

DE KERLOR'S "PSYCHIC PICTURES" IN A N. H. MURDER MYSTERY

Was it a German spy who mysteriously killed William K. Dean at East Jaffrey, N. H., last August?

This is the story of extraordinary detective work. It might read like fiction at first—the deductions are so like those of Sherlock Holmes in their uncanny shrewdness. But Dr. William de Kerlor is one of the noted psychologists of the world, a member of scientific organizations and an author of repute.

The Sunday Post is able today to give, for the first time anywhere, his remarkable deductions that would show how the mysterious murder at East Jaffrey, New Hampshire, was committed last August.

BY REUBEN GREENE

Blood spots?—No—but a human face.

The great psychic-criminologist, alone in the dark room, looked intently at the plate, holding it close to the dull red light. He had photographed blood spots, but in their place a face was forming—the face of guilt—the soul of murder!

The investigator trembled, and for a moment the room whirled before him. Then he braced himself and studied the plate carefully. He saw a second face—a third—a fourth—and one of them was a woman.

All this in a little New England village, nestling at the feet of the blue Monadnocks! All this and more—for the psychic investigator declares that into that section there came a Hohenzollern spy; a spy who flashed his message from the New Hampshire peaks; a spy, who, when his secret was discovered, struck down the old gentleman into whose guileless possession it had passed.

He declares that the condition he found in New Hampshire was almost beyond belief, that von Bernstorff visited Dublin, N. H., in 1915 several times, that his agents were active in that locality up to within a few months of the end of the war and that from the old Granite State movements of troops and ships were communicated to the German high command.

One of the most mysterious crimes on record was that which occurred at East Jaffrey, N. H., on the 14th of August, 1918. William K. Dean, a gray-haired, benevolent farmer, was murdered in the doorway of his barn at midnight, just after he had finished milking his prize cow. He was struck down by a heavy blow on the head. A blanket was thrown over his head and a rope knotted so tightly about his neck that it would have caused death had life remained in the old man's body. The whole upper body was then shoved into a bran sack. The hands were tied together, as were the feet. Weighted with a large stone, the body was carried 150 feet and dropped into a deep cistern—within five yards of one of the two houses on the Dean estate.

Of course the discovery of the body the next morning caused great excitement in the little village. The police began immediately to work on the case. Hours went by. Nothing was accomplished. There were the usual rumors, the usual speculation, the usual routine of questioning and guessing, but no arrests were made and no clues were found.

Expert to Solve Murder

In desperation, the dead man's brother appealed to Dr. William de Kerlor, consulting psychologist.

De Kerlor is a remarkable young man. Of Polish birth, he speaks 18 languages. In five of them, French, German, Spanish, Italian and English, he is at ease. He has studied in Germany, France and America. He has spent many months among the various peoples of India, studying the magic and occultism of the East. He was vice-president of the International Congress for Experimental Psychology which was held at Paris in 1910 and again in 1913. He is widely and favorably known in America as the translator of that notable book published by the Stokes Company, "The Psychology of the Future," by Emile Boirac, greatest of French psychologists.

I found Dr. de Kerlor at the home of friends in the Back Bay, Boston, where he is staying. He is a rather short man, fairly stout, talks quickly and rolls his R's. He was most interesting, and his recital of the Dean case most dramatic.

"Within a few hours after being summoned to this case from New York, I had psychologically reconstructed the facts—the scene, the

principals. Three hours after my arrival at East Jaffrey I had verified those facts. I know the guilty man. His name is—ah, but you cannot have that to print as yet. He was not alone. There were three of them at least, probably four; and one of them was a woman.

"This is one of the most complicated cases ever brought to my attention. It looks simple on the face. An old man, unknown except to a small circle of friends, killed in a moment of anger, let us say. But when I had begun to dig into the facts, I was amazed.

"This murder was the outcome of spy activities in New Hampshire—you will remember that the Portsmouth navy yard is only 85 miles away. The old farmer had unwittingly stumbled upon a secret. He intended to divulge that secret to the authorities, and—well, you know that dead men tell no tales.

Struck by Cultivator

"But to go back to the beginning. The police had been unable to make any headway. They could not find a motive; they could not find the weapon which the murderer used, they could not find the milk-pail which he was supposed to have carried—they were completely mystified.

"How did I solve the problem? "I went to the barn, to the doorway in which the old man had been standing when he was brutally struck. (This was not the big barn doorway, but a little porch entrance to the barn.) While I was searching for blood stains in the grass I suddenly saw three scratches on the stoop.

"I asked that the body be exhumed. It was. I examined the skull and found three cuts on it. Carefully I measured the distance between the wounds. They had evidently been made with an instrument having at least three teeth.

"I measured the spaces between the scratches and it tallied exactly with the wounds on the dead man's head.

