

Germany's Murder Mysteries.

For a year past a number of remarkable murders and murderous assaults, whose perpetrators in many cases have remained undiscovered, has shaken the confidence of the Berliners in the safety of the city of Berlin, Germany, and their faith in the intelligence of the police. Two recent affairs are making people wonder whether Germany has advanced beyond the Middle Ages, in spite of the work the Prussian schoolmaster has put in for over a century.

The first is the breaking out again of the legend as old as Chaucer, that the Jews use Christian blood in their ritual, and the manifestation that belief in the legend is widespread among Protestants and Catholics alike, although it has been demonstrated to be without foundation time and again and only recently the Pope took occasion to stigmatize it as false and unchristian. The outbreak is due to the mysterious Konitz murder, which has not yet been unravelled, and to the efforts of the sensational press, and especially of the anti-Semitic press, to ascribe it to religious fanaticism. Konitz is a little town of 10,000 inhabitants in West Prussia, the province of which Danzig is the capital. It is the administrative centre of a large agricultural district and therefore contains several Government buildings and offices, and is the residence of many officials. It is also a railroad junction—a town therefore with more life and intelligence than most German country towns. The population is about half Protestant and half Catholic, but there are also 500 Jews who have a synagogue.

Early in the year a seventeen year old high-school boy named Winter, a Protestant, who was attending the gymnasium in Konitz, disappeared. During the spring fragments of a body were found from time to time in the woods and fields around the town, which were put together and identified beyond a doubt as the body of young Winter. There is no question but that he was murdered and in all probability not for money. The local police seems to have bungled the matter, and though the town offered a small reward for the discovery of the murderers and the State later a large reward and the case was put in the hands of the Government detectives from Berlin, no light has been thrown yet on either the perpetrators of the crime or the motive for it. It is possible that the boy became entangled with some girl and was put out of the way either by a rival or by relatives of the girl, and it is also possible that these persons were Jews.

Suspicion fell early on some Jewish butchers near whose houses young Winter was said to have been when last seen alive. But while for every clue leading up to Jews plenty of witnesses were found, their testimony turned out to be either worthless or actually false on investigation, and several who told straight stories confessed that they invented them when cross examined. Apparently nothing important has been discovered so far, though pretty nearly every one that was in the town at the time of Winter's disappearance has been examined, several persons being brought back at the town's expense from the remotest parts of Germany. From the moment the body was discovered, however, the story spread in the town and the country round that Winter had been killed to provide Christian blood for the Jewish rites in the synagogue, and the anti-Semitic newspapers did their best to excite people against the Jews. The Konitz police being insufficient to protect the Jews, a company of soldiers was quartered in the town, but removed when it was thought that the first excitement was over. On Whitsunday, however, the peasants from the whole surrounding district poured into Konitz. They smashed in the windows of the houses and stores of the Jews, maltreated the police and the high officials, who tried to get them to go home, and notwithstanding the arrival of a company of soldiers, succeeded in completely wrecking the synagogue. It took a whole battalion summoned by telegraph, to drive them out of town, and the battalion remained quartered in Konitz at the town's expense for over a week. The garrison has been reduced to a single company again, but what with the cost of maintaining it and judicial expenses Konitz finds itself already in financial straits. The worst side of the matter is the acceptance by many educated and otherwise intelligent persons through out Germany of the Jewish ritual theory to explain the murder.

The other affair occurred near Berlin itself and deals with the black art. A dressmaker named Louise Bergner, a steady, respectable workwoman, 32 years

of age, disappeared from her dwelling in Berlin in the middle of March. On the following day a young man appeared with her keys, entered her room and, carried away a number of parcels. This aroused the suspicions of her neighbors and the landlord put a padlock on the door. The next day the young man undertook to get in again, but notwithstanding his explanations and a note purporting to be written by the dressmaker, was turned away. The matter was reported to the police, who did not think it worth looking into. At the beginning of April the dead body of a woman was found close to the Teufelssee (the Devil's Lake), in the Grunewald near Potsdam. The autopsy showed that she had been poisoned with strychnine. On her being identified as Louise Bergner the police inferred that it was a case of murder and set to work. They found out that the dressmaker was in the habit of playing the lottery and that she often consulted a fortune teller. The latter put them on the track of a young man who had undertaken to procure 500,000 marks by magic for the Bergner woman. A potter named Jaenicke, 25 years of age, was arrested, identified as the person who had taken away the dressmaker's belongings, and on the story of a ten-year old boy and his own admissions charged with the murder.

