

LITTLE BLUE BOOK NO. 1748
Edited by E. Haldeman-Julius

Scientific Crime
Detection

C. SAMUEL CAMPBELL

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SCIENTIFIC CRIME DETECTION

The application of science to the detection of crime was a tremendous improvement over the crude and inadequate methods of the old school. At the time of the organization of the first police of the world, the *marechaussee* of France, in 1356, the criminal, if not caught while committing the crime or immediately after its commission, was almost certain to escape apprehension. But today even 20 years is not too long a lapse of time for the bringing of a criminal to justice.

This great advancement, as the great advancements in any field of endeavor, is the result of the application of scientific principles and methods to criminological investigation. No clue is too small for investigation, or to escape investigation, when science stands at the elbow of the detective of today; and it is often upon the seemingly trivial that the solution of a crime depends. There is hardly a field of science that isn't, in some form or other, applicable to the investigation of crime. The "perfect crime" is gradually becoming more and more a myth; for science has shown that the "perfect crime" was simply a matter of imperfect investigation. What once escaped the criminal investigator has now assumed, under the keen eye of science, proportions more and more alarming for the criminal.

What was once a grain of dust almost invisible grows to the size of a boulder under the lens of the microscope. Trickery and fraud

