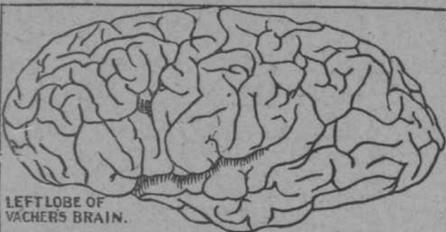


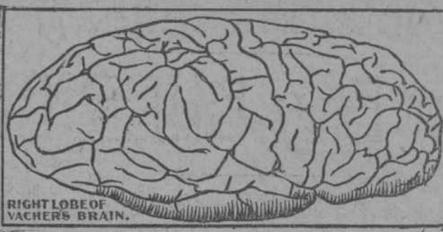
A New Theory of Mental Degeneration Based Upon the Study of Ten Thousand Human Brains.

WHY EDUCATED MEN COMMIT HIDEOUS CRIMES

A College Professor Firebug; A Student Who Cut Little Girls' Hair; and an Educated Cut-Throat.



LEFT LOBE OF VACHER'S BRAIN.



RIGHT LOBE OF VACHER'S BRAIN.



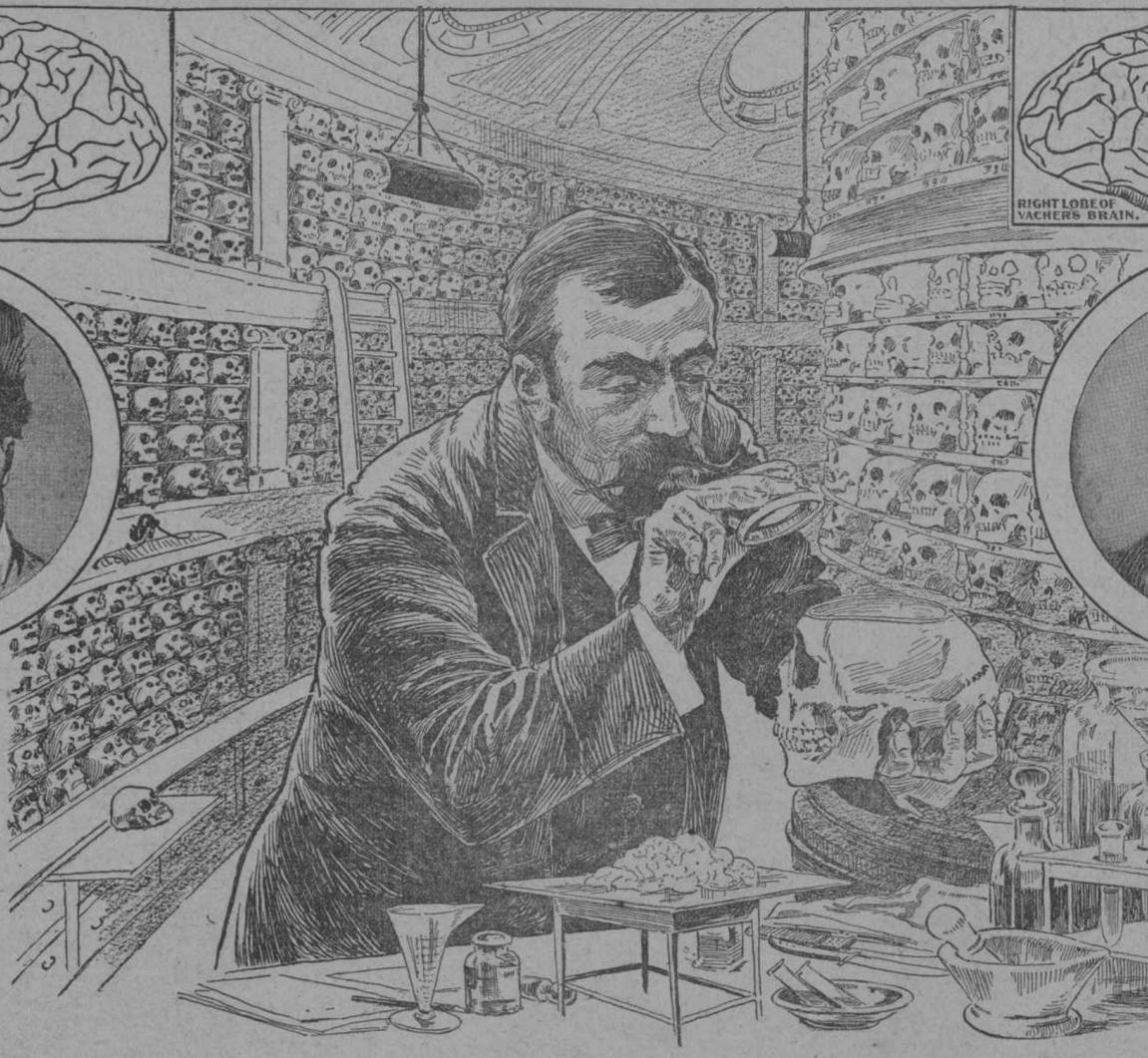
VACHER, FRENCHMAN WHO MURDERED THIRTY PEOPLE.