This is what was going on in the Kaiser's 'world city' Berlin in March, 1900. Jaenicke who professed to tell fortunes by the cards and by casting the egg into water, boasted that he could use more potent spells as well. He charmed lottery tickets so that they should win by holding them in the smoke of Jamestown weed, myrrh and incense. He undertook to show the dressmaker the plots of her enemies were weaving by looking into a mirror in front of which she burned sulphur and alcohol. Finally he proposed an incantation that would make the spirits of Teufelssee halt a million marks at the Bergner woman's feet.

On the appointed day, accompanied by the boy, they took the train for Potsdam and went into the wood. Jaenicke placed a cloak on the ground, drew a magic circle around it and uttered his incantation; he then withdrew and reappeared wrapped up in a cloak. He made the boy fetch the water from the lake in a bowl, out of which he and the woman drank. He sent him a second time and then placed a white powder in the water. He made the woman smell a flask that contained prussic acid and then drink the contents of the bowl. The powder was strychnine. She walked a few steps and then fell down. Then with the boy looking on he took her keys and valuables and an amulet she wore round her neck, and walked away, leaving her where she lay. All this he admitted, but said that he had merely used this for a formula prescribed in a book called 'Kabale und Liebe by Faustulus,' which he had received with other books of magic from a footman named Just.

Just testified that he had given Jaenicke his books of magic, but denied that a 'Doctor Faustulus' was among them, or any book with poison recipes. He went to Jaenicke in consequence of an advertisement in order to obtain a charm to make women fall in love with him, though he is a married man. Jaenicke first gave him a reddish powder and told him to write a letter with it and to enclose in the letter a flower dipped in a reddish fluid. Just tried it on a girl, but it didn't work. Then he gave him a powder that smelt of naphtha and was to be sprinkled on the stairs. Just tried it on a rich elderly lady, but that didn't work. Jaenicke then told him they must conjure up spirits. He used some fluid that smoked while Just called on Mephisto, but the spirit did not appear and Jaenicke said Just must have made him angry. Then Just was made to write the letter in blood: 'Dear Spirit: I ask of thee that Frau B. shall love me from this hour on to the end and fulfil every wish of mine. She must give me at once 150 marks as a token of love. Later Frau H. and Frau G. must love me alone. Dear spirit, it thou bring it about that these three women can have no rest without me I shall be thy servant forever.' This formula, however, was also without effect. Just procured the poisons for Jaenicke, the prussic acid for a dog and the strychnine for mice. Jaenicke once said he saw the spirit in the shape of a black cat with a big tail perched on Just's shoulder, but Just didn't notice it.

Finally he got Just to go to the Teufelssee in order to appease the spirit. They bought a white dove on the way. On reach-

ing the lake they marched completely around it. Jaenicke knelt down and uttered incantations and then told Just to let the dove go. The spirit didn't appear, and on Just's making the remark Jaenicke said to him: 'All the better; otherwise you might have shared the Bergner woman's fate.' Just asked, 'what has happened to her?' and Jaenicke answered: 'She is dead; she did not follow the directions exactly, so the spirit seized her and took her to the middle of the water; there a flame shot up and the Bergner was no more.' For every operation in magic both Just and the Bergner woman had to provide money.

Jaenicke's lawyers tried to show, first, that his client was not responsible mentally, and, second, that he had acted in good faith, with no knowledge of the dangerous character of his recipe. His attempt to drag in expert testimony on magic was cut short by the court. There was little evidence that could incriminate others as his accomplices. Where they had helped him it was shown they had simply followed his directions with blind credulity but Jaenicke was found guilty by the jury and condemned to death.

It is a queer state of things to find in the Athens on the Spree at the beginning of the Kaiser's twentieth century.

FIRE GUARDS ON LIVERPOOL DOCKS.

Every Precaution to Prevent Such a Tragedy as Occurred at Hoboken.

The thousands of Americans who go to Europe by way of Liverpool every year pass along several miles of the finest docks in the world. The tide at this seaport ranges from seven to nine feet, according to the season, and system of berths for vessels in which a uniform depth of water can be maintained is absolutely necessary. This is one reason why the Liverpool docks are constructed of stone. Another important reason, however, was to prevent loss by fire, and although they extend along the waterfront a distance of six miles a person cannot find a single beam or other support made of wood. For mile after mile the walls of granite extend above and a foot or so below the water at ebb tide. The walls rest upon a solid foundation of stone masonry. They are divided into sections, each connected with the river by a massive water gate. These gates are operated by steam and hydraulic power and are only opened at high tide to allow the movement of vessels inward and outward. Some of the gates shut in a series of berths large enough to accommodate a fleet of forty of the largest steamships. The piers in each dock are also built of stone as thoroughly and carefully as the wall which bounds the river front. The lumber ships go into one section of the docks, the grain vessels have a space allotted to them, while general cargo is distributed in four or five of the principal ones. Altogether there are twenty-seven docks in Liverpool and Birkenhead, which is just across the Mersey, bearing such names as Coburg, Brunswick, Princess, Waterloo, Trafalgar, Victoria and other titles dear to the English heart.

