

The Journal of Jack the Ripper, East End and Victorian Studies

Ripperologist

No. 116

September 2010

The Elixir of Life

MIKE HAWLEY looks at
Tumblety the alchemist

drops
water
fumes

PAUL BEGG on the Definitive Story

TIM MOSLEY with more on the House That Jack Built

DIRK C GIBSON examines the Whitechapel Crimes as Public Relations

GLEN L BLEDSOE begins a new serial graphic comic

ARTHUR MORRISON writes this month's Victorian Fiction

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

The dispute isn't about statistics but coercion.

An offer of un-coerced data to a statist is like an offer of consensual sex to Jack the Ripper.

George Jonas, 'Your Data Or Your freedom'. National Post, 14 August 2010.

fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2010/08/14/george-jonas-your-data-or-your-freedom

RIPPEROLOGIST 116, SEPTEMBER 2010

EDITORIAL: THE DEFINITIVE STORY

by Paul Begg

FRANCIS TUMBLETY AND THE 'ELIXIR OF LIFE'

by Mike Hawley

THE HOUSE THE JACK BUILT: PART II

by Tim Mosley

THE WHITECHAPEL CRIMES AS PUBLIC RELATIONS

by Dirk C Gibson

THE TRUTH

by Glen L Bledsoe

VICTORIAN FICTION:

THE THING IN THE UPPER ROOM

by Arthur Morrison

JACK THE BLOGGER

by Mike Covell

I BEG TO REPORT

REVIEWS

Fame Or Infamy: The True Story Behind The Jack The Ripper Diary; Jack The Ripper: British Intelligence Agent?; Has Jack The Ripper Told You Chaps What His Real Name Was - and more!

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Adam Wood

EDITORS

Christopher T George, Eduardo Zinna

EDITOR-AT-LARGE

Paul Begg

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Stewart P Evans, Loretta Lay,
Donald Rumbelow, Chris Scott

ARTWORK

Adam Wood

SUBSCRIPTIONS. Ripperologist is published monthly in electronic format. The cost is £12.00 for six issues. The simplest and easiest way to subscribe is via PayPal. Please send to contact@ripperologist.biz

BACK ISSUES. Single PDF files of issue 62 onwards are available at £2 each.

ADVERTISING. Advertising in Ripperologist costs £50.00 for a full page and £25.00 for a half-page.

We would like to acknowledge the valuable assistance given by the following people in the production of this issue of *Ripperologist*: Jane Coram, Loretta Lay. Thank you!

The views, conclusions and opinions expressed in signed articles, essays, letters and other items published in *Ripperologist* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views, conclusions and opinions of *Ripperologist* or its editors. The views, conclusions and opinions expressed in unsigned articles, essays, news reports, reviews and other items published in *Ripperologist* are the responsibility of *Ripperologist* and its editorial team.

We occasionally use material we believe has been placed in the public domain. It is not always possible to identify and contact the copyright holder; if you claim ownership of something we have published we will be pleased to make a proper acknowledgement.

The contents of *Ripperologist* No. 116, September 2010, including the compilation of all materials and the unsigned articles, essays, news reports, reviews and other items are copyright © 2010 *Ripperologist*. The authors of signed articles, essays, letters, news reports, reviews and other items retain the copyright of their respective contributions. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted or otherwise circulated in any form or by any means, including digital, electronic, printed, mechanical, photocopying, recording or any other, without the prior permission in writing of *Ripperologist*. The unauthorised reproduction or circulation of this publication or any part thereof, whether for monetary gain or not, is strictly prohibited and may constitute copyright infringement as defined in domestic laws and international agreements and give rise to civil liability and criminal prosecution.