"What had evidently happened is this: When the rope was thrown about the old man's neck he struggled. One of his assailants picked up the first handy weapon and struck Dean over the head. The weapon was leaned against the outside wall of the little porch so that the murderers would not forget it. I think that while they were lifting the body to carry it to the cistern one of the men stepped on the thing which accounts for the holes and the scratches which I found.

"There were blood stains on two of the holes. I also found traces of the weapon on a stone near the cistern into which the body was dropped.

"I therefore reached the conclusion that the murder had been committed with a hand cultivator.

"A few days later the cultivator was found hidden under a stone wall. There was blood on it, and to two of the teeth there hung still several gray hairs.

"I also found a bundle of blood-stained clothing which had been hidden in a clump of bushes. Among the articles was a man's torn shirt and several other articles which led me to believe that the murder had been fully premeditated.

"My next step was to establish a motive. That was ridiculously easy. I am sorry that I cannot go into detail, but this much I will say—that section had been used as a centre for certain German spy activities. It was easy to put the facts together and to prove that Farmer Dean had stumbled upon the whole scheme, and that he paid for his discovery with his death.

"And now comes the most startling incident of the entire case. There were some blood spots on the woodwork of the tiny porch which I wanted to photograph. I did so. Upon developing the plate I could see nothing whatever upon the



Dr. W. de Kerlor, noted psychologist, who claims to have solved East Jaffrey murder, studying blood spots on cloth. De Kerlor says also that he has unearthed a gigantic German spy system operating in New Hampshire.



The three holes, two of them (the ones circled) being bloodstained, upon which Dr. de Kerlor based his theory of the Dean murder.



The little porch upon which Dean was standing when struck down. Figure shows probable precise position. The attack took place at midnight, Aug. 14, 1918.

negative. I was about to toss it into the waste basket when my eye was attracted to a small, whitish formation on the plate. I looked at it closely and was amazed to behold a human face. There was no mistaking it. I had seen it before. As I studied the plate, three other faces appeared, one of them a woman's.

"I had, prior to this time, made up my mind that a woman had been present at the scene of the murder. You will remember that a hairpin was found near the cistern in which the body was thrown."

Explains the Blood Spots

Here I interrupted to ask: "How do you explain the presence of the faces upon the plates?" (Dr. de Kerlor stated that he had found three faces on a second plate.)

The psychologist aroused and paced restlessly back and forth.

"It is a state of consciousness," he replied. "The old man was struck. He whirled about and struggled with his assailants for a moment. Then it was he saw the faces peering at him with blood-lust in their eyes. He died, but that agonized consciousness remained. It was still strong enough to impress itself on the negative. I have the pictures upstairs in my sachel.

"Why, in Paris, several years ago, we tried the experiment of holding a photographic plate, wrapped about in some material, against the forehead of a subject who was then ordered to think strongly of a bottle. When the plate was developed the outlines of a bottle were plain. Thought is power. Psychology, as a means of detecting crime, will be the most potent agency of the trained police in the future.

"I wrote an 18,000-word resume of the case and placed it in the hands of the district attorney. Later on I put the matter before the United States Attorney-General and the Department of Justice.

"Of course I do not intend, or hope, to convince everybody of the reality of the psychic pictures. But when the evidence has been presented—and the case settled—then the world will have them. And then the world will be one step nearer to a partial realization of the great psychic forces of the consciousness and the super-consciousness."

"But what about the milk pail? And how did you reach the conclusion that several men had been involved in the crime, prior to the psychic pictures?" the writer inquired.

Explains Another Theory

De Kerlor unwrapped a bundle of photographs covering every essential detail of the case.

"The cistern into which the body was thrown," he explained, "is something like 150 feet or more from the barn. One person could hardly have carried the body that distance. A single murderer would have dragged the corpse along the ground. But there was not a trace of such procedure. There was not a mark suggesting that the body had touched the ground after it was taken from the scene of the killing. Consequently, it must have been carried by two or three men.

"The police could not imagine what had become of the milk pail, because they thought he had not milked the cow when he was struck. As a matter of fact he did not use the ordinary milk-pail with a

strainer, but an old-fashioned blue agate pail. That was in its accustomed place in the house. He had finished his milking and had returned, probably to lock up the barn. Careful comparison of the amount of milk given by the cow the morning after the tragedy with that given other mornings proved that she had been milked the night before."

Well may the perpetrators of such crimes tremble if, as Dr. de Kerlor claims, such a consciousness remains behind, imprinted on the very substance of things, simply waiting to offer its mute but irresistible evidence. Such a conclusion but adds lucidity and vigor to that famous line which Shakespeare wrote in the second act of "Hamlet":

"For murder, though it have no tongue, will speak with most miraculous organ."

and which Chaucer expressed more simply, perhaps, in three words: "Murder will out."

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