

NEW YORK POLICE WILL ADOPT IT. Bertillon System of Identifying Criminals Shown and Explained.

An Interesting Conference Held in the Office of the State Prison Commission.

Commissioner Andrews Watches His Workings and Says the Necessary Instruments Will Be Purchased at Once by the Department.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 15.—An important and interesting conference was held this afternoon in the office of the State Prison Commission on the subject of the Bertillon system of identification of criminals.

The conference was held at the suggestion of the State Prison Association, which has a bill prepared providing for the adoption of the system in New York State prisons and police departments.

Major Paul R. Brown, of the United States Army, and who translated the Bertillon code for military use, explained the system. He pointed out that the identification of criminals is only an important part of the science of anthropology.

Without any expense for travel, by the simple exchange of a few letters and figures, it will become possible to follow the traces of an individual and prove whether the person who enters Rome today is the criminal measured at Stockholm ten years ago.

Major Brown then described the system. It makes three grand divisions of body lengths in the human body, the small, the medium and the great.

Measurements are taken—the two diameters of the head, length and breadth; the length of the middle finger, the length of the foot, the length from the point of the elbow to the end of the middle finger, the length of the arm stretched when the arms are stretched out sideways from the body, the height, the height of the trunk when the individual is seated and the diameters of the ear.

"Suppose that a criminal suspect," said Major Brown, "is brought to the office of the prefecture of police in Paris and the authorities wish to know if he has ever been arrested. His measurements are taken and his scars and marks noted. Search is then made in the anthropometric collection containing more than 150,000 descriptive cards. We reach an individual just made out that the suspect's head length is 180 millimetres. As the medium class of head lengths extends from 185 to 190 millimetres, both numbers are noted and the number to 205 cards, which is again subdivided on the same plan, by the length of the middle finger, the length and breadth of the ear, the height of trunk and length of arm stretch, which gives us a final group of about 12 cards, which are classified according to color of the hair and eyes. The descriptive data and marks specify show another card in the collection exactly like the one made out, and the man is identified."

Major Brown said that the system was easily learned. The type could master it in three hours. In the Paris bureau, with its collection of 150,000, the card described can be found in three minutes. Bertillon has measured 200,000 persons, and in no case have the measurements been the same. The United States Army, the speaker said, is about to adopt the system.

Major McCloy, who used the system prior to the World's Fair, explained that through it he was able to identify the comparatively free from professional criminals. Twenty suspects were measured daily. One was identified as a burglar who was taken against his will brought suit for \$100,000 damages, but lost his case.

Major McCloy told how he caught a diamond thief who had fled to Philadelphia because his measurements had been taken there, and when he was arrested in Chicago for a petty crime the Philadelphia description exposed his real name.

Another man of imposing appearance was arrested as a suspect. He declared he had means, was respectable and protested against the taking of his measurements. He was found to be a notorious burglar wanted by the San Francisco authorities. Six Mexican thieves were discovered in the same way.

The speaker then gave several other lessons. He had eight boxes of descriptive cards. One of the Commissioners read from a list of descriptions of the Philadelphia prisoners only the numbers, and in forty-five seconds Major McCloy had selected the descriptive card desired.

Police Commissioner Andrews expressed himself as highly pleased with the system. "New York is not willing to admit that she is behind any city, particularly Chicago," said Commissioner Andrews, "but there is no doubt that she is ten years behind in this matter. The evidence that we can give that we appreciate Bertillon's method will be our adoption of it immediately. When I return to New York we will purchase several sets of instruments and begin the collection of descriptive cards. The system is apparently unerring, and should be put in use wherever rogues' galleries are kept."

Sergeant Adams said briefly that he regarded New York's rogues' gallery as important, but argued that the Bertillon scheme has merit. One of the assemblies was measured by Major Brown.

The National Prison Association will urge the establishment of a central office in Washington, under governmental control. A pleasing feature of the system is its inexpensive character. A national bureau could

be established for \$10,000, and would cost \$3,000 a year to conduct. There is no doubt that the State Prison Commission will endorse the bill the Prison Association will present.