Francis Tumblety and ‘The Elixir of Life’

By MIKE HAWLEY

I was surprised to learn that there is very little information online about a specific Jack the Ripper theory involving an ‘elixir of life’, yet Scotland Yard was apparently aware of such a theory and even acted upon it in early October 1888. Notice the following report that appeared in the *Bridgeport News* of 8 October 1888 and, with small variations, in other North American newspapers:

*An American who used to live in New York, and who now keeps an herb shop in the Whitechapel district, was visited by a detective at his place this week. The detective asked him if he had sold any unusual compound of herbs to a costomer [sic] since August. Similar inquires have been made at other shops in the neighborhood. The basis for this investigation has a startling Shakespearian flavor. An eminent engineer in London suggested to the police the theory that the murderer was a medical maniac trying to find the **elixir of life**, and was **looking for an essential ingredient in parts taken from murdered bodies**; that, like the witches in *Macbeth*, he spent time over bubbling caldrons of hell broth, made gory by the ingredients, and looking for the charm. The fact that police are spending time looking up wild theories like this, only shows the utter absence of anything like a clew. The wildest rumors are credited to the exclusion of sound ideas. The Whitechapel district is swarming with detectives, some disguised as laborers, talking with loose women and endeavoring to find out from them something to give the police a tangible basis to work on...¹ [Note extra emphasis added to this and other quotes by the author.]*

Note once more, that the article states that a theory proposed by an eminent engineer in London ‘suggested to the police that the murderer was a medical maniac trying to find the *elixir of life*, and was ‘looking for the essential ingredient in the parts taken from the murdered bodies’.

The opinion of the reporter was that this theory was ridiculous, but I’d like to question his judgment that the theory was a wild and absurd one. The article makes the point that Scotland Yard officials took the theory seriously enough to visit a number of shops in the East End to enquire about a compound of herbs collected for such an elixir of life. Apparently, additional essential ingredients for the elixir are to be found in the parts of the murdered female bodies (possibly fluid from the female uterus where life begins and forms; an appropriate ingredient for an elixir of life). The concoction seems to have been a combination of ingredients from both the plant kingdom purchased at an herb store and the animal kingdom taken from the bodies of prostitutes. Notice also that Scotland Yard was said to be looking for a customer that may have been purchasing these ingredients since August, or around the time of Martha Tabram’s murder on 7 August 1888.

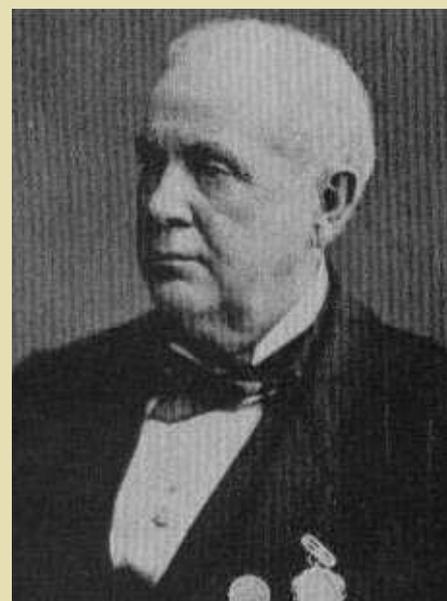
¹ *Bridgeport News*, 8 October 1888.

The description the reporter gave for the storeowner is an excellent fit for Francis Tumblety: 'An American who used to live in New York and now keeps an herb shop in Whitechapel.' Tumblety was an American who came from New York, was considered to be an herb doctor, and set up herb shops everywhere he went. Tumblety himself admitted to being in the Whitechapel district during the murders, and it would not be at all surprising that he had a shop in this district. Notice how the reporter phrases his words: 'now keeps an herb shop in Whitechapel.' This clearly suggests that the owner did not live at the store location, and we know Tumblety lived elsewhere and used trains and cabs for transportation.