JORGENSEN OF CHICAGO WHO CLIPPED THE HAIR OFF THIRTY GIRLS.



PROF. GEORGE STEPHENS WHO BURNED COLLEGE BUILDINGS OUT OF PETTY SPIE.



Prof. Manouvrier Studying a Brain in the Anthropological Laboratory in Paris.

HE brain of Vacher, the most dreadful murderer of the century, has become an object of absorbing study to the physicians, scientists and criminologists of Europe.

Vacher murdered, it is estimated, thirty persons. The majority of them were young girls. He was clearly actuated by a horrible craving to mutilate women.

Now the question that is dividing the scientists of Europe is this: Was Vacher insane, or were his crimes only a frightful growth of vice in a sane being? The question is an extremely delicate and complicated one, fraught with far-reaching consequences. One side is taken by the head of the Anthropological Department of the School of Medicine in Paris, and the other by Professor Cesare Lombroso, the world-renowned Italian criminologist.

Before giving the details of the examination of Vacher's brain, it may be pointed out that there are two cases at present exciting widespread attention in America which present somewhat similar problems of brain disorder.

One is that of John W. Jorgensen, who has been arrested in Chicago for cutting off locks of girls' hair. Jorgensen is a very good-looking, well-educated young fellow of excellent family and prosperous circumstances. He confesses that for years he has been in the habit of following girls with long hair through the streets of Chicago and snipping their locks. In his confession he explains that fits of brain dizziness come over him at times, and that he only gains relief from them by cutting off a girl's hair.

The other American case is that of Professor George H. Stephens, who has just been convicted of burning Pardee Hall, at Lafayette College, merely to spite a petty personal grudge against President Warfield. His case presents a strange brain problem in that a man of the highest intellectual development has committed a grave crime without any reasonable motive.

In the case of Vacher, unlike that of the two other men, science has had an opportunity to examine his brain and to know exactly how it is formed. Immediately after he was guillotined his brain was seized by the scientists. It was found to weigh 1,500 grammes, or 1.575 with the meninges. This is a normal weight.

The brain is now in the possession of Professor L. Manouvrier, the famous chief of the Anthropological Department of the School of Medicine in Paris. It was Professor Manouvrier who first decided that the specimen found by Dubois in Java was really a missing link between man and monkey, a position which has been generally accepted by the scientific world.

A cast of the brain and a portion of it have also been forwarded to Professor Cesare Lombroso at Turin.

Manouvrier and Lombroso have come to nearly opposite conclusions concerning Vacher. Manouvrier holds that Vacher had a normal mind with certain vicious tendencies which resulted in a horrible development from indolence. Lombroso holds that he was a congenital criminal, who could not help committing crime. Manouvrier believes that by guillotining men like Vacher you can deter others from committing crimes like his. Lombroso believes that the only remedy is either that such men should not be born or that they should be locked up in asylums.

The Sunday Journal's Paris correspondent writes that he visited Professor Manouvrier and found him hard at work, surrounded by 10,000 skulls, in the great hall of the School of Anthropology. The Professor was occupied at the time with the brain and skull of Vacher, and his occupation was in perfect harmony with his surroundings. The skulls which lined the walls were evidences of the work of himself and his predecessors in the great science of anthropology. Nearly all of them belonged to men who were criminal or otherwise abnormal.