Probably the most elaborate system of fire protection in the world is provided at Liverpool. It is absolutely necessary on account of the inflammable nature of much of the cargo which is discharged. In spite of the construction of the Manchester Canal thousands of bales of cotton are unloaded at Liverpool weekly to be shipped to the Lancashire spinning district. This cotton is taken immediately from the ship's side into warehouses built of steel frame work, supported by metal girders and covered with corrugated iron. The only wood about the place is the floor, which is composed of heavy planking supporting railroad tracks. Coils of hose are placed on each side, also attached to hydrants so that merely a turn of the wrench brings the water through the pipe to any spot desired. In addition, chemical extinguishers are placed at frequent intervals and 200 feet away from the cotton dock is a detachment of the Liverpool fire brigade, including several engines, trucks and hose carts. No loose cotton is allowed to remain over six hours in or around the warehouses and its contents are taken away as rapidly as trains can be made up for the cargoes of a cotton ship. One of the dock regulations imposes a fine upon the owners of the cotton if it is left longer than eighteen hours after being discharged.

The lumber piers are constructed entirely of stone, the logs, beams and planking being piled upon a dirt surface with which the piers are filled. Here also are hydrants with hose attached and in proximity is another section of the fire brigade. Like the cotton wharves, the lumber piers are so far apart that a ship 500 feet long can be turned between two of them, thus preventing the flames from leaping from one side to the other as in the case of the Hoboken fire. At the Waterloo docks is unloaded much grain and flour. The breadstuffs are

transferred from the ships in a series of huge brick buildings supported on stone foundations with merely open spaces for windows so that at all times the air has a constant circulation preventing the heating of their contents. Each corn house, as it is called, is divided into sections from 50 to 100 feet square by brick partitions 2½ feet in thickness with double doors of sheet iron. The various floors are supported by heavy arches of brick and are composed of steel girders filled in with masses of concrete. Even the receiving troughs for the grain are of metal and there is not a particle of wood about any of the houses. Should the contents of one section ignite, it would not affect the others as was shown by a fire which occurred several years ago. The corn houses are absolutely fireproof.

In the space provided for miscellaneous cargo, the same care is taken to guard against fire, all of the piers being equipped with hydrants and hose as well as automatic extinguishers. The warehouses are mostly built of brick with iron roofs, although some of the piers recently constructed have the steel clad warehouses already referred to. In the entire system comprising thirty-three miles of pier front not a wooden structure can be found with the exception of the abattoirs at Birkenhead. These buildings, however are covered with corrugated iron and have iron roofs. They are separated from the other portions of the Birkenhead docks by heavy stone walls and are practically isolated.

The rules regarding fires at Liverpool are so strict that workmen are not allowed to carry matches in their pockets. If detected they are immediately discharged. Smoking inside the dock limits is practically unknown. It is made a criminal offence by the laws of Liverpool and Bootle which includes a considerable section of the waterfront. A man caught with a lighted pipe in his mouth would be liable to get six months in the city prison, but an arrest of this kind has not been made for several years, although over 10,000 men are employed as stevedores and in other occupations. When a vessel is docked the officers and crew receive strict orders not to smoke on deck. Smoking must be confined to their own quarters.

The steam plants which supply power for operating the gates and running the transferring machinery are enclosed in brick and stone houses with iron roofs and all of the chimneys have spark arresters. They are located from 100 to 200 feet away from the cargo space and the entrance to the boiler rooms are generally closed, when fires are lighted, by heavy iron doors. Hydraulic power, however, is being substituted to a great extent for steam power and it is calculated that within a few years very few steam engines will be in operation inside the dock limits.

In order to cut off the docks from the rest of the city a stone wall extends along the land side the entire six miles. The entrances are provided with heavy iron gates at which watchmen are constantly stationed. In case of a fire in the neighborhood of any section of the docks, these gates are immediately closed and the dock fire department placed in position to prevent the fire from spreading to their side of the wall. The general fire brigade attends to the fire outside no matter if it is but 600 feet away.