CALVE IN "MEFISTOFELE." Revival of Boito's Opera at the Metropolitan with the Diva in the Role of Marguerite.

Boito's "Mefistofele" was revived at the Metropolitan Opera House last night. So long ago was it heard in this city, however, that the revival was practically a new production. As its name implies it is another version of "Faust." In the prologue Mephisto announces to a chorus of angels his determination to ensnare Faust.

In the first act, showing Faust's laboratory, the bargain is made between the evil one and the student. The second act takes place in Marguerite's garden, where the lovers pledge their faith. The scene changes to the Brocken, where Faust and the demon are surrounded by evil spirits.

The fourth act and epilogue are taken from Goethe's "Second Faust," which is a continuation of the first. The scene is laid in the Vale of Tempe, and Marguerite is transformed to Helen. She and Faust receive their pledges of love. In the epilogue Faust is seen again in his laboratory. Mephistopheles appears, to claim his share of the bargain, but is defeated by a heavenly light.

Calve was seen for the first time as Marguerite. She again demonstrated her ability as an actress as well as a singer. Her transition from the coy, bashful Marguerite to the crazed girl was an artistic rendition, and in the opera the vocal possibilities opened to her are extensive. Signor Cremonini was an excellent Faust. His aria in the first act was one of the best things in the opera, and the duet between him and Ed de Reszke, who was Mephistopheles, called forth a storm of bravos.

In the garden scene a quartet between Calve, Martelli, who sang the part of Martha; Ed de Reszke and Cremonini called forth greater approbation than has been heard for a long time at the Metropolitan. Signor Vanni, as Wagner, had

the honor of introducing the new production. The first act was one of the best things in the opera, and the duet between him and Ed de Reszke, who was Mephistopheles, called forth a storm of bravos.

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DEDICATED TO FINANCE. Clearing-House Association Formally Opened.

Eminent Bankers Grow Eloquent in Describing Their Organization's Past and Future.

ALL JOINED IN SINGING "AMERICA." The New Building, Constructed in the Style of the Italian Renaissance, is of White Marble and Cost Nearly a Million.

With men of millions listening to the exercises and speeches by New York's most prominent financiers, the new Clearing-House building, in Cedar street, between Broadway and Nassau street, was yesterday formally dedicated. All the exchanges, banks, trust and insurance companies of the city were represented, and, in addition, there were present many of the financial lights of other cities.

The exercises commenced at noon—the meeting hour of the Clearing House—and that the financiers of the city are proud of the new home of the sixty-six associated bankers was made evident by the vigor of the applause with which President Nash, of the Clearing House, was greeted. After he had spoken a few words an invocation was offered by Bishop Potter, and then a dedication hymn was offered by the Bank Clerks' Glee Club.

Frederick D. Tappan, president of the Gallatin National Bank, made a statement for the Building Committee that occupied exactly one minute, and then President

Nash called on J. Edward Simmons, president of the Fourth National Bank. MR. SIMMONS PROVED AN ORATOR. Mr. Simmons surprised those to whom his brisk style in business affairs is familiar. He discussed financial topics in flowery language and handled questions of the day without gloves. In his opening paragraph he referred to the Clearing House as the breakwater that has rolled back the billows which threatened national disaster, and this was the keynote of his entire speech.

"Again and again," he said, "has it been demonstrated that the great battles of the country are not always won by the soldier. There are generals in finance as well as in war, and the integrity of the one is equal to the heroism of the other. Who of us can ever forget the great financial battle of 1857. Its brilliant leadership and the glorious victory achieved by the associated banks of New York? The long continued defiance by the Government of well established economic laws had filled men's minds with gloomy forebodings, which in that eventful year culminated in a panic that swept into insolvency commercial corporations, railroads, banks and many of the most influential business firms of the country. Their liabilities reached the stupendous total of nearly two billion dollars. The wealth of the nation had not been decreased, but the availability of its resources had been almost destroyed."

