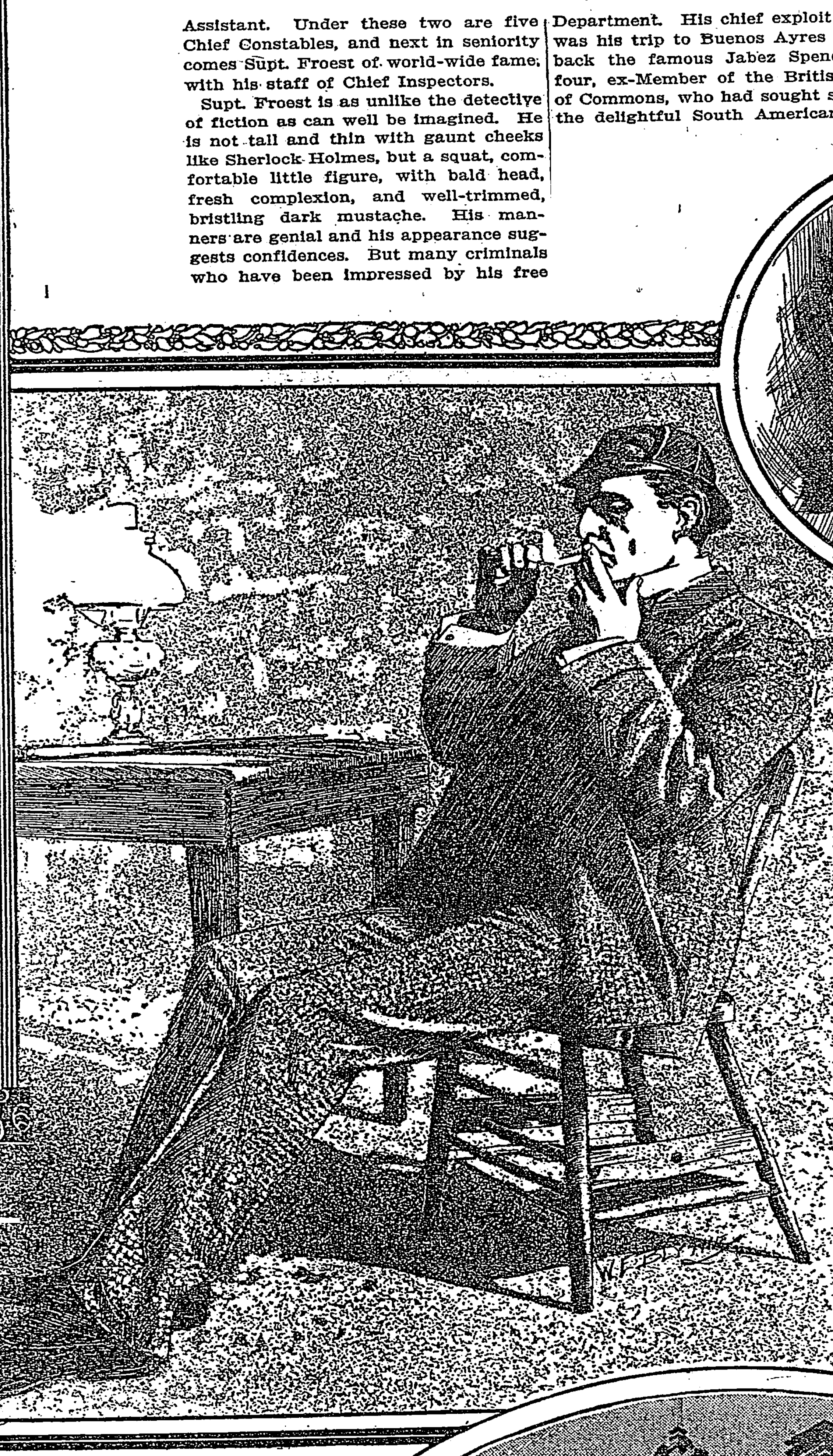
One of the most startling facts in connection with the Crippen case is that the murderer would still be undiscovered if Crippen had chosen to remain at his house in Hilldrop Crescent. No search could legally have been made without his permission, and any one entering the premises without his authority could have been forcibly ejected and proceeded against for trespass.

It must be remembered that Scotland Yard has to deal with hundreds of cases annually in which wives or husbands are missing. If the police authorities were to enter and dig up the cellars and yards in every one of these cases there would be an outcry from one end of the country to the other. Only when Crippen had actually disappeared were the police at liberty to act.

Even then, before any digging operations could be undertaken it was necessary to obtain permission from the landlord and to indemnify him against any loss from damage to his property. Even if Scotland Yard had shadowed every movement of Crippen they could not have prevented him leaving the country. They had no evidence on which to arrest or detain him, and he was perfectly at liberty to go where he wanted.

