

MORE CRIMES BY HOLMES

Another Woman and Child Supposed to Have Been Murdered.

WHICH MAKES THE LIST EIGHT IN ALL

The Disappearance of Mrs. I. L. Conner and Her Little Daughter from Chicago Two Years Ago.

CHICAGO, July 21.—To the long list of murders and other crimes directly traceable to H. H. Holmes, must now be added the mysterious disappearance of Mrs. I. L. Conner and her twelve-year-old daughter, with a reasonable certainty that they may have been disposed of in the same manner in which the rest of his victims met their death.

Mrs. Conner and her child were last seen in the company of Holmes in this city in 1893. Since then all trace of them has been lost, and the shrewdest detectives, who, at the instigation of the woman's family, have been working on the case, are now of the opinion that the finding of their bodies is the only possible solution of the mystery. The hunt for Mrs. Conner and her child has not, until lately, been made on the theory that they had been murdered. It was pursued on an effort to discover the woman and get her away from the influence of Holmes, in whose net she had been trapped, and it was not until the disclosures of his work in connection with the Pietzel murders were made that her friends began to fear that the lives of herself and child had been taken.

Mr. and Mrs. I. L. Conner, with their twelve-year-old daughter, came from Davenport, Iowa, to Chicago, in 1889. Holmes at that time was beginning to execute the swindles for which he afterward became notorious. One of his schemes was the drug and jewelry store in the Englewood Flats. Conner, who was a jeweler, was employed to conduct the jewelry store, and moved with his family into a flat above it. When Holmes had perfected his plan of robbing his creditors, he pretended to make a sale of the store and stock to Conner.

Mrs. Conner, a bright, ambitious woman, was given a position as bookkeeper. In a short time Holmes piloted her from the moral path, and then, wishing to get rid of Conner, furnished him with proofs of his wife's infidelity. Conner promptly abandoned his wife, and she, it is alleged, became Holmes's counselor and adviser. In this capacity she soon learned the character of the horrible work Holmes had in hand, and, to a degree, had him in her power. They had many violent quarrels, and in 1893 the woman and her child disappeared.

The theory of the people who have been investigating the case is that she was "removed" to prevent exposure.

If Mrs. Conner and her child are dead, as now seems almost certain, the list of murders with which Holmes is charged numbers eight—viz.: B. F. Pietzel, the three Pietzel children, the two Williams girls and Mrs. Conner and her child, and there is a plausible theory for the crime in each case. Pietzel was murdered to get the money from the insurance money into the possession of Mrs. Pietzel; the Pietzel children were killed to remove three heirs to the property and make the securing of the property by Holmes just that much easier; the Williams girls were killed to get control of \$75,000 worth of real estate in Fort Worth, Texas, and Mrs. Conner and her little girl were made away with to get rid of a woman who knew too much and a child whose keeping would be troublesome, and might necessitate an explanation of her mother's fate.

The rib-like fragments found in the ashes under the stove in the room of the Holmes building in Sixty-third Street, and supposed to be the remains of the two missing Williams girls, were late last night subjected to a chemical test by Dr. C. P. Stringfield, and pronounced by him to be bits of fire-clay. When matched together, the pieces of fire-clay formed a section of a circle which, if complete, would equal the inside circumference of a large stove.

During the search yesterday for further evidence of Holmes's crimes, a bank book was found in his office on the third floor of the building at Sixty-third and Wallace Streets, by Detectives Fitzpatrick and Norton. It belonged to Lucy Burbank, and was on the First National Bank of this city. It showed that Miss Burbank was a heavy depositor, putting money in the bank every day, sometimes as high as \$3,000. Who the woman is is unknown, but Detective Fitzpatrick thinks he will be able to find her.