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'SCHOOL OF INSANITY' - IN THE TOMBS

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
CARRIE BROWN. NET

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SEEK TO EVADE JUSTICE.

New York Authorities Claim a "School of Insanity" Is Conducted in the Tombs Prison—Murderers Taught to Simulate Madness.

WILLIAM Hooper Young, on trial for the murder of Mrs. Anna Pulitzer at New York, tried the "insane dodge" but it would not work. Then he pleaded guilty and was sent to prison for life.

Was he a pupil of the College of Insanity, the latest invention for the protection of murderers from the just punishment decreed by law?

Somewhere, either in the Tombs, or with access to it, there is a professor of insanity, with murderers for his scholars.

He teaches them to simulate the in-



physicians took razors and run them wildly across their own throats.

Then a dummy was rigged up and placed on the prisoner's bed.

"There's your wife," said Dr. Chetwood; "now show us how it was done."

The prisoner seized a razor, sprang upon the dummy and cut it to pieces savagely, with wild cries of rage.

The instrument strapped to his wrist registered a perfectly normal pulse. Who had taught Nino to simulate insanity so perfectly? The "professor of insanity" in the Tombs, said the prosecution.

Dr. Robert Safford Newton, one of the most prominent physicians in the city, was employed by the District Attorney as an expert on Nino's insanity case. Dr. Newton said regarding his discovery of the School of Insanity in Nino's case:

"At first Vincenzo exhibited none of the symptoms of insanity. He was quiet, cool and not an unusual symptom displayed itself for weeks. Then this man (the teacher) began to call and see him. He was supposed to be distributing tracts from an Italian cross society. In that way he had entrance to the Tombs.

"Suddenly a change came over Vincenzo. He began to have fits of noisiness. He would yell and even butt his head against the bars of his cell. But his fits of noisiness were almost

THOMAS TOBIN AS HE APPEARED BEFORE HIS ARREST

...to gibber like lunatics, to let their beards grow, to gaze vacantly, to twitch and twist their fingers and nose, and otherwise play upon the feelings of a jury to obtain a commutation of sentence or a commitment for insanity.

They are given drugs to produce prison pallor. They appear in shabby clothes when on trial. They let their hair grow unkempt. They never wash their faces. They use every means to deceive the insanity experts.

By these means many men in the history of criminal law have been sent to insane asylums when they should have been hanged or electrocuted.

The Tombs School of Insanity had its inception in the trial of Ben All, or "Frenchy," as he was better known, for the murder of Carrie Brown, commonly called "Old Shakespeare," in 1891.

"Frenchy" was a craven, dissolute foreigner, part Algerian, part thief and wholly friendless. There are yet grave doubts as to "Frenchy's" guilt. The police were accused of "planting" him. But outside of all this was the fact that "Frenchy" was on the borderland of insanity. He was misled fawningly. He was like a cur locked in a room and who cringes about the feet of the first person who enters.

Although the evidence of sane men

invariably in the morning and after a good night's sleep. He was a beautiful sleeper, sleeping the sleep of the pure in heart every night, and in the morning he would eat with the appetite of an anaconda. This was entirely at variance with the acts of an insane man of the type he was trying to represent, but apparently his instructor hadn't coached him on that point.

"Insanity is not the only form of



'FRENCHY' ON TRIAL

simulation of disease taught to criminals. Epilepsy is a favorite. In Commercial road, London, which parallels Whitechapel road, is a regular school where epilepsy is taught. It even advertises occasionally."

The more recent cases of Thomas



BEN ALL ('FRENCHY') AT THE TIME OF HIS ARREST

went far to prove that "Frenchy" did not commit the crime of which he was found guilty, the value of his idiotic attitudes was not lost upon the shrewd lawyers.

It caused the establishment of the secret "School of Insanity" which now exists. This was made evident in the trial of Vincenzo Nino, a Neapolitan barber, who murdered his wife in 1895. On the day following his arrest he was visited by a mysterious stranger.

Two or three weeks after the murder Nino developed symptoms of insanity. He apparently lost all knowledge or memory of events. He mumbled and mandered and threatened his keepers.

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DANA SKETCHED IN COURT

Chetwood visited the Tombs and rehearsed the mock murder of Nino's wife for the purpose of catching Nino napping.

A recording instrument was attached to the prisoner's wrist. The two

The more recent cases of Thomas Tobin and Harry Rose are more fresh in the public mind. Dr. Charles L. Dana and Dr. Carlos MacDonald both pronounced Tobin insane, but he was sentenced to death.

Rose apparently has complete dementia, although at the time he killed his wife he was in the very best of health.

Is he insane or has he graduated in the "school"?—New York World.