In America, Germany, and France the law is entirely different. American police have power not only to detain suspects, but also to inflict upon them the ordeal known as the "Third degree." This is never allowed in England.

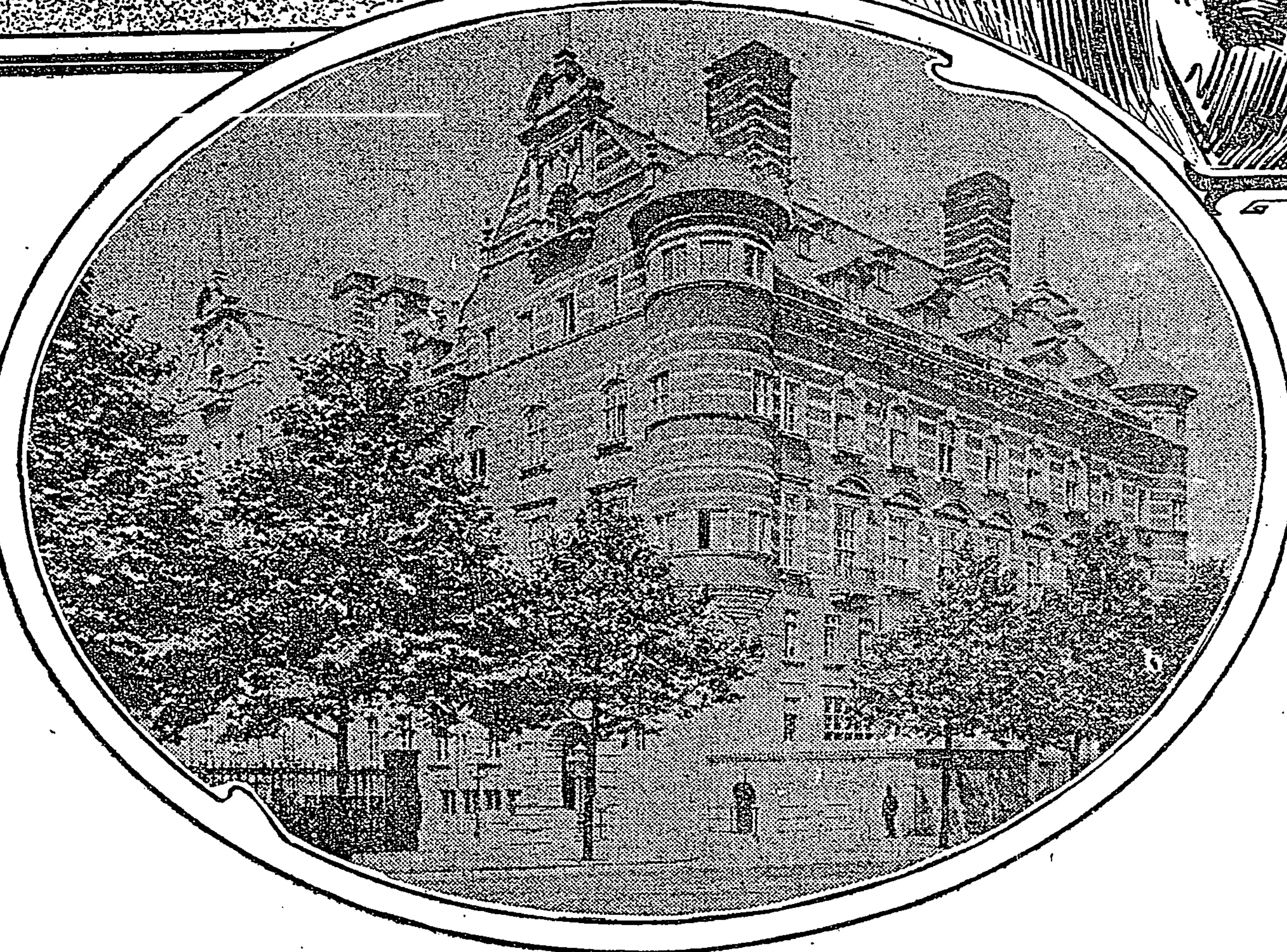
French and German police also have practically unfettered powers dealing with suspects. It is recognized by experts that if clever criminals are to be brought to justice the law must be altered. It is essential that where suspicion is overwhelmingly strong power should be accorded to police authorities to detain a person until a thorough investigation has been undertaken.



Sir Robert Anderson, Former Head of Scotland Yard.



Sir Edward Richard Henry, "Finger Prints," Chief of Scotland Yard.



Scotland Yard.