"CLEARING HOUSE TO THE RESCUE." He described the magnitude of the panic and its causes, and said that when financial ruin stared the country in the face the Clearing-House Association boldly confronted the threatened danger. At a meeting called at this crisis the situation and its prospects were thoroughly examined and considered. The bank presidents came to the conclusion that the only way in which the banks could maintain the volume of their loans, notwithstanding their rapidly decreasing deposits, and thus avert a national commercial disaster, was to extend their credits. A loan committee was appointed, consisting of the presidents of five of the principal banks of the city, with the president of the association as an ex-officio member. This committee was empowered to issue to the banks Clearing-House certificates to enable them to pay their daily balances to the association without calling in their loans. This action proved to be as wise as it was needed.

"New York was the centre of the storm; but its banks, united in interest and in policy, stood like the rock of Gibraltar, unscathed by its fury. They clearly saw that

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money rates must be broken by liberal advances to necessitous borrowers. The Clearing-House Association, through its Loan Committee, proved equal to the emergency, and on the 30th of June—a memorable day in our history—I threw, with instantaneous effect, \$8,000,000 upon the money market. The interest rate fell from 80 to 10 per cent. The deadly pressure was relieved, and hope and confidence revived."

WORK FOR THE ASSOCIATION. Referring to the workings of the association, Mr. Simmons said that the members of the Clearing-House Committee always labor, not for themselves, but for the association. In order to show the magnitude of the association's transactions, Mr. Simmons said: "The total transactions from October, 1853, to October, 1895, amount in all to the sum of \$1,022,815,814,965—a sum sufficient, if coined in half-cents, laid flat so as to touch each other, to make a golden pathway ten feet wide around the world."

In another portion of his speech, Mr. Simmons gave some indirect advice to Congress by declaring that the Clearing House "can see neither justice nor truth, neither honor nor profit, in taking a piece of silver worth fifty cents and stamping it with the legend, 'One hundred cents.'"

PRESIDENT NASH'S APPEAL. President Nash accepted the building from the Building Committee in a speech in which he recalled the history of the

ANGRY WITH SENATOR BURNS. Charles F. Brown Defeated for President of Yonkers Republicans. Charles F. Brown, City Auditor of Yonkers, thought that he had sixteen of the twenty-nine members of the Republican Central Committee pledged to his election as president. Out of twenty-seven supporters present Tuesday night only nine voted for Mr. Brown. Most of the others supported the former president, James M. Hunt, of Rudd & Hunt, attorneys in this city.

Mr. Brown attributes his defeat to Senator J. Irving Burns, and hot words were exchanged. The meeting did not break up until 11 a. m. yesterday.

DISPOSITION OF GARBAGE. The Proposed New Form Gives the Contractor Greater Freedom. The members of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment spent considerable time yesterday in discussing the form of contract prepared by Corporation Counsel Scott for the final disposition of garbage. The contract will be passed upon to-mor-

STOLE BUT WAS ACQUITTED

Krahn, Who Stripped and Robbed "Lady" Gordon, Escapes Through a Technicality. No Legal Proof That the Property Taken Belonged to the Mysterious Woman.

HER ASSAILANTS MUST REFUND. They Pledged Guilty of Common Assault, but are Released on Their Own Recognition and Warned to Do the Right Thing by Their Victim.

By Julian Ralph. London, Jan. 15.—The trial of Herbert Krahn and his fellow-prisoners, accused of robbing Mrs. Gordon, came to a curious halt to-day.

Wilfred Gordon was on the stand nearly all day, attempting to prove her former possession of wealth, of which she said she had been robbed. She left no doubt in the minds of all present of having possessed all she claimed that the robbers had taken. Her statements were corroborated by strong evidence, and finally an official of the Bank of England was called and swore that Henry Crane cashed the bank notes she said were stolen from her.

