

# KNOWS "JACK THE RIPPER"

He Is Hopelessly Insane, Says Dr.

Forbes Winslow of London.

## CONFINED IN AN ENGLISH ASYLUM

He Was a Medical Student, and Religious Mania Caused Him to Butcher the Women of the Streets.

Dr. Forbes Winslow of London, a well-known specialist on suicide and insanity, says that "Jack the Ripper," who by his crimes terrorized London a few years ago, is incarcerated in a county lunatic asylum in England.

Dr. Winslow says this fact is known to the authorities, but they have hushed up the case. Dr. Winslow also asserts that the ripper was a medical student suffering from homicidal mania.

The doctor has come to New-York to attend the Medico-Legal Congress, which will be held in the Federal Building Sept. 4, 5, and 6. He will be the Chairman of the Department of Insanity and Mental Medicine, and has prepared a paper on "Suicide Considered as a Mental Epidemic." Dr. Winslow arrived yesterday on the steamer St. Louis, and is staying at the Westminster Hotel.

While his object in visiting the United States is primarily to attend the Medico-Legal Congress, Dr. Winslow expects to remain here two months for the purpose of holding consultations in cases of insanity. The doctor was interviewed last night in the Westminster Hotel by a reporter for The New-York Times. He is about fifty years old, of medium height, somewhat stout, and wears iron-gray side whiskers.

He chatted with the reporter about the forthcoming congress, insanity, and suicide, and kindred topics. Among other things he said:

"I have been much interested in this Medico-Legal Congress, and while I had not expected to visit the United States until about October, I very gladly accepted the invitation sent to me by Mr. Clark Bell to preside over the Department of Insanity and Mental Medicine. There have been medical congresses and legal congresses, but this is the first time in my recollection that there has been a medico-legal congress. I am interested in both sides of the congress, for at Oxford I took the degrees of both medicine and law. My specialty has been insanity, and particularly cases of murder, where the perpetrator has been insane.

"As an expert witness I have testified in an enormous number of cases, and won them all save one. In that case a man killed his wife and then cut his own throat. He missed killing himself by the merest fraction. Had he succeeded the verdict would have been murder and suicide while temporarily insane. He was, however, nursed back to life and tried. I testified that the man was insane, but the jury thought otherwise. He was found guilty of murder and hanged.

"Insanity is very largely on the increase in England. There are now 94,000 insane persons in England, and the number is increasing at the rate of 2,000 a year. To what do I attribute the cause? Drink, undoubtedly. It is a sad fact, but nevertheless true, that the drinking habit is on the increase in England, and particularly among women. They do not do their drinking at the table.

"Mrs. Major So-and-So does not drink anything—oh, dear, no; but she has probably got a bottle concealed under the mattress in her bedroom. This class of dypsomaniacs is the most dangerous and the most cunning. The evil is largely attributable to the fact that under our system alcohol can be purchased from the grocer, and the consumption among women of cherry brandy, for instance, obtained through the medium stated, is enormous.

"Our inebriate law is a dead letter, and I find it necessary to send my patients to asylums in Belgium.

"As to suicide, I am rather loath to discuss it, since that is the subject upon which I have prepared a paper to read at the forthcoming congress. In that paper I shall treat of what diseases induce a disordered brain to commit suicide. My main argument will be that a suicide is insane and irresponsible. In my opinion, all suicides are insane. At the same time, there is no doubt that many suicides occur as the result of imitation. If a man jumps off the monument in London Monday, two will repeat the act Tuesday.

"I take the view that suicide is a complaint which is not to be regarded as premeditated. It is an impulsive act, committed on the spur of the moment. Suicidal acts come in waves, spasmodic generally. The statistics of suicide compiled recently in England show a recent enormously high percentage. I consider that this is due to the epidemic of influenza that swept over England. All suicides are insane, and no responsibility, moral or legal, attaches to their taking off."

Dr. Winslow related some of his experiences with insane patients, and the many times his life had been threatened. In this manner the conversation got around to "Jack, the Ripper," of whom the doctor said:

"'Jack the Ripper' was a medical student, of good family. He was a young man, of slight build, with light hair and blue eyes. He studied very hard, and his mind, being naturally weak, gave way. He became a religious enthusiast and attended early service every morning at St. Paul's.

"His religious fervor resulted in homicidal mania toward the women of the street, and impelled him to murder them. He lodged with a man whom I knew, and suspicion was first directed toward him by reason of the fact that he returned to his lodgings at unseasonable hours; that he had innumerable coats and hats stained with blood.

"I have in my possession now a pair of Canadian moccasins stained with blood that the 'Ripper' wore while on his murderous expeditions. I notified the Scotland Yard authorities, but at that time they refused to co-operate with me. Subsequently the young man was placed in confinement and removed to a lunatic asylum, where he is to-day. Since his incarceration there has been no repetition of the horrible murders that he perpetrated.

"These facts are all known to the English authorities, and it is conceded that the man now in the asylum is 'Jack the Ripper.' It was deemed desirable, however, to hush the matter up. The details were too horrible to be made the subject of a public trial, and there was no doubt of the man's hopeless insanity.

"And that tends me to say that there is no such thing as a harmless lunatic. All lunatics are dangerous, and should be kept in confinement. The man who believes that there is such a thing as a harmless lunatic is laboring under a delusion himself."

The Medico-Legal Congress will be opened Wednesday at 10 A. M., with short speeches by ex-Gov. Roswell P. Flower, Recorder Goff, Postmaster Charles W. Dayton, and Senator Guy. Among the papers to be read are the following:

"What Constitutes Unsoundness of Mind?" by W. B. Fletcher, M. D., of Indianapolis; "Hypnotism in the Courts of Law," by Clark Bell of New-York; "Paranoia," by C. H. Hughes, M. D., of St. Louis; "Necessity of Medical Supervision for Criminal Arrests," by Austin Abbett, D. D.; "Medico-Legal Aspects of Child Insurance," by F. L. Hoffman of Newark; "Suicide, and the Right to Commit It; Prostitution, the Evil, the Cure, Legislation," &c., by Gustave Boehm; "Simulation of Insanity; a Medico-Legal Study," by William F. Drewry, M. D.; "Hypnotism in Crime," by Prof. W. X. Ludduth, Dean of the University of Minnesota; "What Shall We Do with the Alcoholic Inebriate Apparently Insane?" by Norman Kerr, M. D., London; "Suicide Considered as a Mental Epidemic," by Forbes Winslow, M. D., of London; "Criminality a Disease; Its Etiology and Treatment," by Daniel R. Brower, M. D., Chicago.

Among the papers to be read by women are the following: "Women in the Light of Law and Medicine," by Eliza Archard Connor, New-York; "Women in the Legal Profession, and Its Relation to Medical Jurisprudence," by Jennie Stanton Wilcox, M. D., of Saratoga Springs, N. Y.; "The Relation of Occult Medicine to Law," by Mary Weeks Burnett, M. D., of Chicago; "The Legal Evolution of Woman," by Kate E. Hogan, L. B., counselor-at-law, New-York.

### Actor Welch and His Dog.

James E. Welch, an actor, and his ugly bulldog were taking an early-morning stroll yesterday in East Nineteenth Street, when the dog killed a cat and then caught another and was about to end its days when a policeman struck the dog with his club. The animal was about to spring at his assailant when another policeman came up and seizing the dog's owner, forced him close to the dog. The dog would not bite Welch. The policeman arrested Welch and took him before Magistrate Kudlich, in the Yorkville Police Court, where Welch showed he was not at fault for the dog's act and was discharged.