In answer to questions, Dr. Manouvrier said:

"Vacher's brain is slightly larger and heavier than the average. It is larger, for instance, than that of Gambetta."

"While, of course, I must admit that a man who committed Vacher's crimes showed a frightful mental depravity, still as a scientist I do not draw a hard and fast line and divide that he was not insane. He was not suffering from such mental disease as made him irresponsible for his crimes."

"An examination of his brain does not demonstrate that he was a lunatic. He probably simulated insanity. His brain shows him to have been an intelligent man."

His reason on his acts carefully. "His process of reasoning was false. You have once in a while a man who is a lunatic, you know I now mean to profit by it. I shall go on committing crime, and you cannot put me to death, because I can plead that I am a madman."

"He committed crime because of a combination of vicious habits. His brain reveals no lack of responsibility."

"Can you explain, Professor," asked the correspondent, "how a man of sound brain and education could develop a desire to commit such awful crimes?"

"Yes," he answered, "men who have strong intellectuality frequently desire to see blood. There are many men who derive pleasure from witnessing the sufferings of women. They cut them and mutilate them because of the pleasure it gives them to see fresh, warm blood. Vacher was such a man. In his case no doubt this desire was associated with low moral sense and a vicious early training."

"Rich men who are addicted to this vice in a modified form purchase the silence of the women they mutilate. Vacher killed them through fear of being prosecuted. His brain is complicated like that of men who reason closely and are quite intelligent. All the specialists who have examined portions of his brain admit this. The vice or malady with which he was afflicted seems to be similar to that of Durrant, of San Francisco, and Jorgensen, of Chicago."

"People express surprise when they hear that men of good education like these have committed abnormal and hideous crimes. In this they take an altogether wrong point of view. They should rather be surprised to hear that a man of low education and intelligence has committed an abnormal crime. The educated man, when he gives way to vicious impulses, commits more abnormal and hideous crimes because he has a stronger mind to conceive and plan them."

"The State cannot imprison people for being abnormal, because they are too numerous. All that can be done is to warn women to be on their guard. It is a terrible thought that some men revel in the sight of the blood of women."

"I find nothing in Vacher's brain to diminish this man's responsibility, nor was it lessened by past physical sufferings."

"How do you propose that society should protect itself against such criminals?" asked the correspondent.

"The best deterrent of crime in those who are responsible for these acts," he answered, "is a wholesome fear of punishment. If they are brought to the knowledge that if they commit crime they must accept the consequences in the shape of certain punishment."

In conclusion Professor Manouvrier said he did not agree with Professor Lombroso in his theories of the origin of crime.

Lombroso has received the measurements of Vacher's brain and a piece of it. Commenting on it he wrote:

"Vacher was born a criminal. Half the criminals in the world are born so. Vacher belonged to this half. He was one of those wretched degenerates who should never have been brought into existence."

It is interesting to recall that Zola has drawn a perfect picture of a man like Vacher in his terrible novel, 'La Bete Humaine' ('The Human Beast'). The man drawn by Zola was far less criminal and revolting than Vacher, but he must have been dominated by the same mental impulses.

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Fathers. He served in a regiment of Zouaves and showed himself such a good soldier that he became a non-commissioned officer. Shortly after leaving the service he attempted to kill a young woman with whom he pretended to be in love, and then tried to blow out his own brains. He injured himself severely.

He was confined for a time in an insane asylum, and, according to one report, he was subject to recurrent fits of insanity. It was on this ground that he desperately struggled to avoid the gallows.

For nine years Vacher wandered through France, murdering and mutilating young girls and boys—usually the former. There is a horrible sameness about his crimes. He sought out the young girls who watch the cattle in France and often stay all day miles away from human habitations. He killed them with unspeakable atrocities. Two or three of his victims were of a different class, but their selection seems to have been accidental. One of them was a nobleman, the Marquis de Villeplain, whom he murdered and then robbed. It is an extraordinary comment on French government that a fiend like this should have been able to roam over the country for years committing murder at will.