Evidence was also submitted which proved the hiring of the cab in which she was taken to the empty house, where she was stripped and locked up for three days,

AMUSEMENTS. ABBEY'S THEATRE. JOHN HARE, MISS JULIA NEILSON, MR. FRID TRICK and the Garrick Theatre Company. Every Night A PAIR OF SPECTACLES. In addition to Thurs and Sat. Evngs. Mr. Hare will appear in his original character of Lord Richmond in "THE RIBBON" on Fri. Evng. and "THE RIBBON" on Sat. Evng. OLD CRONIES will provide A Pair of Spectacles on Jan. 20. Miss Sarah Tennant and her complete company, with all appointments from the Theatre de la Renaissance, Paris, presenting "THE RIBBON" on Sat. Evng. FOR ONE WEEK ONLY. IZELL. Drama in 2 acts by Synaistre and Morand. Sale of seats begins this morning.

HAMMERSTEIN'S OLYMPIA. Broadway, 44th St. MUSIC HALL. Mat. Saturday. To-night, First Appearance of Musical Marvels. THE SAVONAS. Cycle Wonders. THE ELLIOTS. In CONJUNCTION WITH THIRTY OTHER VAUDEVILLE ARTISTS. RICE'S EXCELSIOR, JR. 100th annual performance February 27. Yvette Vielle and her troupe of 15. Next Monday, Jan. 20. Miss Sarah Tennant and her complete company, with all appointments from the Theatre de la Renaissance, Paris, presenting "THE RIBBON" on Sat. Evng. FOR ONE WEEK ONLY. IZELL. Drama in 2 acts by Synaistre and Morand. Sale of seats begins this morning.

YAW YAW. T. E. P. Co. Jan. 21. Sale of seats opens to-morrow. T. E. P. Co. Jan. 21. Sale of seats opens to-morrow. T. E. P. Co. Jan. 21. Sale of seats opens to-morrow.

PROCTOR'S PLEASURE PALACE. 52nd St., near Lex. Ave. 12 to 12.30. GEO. LOCKHART'S Comic Elephants. Weller & Field. Lottie Gibson. Every 40 others. PROCTOR'S 25c, 50c, 75c, 1.00, 1.50, 2.00, 2.50, 3.00, 3.50, 4.00, 4.50, 5.00, 5.50, 6.00, 6.50, 7.00, 7.50, 8.00, 8.50, 9.00, 9.50, 10.00. Next Monday, Jan. 20. Miss Sarah Tennant and her complete company, with all appointments from the Theatre de la Renaissance, Paris, presenting "THE RIBBON" on Sat. Evng. FOR ONE WEEK ONLY. IZELL. Drama in 2 acts by Synaistre and Morand. Sale of seats begins this morning.

