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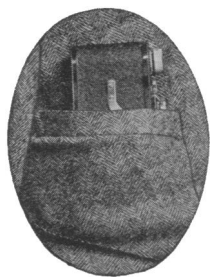
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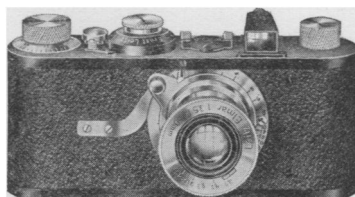
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## Youthful Killers May Be Insane

*Psychiatry*

The recent out-cropping of cases in which young boys from 6 to 16 have seized guns and killed or dangerously wounded playmates, has roused the interest of all persons interested in child welfare and the prevention of crime. The extremely serious offense of murder cannot legitimately be classed with the common delinquencies of childhood. It seems to demand special treatment; yet judges differ as to the proper disposition of these cases of what might almost be called kindergarden crime.

One boy of six, Carl Mahan, of Kentucky, was sentenced to the reform school until he should be 21. This sentence was appealed. Another boy, James Harrison of Springfield, Ill., was left free when at the age of five he had killed an infant. Now, at the age of 9, he is charged with the death of another child.

Dr. Nolan D. C. Lewis, psychiatrist on the staff of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, a U. S. Government hospital for the insane, advises a thorough psychiatric examination for every child who exhibits abnormal behavior, especially such extremely abnormal behavior as murder.

"Any boy who commits murder is abnormal," said Dr. Lewis. "And he may be a victim of dementia praecox—the insanity of youth."

Dr. Lewis believes that the dementia praecox patient is born with the disease and that the active phase of it may appear at any time after birth. Definite cases have been observed as early as six years. And any dementia praecox patient is likely to become violent.

The disease can be detected, in the early stages, only by very careful psychiatric and physical examination, but certain definite physical symptoms, such as unusually small blood vessels, have been found to indicate that the malady is present even though it may be in a latent stage. When discovered soon enough, dementia praecox has been found to yield to treatment; the progress of the disease has been arrested and violent outbreaks prevented.

*Science News-Letter, June 22, 1929*

## More Modest Man

*Philosophy*

NATHANIEL SCHMIDT, in *World Unity* for June:

In every field the pursuit of science and its main results have had a tendency to produce a change of attitude toward the universe and to the problems with which it confronts us. Some of the most marked effects may be indicated. The advance of science has tended to make us more modest.

## A New Explanation

*Pathology*

LUCIO, in the Manchester (England) Guardian:

("One is just as likely to have dyspepsia from the nagging of a wife or husband as from a gastric ulcer."—Dr. Bernard Hollander in an address to the South Place Ethical Society.)

Ye roisterers and men who feast by night,

Men who will seize on any small excuse

That may, perhaps, explain the morning plight

Of those who have abused the Wine-God's juice,

Behold! . . . The greatest get-out ever seen

Since wine was red, cloths white, or smilax green!

Oft in the past have erring men and weak,

Following their own more un-instructed ways,

Been heard, when breakfast seemed a trifle bleak,

To blame it on the salmon mayonnaise;

"I must not take it any more, I see—It does not, after all, agree with me."

Why blame it on the salmon as of yore

When rising in the morning somewhat hipped?

O! what was that which disagreed still more

Than any fish that ever swam or flipped?

Whose was that voice that chilled the gastric game

And froze the whole digestive function's aim?

Whose were the words that turned the evening cold

When homewards sped the warrior to his couch?

Sinner, though rising far from brisk and bold,

Go down to breakfast free from cringe or slouch.

Reflecting, "Gosh! though far from well I be,

It was my wife that disagreed with me!"

*Science News-Letter, June 22, 1929*