Day and night a constant watch is kept for fire, especially at the lumber and cotton docks. Men cover every portion of the cotton warehouses at intervals of fifteen minutes. The watchmen do not merely walk around and press the button of the time indicator but are obliged to climb upon the pile and look between the bales to see if any fire had been caused by spontaneous combustion. The same system is followed among the long rows of lumber piles and as a result no fire can gain more than ten or fifteen minutes' headway before it is discovered. Each watchman has a map showing the location of every section of hose and hydrant also the nearest alarm box. To send an alarm it is only necessary to pull a handle. The fire department immediately responds and if the battalion chief or lieutenant thinks the fire is to be a large one, another pull brings a section of the city fire brigade from outside the walls. The alarm boxes are very generously distributed, being attached to the side of nearly every large warehouse. They are conspicuously indicated by red and white poles planted by their side and it is a criminal offence to dump cargo where time might be lost in reaching them.

A Practical Demonstration.

'Charlie, dear,' said young Mrs. Torkins, 'you know you were saying the other day that few people realize how profitable time could be spent with one's books'.

'Yes. The remarks were not original with me.'

'It's perfectly true, anyhow. I spent an hour in our library last week, and I got together enough tattered old volumes to buy me a lovely new waist. The dealer

gave me as much as 50 cents apiece for some of them.'

MURDER: FENG YANG.

The Criminal That Revealed the Boldness of the Boxers—Refugees at Tien-Tsin.

The city of Tien Tsin, China, is now becoming a place of refuge for missionaries and officials from all the outlying districts and it is expected that it will soon receive a large delegation of women and children from the various legations in Peking. It is understood that the Russian Minister has already made arrangements for sending all the women and children of his legations to this city and it is believed that other legations will follow his example. There is not space in the Peking legations to accommodate the 700 guards and all the regular attaches and in case of a siege it would be a source of danger to have so many non-combatants.

That the Boxer uprising is certain to be serious is now admitted even by the temporary Chinese officials who laughed at the movement a few weeks ago. The first real awakening of Chinese officials was brought about by the murder of Brig. Gen. Yang, one of the ablest and most honest of Chinese Generals. He had been ordered to investigate the recent outrages on Christians at Kaoli. Evidently he fancied that the Boxers were like other malcontents whom he had suppressed in the past with troops or bribery, for he advanced to their headquarters at Laidhui with only thirty troops. On his arrival there the boxers sent him an invitation to visit their leader and hold a conference. Yang's troops tried to dissuade him from going alone to this conference but he was fearless, and dismounting walked up a hill toward the rebel camp under the guidance of the Boxer envoy. He disappeared over the hill, was led into a ravine and there was speared in the back by the treacherous Boxers. As is usual with Chinese his body was horribly mutilated.

The report of his death was the first sharp warning that Tien Tsin and Peking received of the savagery and boldness of the Boxers. He was ambushed and slain because he was a high representative of the Imperial government, which the Boxers say is pro-foreign in all its leanings, despite the recent reactionary edicts of the Empress Dowager. The day the news of Yang's murder was received at Peking 10,000 men were sent to the Paoing-fu district.

Meanwhile the Boxers evidently determined to show what they could do. On May 28 they advanced up the railroad line to within thirteen miles of Peking, burning stations at Liulih and two other points. Mr. Norregard, Belgian manager of the railroad, ran over the line up to Changshintien, blowing the locomotive whistle to attract the attention of any foreigners. He was much concerned for the fate of a number of Belgian engineers and their wives who were last quartered in a village near the by this railroad station. He saw nothing of them and the Boxers became so threatening that he was forced to return speedily. Reports have come in that the engineers are defending themselves on a hill not far from town.

The Boxers have ranged up and down the railroad line and on May 20 they burned the great godowns at Fengtai, eight miles from Peking, at the junction of the Linhan and northern lines. The torch was also applied to the railroad workshops and all traffic on the road was suspended. Communication was restored in a few hours by a large force of Imperial troops, but it is dangerous to venture into the country near Tien Tsin without a big armed guard.

What It Will Do.

Poison's Nerviline, the great pain cure, never fails to give prompt relief in the following complaints:—Sprains, bruises, cuts, neuralgia, rheumatism, spinal pains, neuralgia, toothache, lumbago, sciatica. Buy today at any drug store a 10 cent sample bottle and test it in any of the above complaints. It never fails, for Nerviline is composed of the most powerful pain subduing remedies in the world. Get a bottle at any drug store. You will be made happy. Ten and 25 cents a bottle.

The Objectionable Word.

'I see it's got you,' heartlessly remarked the seasoned traveller.

'Yes,' groaned the seasick passenger, 'but I was feeling splendid until the captain spoke to me.'

'Why he simply asked you if you were going below to dinner.'

'No. He asked me if I was going below to mess.'

Gag Rule.

'Am I addressing the head of the house?' asked the tramp with a gesture of extreme deference.

'Well, said the Boston lady, 'it can scarcely be termed an address. I doubt if you will care to complete even your exordium.' Thereupon the door seemed actually to freeze shut.