KOSTER & BIAL'S TO-NIGHT. PAUL CINQUEVALLI, MARTINETTI, PANTOMIME, THE CRAGGS, MALLO, DUNHAM TRIO, ROSIE RENDEL. ORIGINAL LIVING PICTURES. EVERY SATURDAY. FAMILY MATINEE. MILDRED SCARLETT GARDNER. OPENING SAT. NIGHT AT 8 P. M. THIRD ANNUAL EXHIBITION. Cycles, Cycle Accessories and Sundries, JAN. 18 TO 25. ADMISSION 25 CENTS. Columbus Theatre. Evng. 8.15. Mat. Sat. 2. WEDNESDAY MATINEE, POPULAR PRICES. CHAUNCEY OLCOTT IN THE IRISH ARTIST. Next week—Primrose & West's Minstrel. FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE. H. C. WELLS, Proprietor and Manager. Box Office from 9 a. m. to 8 p. m. For sale of seats for W. H. CRANE. COMMENCING JANUARY 21. PALMER'S. Evng. 8.15. Mat. Saturday. JOHN DREW. CHRISTOPHER JR. Next Week John Drew in a New Comedy, "The Spire of Dames." STAR THEATRE. Evng. 8.15. Mat. Sat. 2. Last nights of the New York engagement of "The Spire of Dames." IN THE COUNTY FAIR. HERALD SQ. THEATRE. Evng. 8.15. Mat. Sat. 2. Last nights of the New York engagement of "The Spire of Dames." THE MARYLAND. MATINEE SUNDAY ONLY. AMERICAN THEATRE. Matinee Saturday. Reserved Seats. Orchestra Circle & Balcony. 90c. 4TH NORTHERN LIGHTS. Better than Stambouloff—N. Y. News. BROADWAY THEATRE. 8 o'clock sharp. "NOTHING BETTER"—HERALD. A "Humorous" Star. ARTIST'S MODEL. Matinee on Wed. SKAT. DAY & NIGHT. ICE PALACE. Lex. Ave. and 107th St. CANARY & CASINO. Last Mat. and Night. Last 3 FRANK DANIELS Comic Opera Co. Weeks. THE WIZARD OF THE NILE. CASINO CHAMBERLAIN. Broadway & 30th St. Opens Sat., Jan. 18. The Parisian Sensation. Admission 25c. "Cabaret du Neant." Performances Half-Hour. 8 p. m. to midnight. GARDEN THEATRE. MATINEES WED. AND SAT. THE HIT OF THE SEASON. CHAS. H. HOPPER and Company. CHIMMIE FADDEN. HARBOR OPERA HOUSE. Evng. 8.15. Mat. Sat. 2. PETER F. DAILEY. In THE NIGHT CLERK. Next Week, Olga Nothern in Repertory. PEOPLE'S THEATRE. Evng. 8.15. Mat. Sat. 2. A ROMANCE OF COON HOLLOW. Next Week in SIGHT OF ST. PAUL'S. EMPIRE THEATRE. Mat. Wed. & Sat. Evng. 8.15. Mat. Sat. 2. A NEW PLAY BY Henry Arthur Jones. MICHAEL AND HIS LOST ANGEL. HOYT'S THEATRE. Evng. 8.15. Mat. Sat. 2. HOYT'S Musical "A BLACK SHEEP." Sat. 2.15. N. Y. Herald says: "A Black Sheep" is a worthy successor to "A Trip to Italy." SANFORD'S THEATRE. 31st St. and 3d Ave. TO-NIGHT—TO-NIGHT. Harry Williams's A BOWERY GIRL. Standard. Evng. 8.15. Mat. Sat. 2.15. Theatre. One Long Laugh. The Evng. Evng. 8.15. Mat. Sat. 2.15. Adventures of MISS BROWN. Comedienne. DALY'S THEATRE. Every Night, 8.15. "Two Hours' clean, hearty laughter." Miss Helen Mr. Lewis, Mr. Stevens, etc. MATINEE WED. AND SAT. ACADEMY OF MUSIC. 14th St. & Irving Pl. THE SPORTING DUCHESS. Mat. Wed. and Sat. Evngs. 8 & 9th Sts. NEW IMPERIAL GREATEST VARIETY SHOW MUSIC HALL. MATINEE TO-DAY. THE BIG SENSATION. THE MINER'S BULL FIGHTER. Bowery Theatre. Mat. Sat. 2.15. PASTOR'S NEW STARS. KITTY MITCHELL, a great success. Harland & Holliman, Josephine, etc. EDEN MUSEE. World in Wax and Grand Concerts. GRAND OPERA HOUSE. Mat. Wed. & Sat. HOYT'S "A BLACK SHEEP." Evng. 8.15. Mat. Sat. 2.15. GARRICK THEATRE. To-night, 8.30. Mat. Sat. STUART ROBINSON in the London Comedy Success, MRS. PONDERBLY'S AUNT. BUSINESS NOTICES. Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic, 25c.

Excursions. SKATING At Van Cortlandt Park. Reached in ten minutes via Putnam Division of the New York Central, connecting with Elevated Railroad at 155th Street. 25 CENTS FOR THE ROUND TRIP. FOREIGN NOTES OF INTEREST. Mr. Truman Wood, who was secretary of the British exhibit at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893, said for New York yesterday on the steamer Teutonic from Liverpool. Mr. Wood said that the exhibit was a success. Mr. Wood said that the exhibit was a success. Mr. Wood said that the exhibit was a success.