He was arrested for a minor offence in October, 1887. Later he was suspected of some of the murders. A judge cleverly extracted a partial confession from him and then, while he was in prison, crime after crime, horror after horror, was traced to him.

Vacher simulated insanity frantically. But it did not convince the jury. There was too much method in his madness. He was convicted and was guillotined on December 31 last.

Of the two American degenerates who have been mentioned, the one who bears the most resemblance to Vacher is Jorgensen, the hair clipper, of Chicago. He is undoubtedly affected by a mild form of the same perversion. He was arrested two weeks ago by Detective John Elliott, who caught him in the act of clipping the hair of Erna Franky, aged thirteen years. He made a desperate struggle, during which he almost severed the detective's right forefinger with his shears. Erna was the second girl whose hair he had clipped that day. He was in the habit of mingling among crowds of women in front of the big stores, and selecting girls with an abundance of long, thick hair.

Jorgensen is twenty-nine years old and is married to a pretty young woman. His father is a well-to-do furniture manufacturer. He graduated from the Highland Park Military Academy and then from the Wayland Academy, Beaver Dam, Wis. He has lately been studying art at the Columbia Institute in Chicago.

After he had been locked up he made a confession, in which he said that he had been clipping girls' hair for four years and that he had probably taken the hair of thirty of them. He said at times he was seized with fits, during which he felt nothing but a mad desire to cut off women's hair. He kept the hair for a time and then burned it. After that he felt better.

The third degenerate under consideration is more remarkable mentally than either of the others, because he was a man of the highest intellectual development and a very distinguished student of moral philosophy. This is Professor George Herbert Stephens, who was sentenced to nine years' imprisonment for arson last Wednesday.

Stephens graduated from Princeton in 1892. He was at that time regarded as one of the most brilliant men that ever graduated from that institution. He was well equipped physically as well as mentally for his life's battle. He was six feet tall, weighed nearly 200 pounds, and was a giant in strength. He said at times he was a stork, in breadth and height, but the lower part of his face, particularly his mouth, was weak.

Stephens was appointed instructor in ethics and logic at Lafayette College, at Easton, Pa., in the summer of 1893. A year later he was made assistant professor for two years, but was told by President Warfield before the end of that time that his contract would not be renewed. After pleading hard, however, for another year, the president decided to give him another year of probation. Up to that time they had been intimate friends, but thereafter Stephens became the bitter enemy of the president.

In February, 1897, the trustees told the president that he was not to appoint Stephens for another year. Stephens believed that the president was using his personal influence in the matter, and vowed to get revenge. On December 31 of that year he set fire to Pardee Hall, a building that cost \$300,000 to erect, and contained libraries and collections that could not be replaced.

The following week Stephens came back to Easton. He met Thomas Burly, the college janitor, and borrowed from him the key to the chapel, saying that he wanted to play the organ. The key was not returned to Burly. That night Stephens entered the chapel and disarranged the organ so that it could not be played the following morning.

On May 17 Stephens again visited the chapel. He smeared the organ keys and pedals with tar, poured tar into the Bible and spilled what was left of the stuff on the pews.

County Detective Jacob Johnson was put on the case, and he suspected Stephens found traces of tar and rotten eggs. Stephens broke down, and, sending for representatives of the faculty and trustees, confessed not only to the acts of vandalism, but to the unsuspected crime of setting fire to Pardee Hall, saying that he had done it all to spite President Warfield.

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Strauss, the Great Waltz King, Chats About His Dreamy Waltzes and Declares He Is a Wagnerite.

THE waltz king, Johann Strauss, has been interviewed by a woman. He who leads the world in composing and playing waltz music has yielded to the persuasion of an ardent musician and admirer, Ilka Harowitz Barany.

She went to see him at the town of Ischl, and when Mrs. Barany asked him for an interview he said: "Why certainly, madame, what do you wish? What shall I tell you? There is nothing interesting about me; absolutely nothing. The most remarkable thing about me is that I am a slipshoer." And he stretched his hand out lovingly to his wife, as if for protection.

Strauss was enthusiastic when he spoke of Vienna. So identified is he with that city that it has been said, "Strauss is unthinkable without Vienna, and Vienna is unthinkable without Strauss."

