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Index of Celebrated Cases, Crimes, Criminals, Detectives, Escapes, Homicides, Mysteries, Swindles, Trials, Etc. Described in General Books (Not in Volumes Specifically Devoted to the Particular Case or Person)

G. E. Wire

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INDEX OF CELEBRATED CASES, CRIMES, CRIMINALS, DETECTIVES, ESCAPES, HOMICIDES, MYSTERIES, SWINDLES, TRIALS, ETC., DESCRIBED IN GENERAL BOOKS (NOT IN VOLUMES SPECIFICALLY DEVOTED TO THE PARTICULAR CASE OR PERSON)

G. E. Wire, M.D., LL.B.

This index was made directly, from the books themselves, at various times, extending over the last five years of my work, as Librarian of the Worcester County Law Library, Worcester, Massachusetts. These works are for the most part authentic, as could reasonably be expected.

Perhaps the English and Scotch works are more reliable than others, for the reason that the English and Scotch writers, mostly newspaper men, have to be accurate in all their work.

They base their work on original sources, as a general thing. Some of these later writers give lists of their sources, hardly detailed enough to be designated as bibliographies.

Our own Mr. Pearson who, by the way, is a graduate of New York State Library School, and was "The Librarian" in Boston Transcript for years, runs true to his library training by giving a brief bibliography in his later volumes.

It must always be remembered, that aside from the old broadsides, and popular accounts of trials which used to be so common in England, the newspapers of the day both in England and the United States, are still and yet the main sources, for many of these cases, crimes, and so forth. So that these accounts, thus collected, if not mathematically accurate, judicially correct, and legally proven, are the best which can be found. Our own Commonwealth of Massachusetts is the only state to my knowledge, which prints official reports, not of all the homicide trials, oh no, not all of those which go up to the Supreme Judicial Court, but only those which contain problems of evidence, which may be of interest to the legal profession.


In many of the cases indexed, these are the only appearances in permanent book form of this particular case. This index means little

1 22 Dean St., Worcester, Massachusetts.
or nothing to a reader unacquainted with the ever-increasing literature of crime, and criminals, but to one interested in detective, legal, medical, or purely literary side of crime, it unlocks many an interesting case. The Englishman, as a rule, fails to recognize the enormous area of these United States, and the facility of escape from scene of crime, afforded by the equally enormous number of high powered motor cars which easily may be stolen, run until gasoline is nearly gone and then another one stolen and so on. And this may be repeated in a number of different states.

England itself is 5,000 square miles less in area than Illinois, and Illinois is only one of some ten states of approximately the same area in our great Mississippi River Valley!

I am informed that it is impossible to drive in a straight line from the center of fair England, one hundred miles without running into Scotland, Wales, or salt water! And it is practically impossible to steal a motor car in England, so few they are, and so carefully registered and so closely watched.

Just compare our crime record with that of a similar area, differing climates like ours, different races like ours, for the famous melting pot has failed to melt, and consider the number of inhabitants in U. S. That means the whole of western Europe, generally speaking, may be a few more millions of population than U. S. It just takes a lot of crime to go around in a population of a hundred and ten millions and more of people, that's all.

Now a few words about the Index. First, I give the full list of authorities, author, title, place and date of publication. Then comes a list of authors having more than one book in the Index. It would be too expensive, and also unnecessary, to use the full author, and title, and place and date, for each entry. So I have coded the index in this way, to correspond somewhat to a list of abbreviations, used in an index of periodicals. I have used in case of author having only one work, in the index the first word of the title as a code word. In case of multiple authors I have used some one distinctive word. Hopkins has 3 works, Romance of Escapes, Romance of Fraud and Romance of Terror. Obviously the key words are Escapes, Fraud and Terror. To Use the Index. Take the noted, and notorious physician, and race track gambler, the first person to use strychnic plentifully, too much so for his victims, Dr. William Palmer of Rugley. You will find the first heading “Palmer, Dr. William, pp. 129-150, Deans Notable” and on turning to the key you will read the full entry Deans R. S. Notable Trials L. 1906, and this full entry should
be sufficient, to secure you the book in any law library possessing this work.

Most of the law libraries are unclassified, and have no book numbers on their books, and author and title are all that is required. In a public or reference library, which is classed and shelf-listed, it will be necessary to write on the slip the author, title and call number.

In closing these few remarks, I may add that this list has been checked, copied, edited and revised, and I now submit it as is, not as perfect. If this is successful, I have hopes of indexing more of these interesting books at some future time. I leave to other hands the indexing of some 5 different trial series now appearing in England and United States. I have given names of poisons in some cases where it seemed best to do so. In closing I may add that this list is not exclusive, inclusive, nor conclusive and represents the works found in my library at the time the work was done.

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