Dedicating the New Clearing House Building. (Sketches by a Journal staff artist.)

Clearing House and touched on the present in the following words: "When this occasion is used as a time to appeal to the members of the present association not to lightly disregard the spirit that has been retained in the past, and to urge them to contend against those suggestions of prorating equalization of interest which every now and then are heard, I think it is being put to its best uses. I appeal to all the bank officers now representative in our body to highly resolve that the ruling altruistic spirit of our history shall be nurtured and cherished. In its maintenance lies our future success—in its neglect we can easily see our degeneracy."

An address by Alexander E. Orr, president of the Chamber of Commerce, followed and then the entire audience joined in singing "America." An address and benediction by Bishop Potter closed the exercises. Afterward a collation was served in the Board room.

The new building of the Clearing House is unique in design and rich in construction. The architect is in the style of the Italian Renaissance. The building is of white marble and cost \$700,000, with the lot. The architect was R. W. Gibson. The Chase National Bank has leased from the New York Clearing House Building Company all the banking room on the first or ground floor of the new Clearing House Building. The vaults and the west base of the building are also to be used by the bank. The lease is for a period of twenty and one-third years at an annual rental of \$25,000.

row. In many respects the new form gives the contractor more freedom and is more equitable. Mr. Scott said he was opposed to any changes in the form of contract, which he drew up only after the greatest pressure. He added that his experience was that when a contractor commences to do work for the city his moral senses become blunted and that the form of contract between individuals and the city cannot be made too binding.

Comptroller Fitch did not agree with Mr. Scott on this point, and said he had heard contractors say that the terms of contracts were too drastic for them to even think of accepting, although they would like to do work for the city.

One of the sections of the new form provides that if the contractor has not sufficient scope on hand or his system is inefficient, the Commissioner of Street Cleaning may declare the contract forfeited. He did not think that such power should be granted to him. The Board voted Colonel Waring \$38,500 to buy new stock. Last year he got \$89,447.

while the alleged robbers cashed her securities and sold the appointments of her home. With this strong proof the prosecution closed. Then one of the prosecuting lawyers announced that they did not intend to proceed further in the prosecution for robbery. He said Mrs. Gordon asserted that the stolen property was hers, but allegation is one thing and legal proof another. Sometimes, as in this case, legal proof is difficult to supply.

The Recorder found no fault with the irregular course of the prosecution, but charged the jury that they could not find the prisoners guilty unless they were certain the property belonged to Mrs. Gordon. The jury acquitted the prisoners. Herbert Krahn was discharged on the only accusation against him, which was one of larceny. Hook was freed as having been merely a tool of the others.

Henry and Edward Crane pleaded guilty of common assault, and counsel asked for postponement of judgment until certain important facts could be placed before the Court. Both men were released on their own recognition to appear for sentence at the next session of court.

The Recorder warned them not to live in a fool's paradise. He said they were guilty of a gross assault, which could not be excused in any possible way. He said he should be guided entirely by what took place between now and the next session. The definition of this singular charge is that the prisoners must refund as much as possible of the money they are alleged to have stolen.

It is fair to presume that some arrangement has already been, or at least will be, made by the Cranes to refund to "Lady" Gordon, as one of the Cranes is a wealthy liquor dealer. SANDBAGGED AN AGED MAN. August Ulcht was unconscious for an Hour and May Not Live.

August Ulcht, aged seventy years, the father of Alherman Albert A. Ulcht, of Mount Vernon, was held up on East Third street, a thoroughfare of that city, last evening and robbed of a gold watch chain, a roll of money and a deposit check for \$200 in a Postoffice bank.

Three men came up behind and sandbagged him, and he was unconscious for one hour. He may not recover from the injuries received.

Our readers will do well to notice E. O. Thompson's advertisement in to-day's Journal. Owing to a readjustment of some firm interests—not a change in the firm—they are closing out all their Winter stock at unusual prices. The character of the firm and their clothing products are so well known that such an announcement in the columns of the Journal cannot fail to bring a quick response.