As the conversation drifted to Wagner, Strauss said: "I believe that I am the very oldest Wagnerite now living, and was one of the first. I introduced his music in Vienna in the overture to 'Tannhauser.' Fifty years ago the full score was sent to me, and I was to all of the other musical directors, and I looked it over. Difficult, it seemed to me devilish difficult, so I at first arranged for a detailed rehearsal. Then I had the orchestra to come to my house and put them into two rooms there. After several attempts we played the overture through."

"My mother, who loved music, but did not understand very much about it—she could only play the guitar a little—came into the room suddenly and said: 'Well, Jeany, what was that you played just now? It was remarkable music; it stirred me strangely!' That was the first Viennese criticism on Wagnerian music."

"When at the next concert in the Volksgarten we played the overture to 'Tannhauser' for the first time, its effect was wonderful, for we had to repeat it no less than three times." As he said this the waltz king's brown eyes shone brightly, and he tossed his luxuriant locks. Standing straight and strong, he looked hardly fifty years old. Then he added: "But I am becoming a 'mess-back.' I am growing crumpled. It is old age, yes, old age!"

At the same moment a cunning look crept over his face and he laughed, saying: "But I wrote a waltz this morning that is so frolicsome that I am absolutely ashamed! That's the way it is with me almost always! When I am in the worst humor, yes, when I am actually desperate, then I write the liveliest."

"Do you see that little 'worker' up there"—pointing to his head—"it does not bother about anything, but goes on working of its own accord."

now the weather is fine, but one can never say, a cloud may come from the east or west, and then, whether you want it or not, comes the rain. It is wiser, after all, to stay at home."

He works all the morning and eats the simplest food, being especially fond of beef and dumplings. He never takes a nap, but enjoys the afternoons playing to cards with his friends. He plays very earnestly, and hates to lose even a few gulden. When he is in luck he says, laughing, "I always hit the mark!" He is always ready with a joke, and as gifted with the peculiar Viennese humor. His letters are overflowing with jests.

The following, written after he was six-and-a-half, are fair examples. They are addressed to his publisher:

"In answer to your good news that the subscription to the 'Exotic' would reach so terrible a sum I must endeavor to do my best in the work laid out for me. I am perfectly willing to work with Herr R.; he is a very simple, upright man, who admits what he deserves. He is so conscientious as to give me a larger amount than ever before. No, the good fellow is not yet proprietor of the business, for then his soul might be like yours and B's and he would no longer be so jolly a fellow. He even lets me look over the books, showing me the orders for my poor work and how they want to buy it in Siberia, Asia, etc."

"Somewhat he has reached the conclusion that my waltzes are better than all others. O, good vice-publisher, how far you surpass your chief in the understanding of musical and business affairs! Herr R. has given me to understand that I am the only man who knows how to write for Asia. He is my man. He understands this business better than any of you—he sells to Asia, and in that is his fortune. I can't give him enough compositions, and to spur me on he shows me letters from Asia."

On another occasion, when sending a new quadrille to his publisher, Strauss writes: "Euable publisher of this chief d'oeuvre! But let me tell you as a friend that it is not of much account. Your Jeany embraces you and your wife with all his heart, promising to compose no more—or very little."

Such is the man who has written more waltz music than all the rest of the world's composers together.



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A Table d'Hote on Top of Vesuvius.

You may eat your dinner on top of Vesuvius at the Paris Exposition, and have a look at Dante's Inferno inside of the crater. The miniature Vesuvius is the idea of M. Jodice. He promises to supply real lava and real flames and the general characteristics of the mountain just as it looks.

There will likewise be a funicular railway at Vesuvius, restaurants, cafes and peepshows on the way up, and inside the volcano itself M. Jodice proposes to have living pictures, with representations of scenes from Dante's Hell, Purgatory and Paradise.

Another scheme—that of M. Deioncle's lunar telescope—is already on the road to realization. This big spyglass is being fabricated on the Boulevard Arago, not far from the observatory, by M. Gautier, and promises to be one of the leading features of an exhibition which is now in full course of active preparation. In spite of all the rumors of wars and revolutions.