Significant in the case against Francis Tumblety is that he more than most anyone had a motive for finding an elixir of life or health. He apparently contracted a progressive disease during the American Civil War, either in 1863 or 1865, which plagued him until his death in 1903. Tumblety talked about his deteriorating health in his 1872 autobiography,² published within nine years after he contracted the disease:

About this period [while in Washington D.C. in 1863] *I experienced a decline of health of an alarming character, which induced me to abandon my project...*

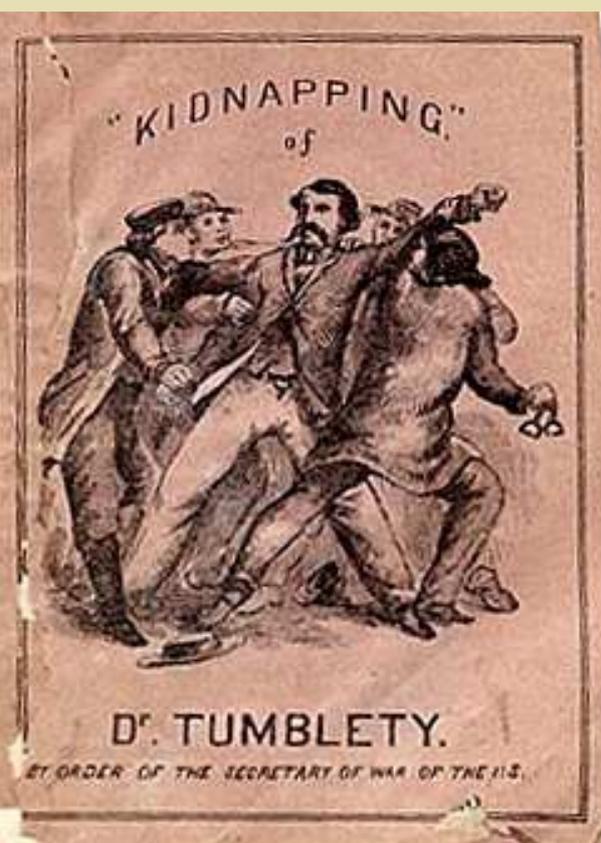
Later in the same pamphlet, Tumblety alludes to his arrest after the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln in April 1865 and his time spent incarcerated in the Old Capitol Prison, Washington, D.C., which he said broke his health. Note that this is a somewhat different claim to his statement that he was seriously ill as early as 1863. The herb doctor was detained in the aftermath of the president's assassination when the Federal authorities were under the assumption that he was Confederate sympathizer Dr Luke Pryor Blackburn who had been accused of trying to spread yellow fever in the United States, 'Blackburn' being one of the quack doctor's many aliases. Tumblety wrote:



Dr Luke Pryor Blackburn

I have alluded to the great injury of my health from the incarceration, privation, and horror I experienced in the Washington bastille, better known as the "Old Capitol Prison." Compensation for this is beyond all price, for health is an inestimable jewel, that cannot be purchased with gold; and I feel that I shall never again realize the hardy and robust physique for which I was distinguished previous to my arrest in St. Louis. [Bolted statements from here onward are my emphasis.] But the pecuniary loss I have sustained, and the disarrangement of my business, are other matters, for which I have a clear claim upon a Government by whose authority I have been so outraged and despoiled. I will here just adduce one instance as a sample, and it will be seen how my professional reputation has been trifled and tampered with.

² Francis Tumblety, *A Narrative of Dr. Tumblety: how he was Kidnapped during the American War, His Incarceration and Discharge, A Veritable Reign of Terror.* New York: Russells' American Steam Printing House, 1872.



Tumblety's arrest, as shown on the cover his self-penned pamphlet

In support of his comments are the following newspaper articles showing the progressive nature of his illness:

New York Times, November 19, 1888, 'THE SAME TUMBLETY':

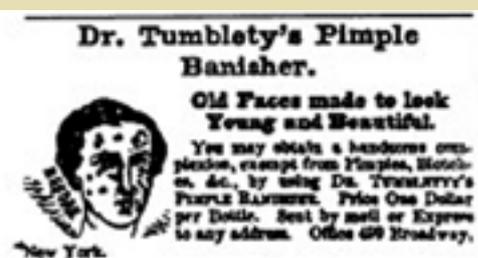
"He is the fellow who in 1861 burst upon the people of Brooklyn as a sort of modern Count of Monte Cristo. He was of striking personal appearance, being considered over six feet in height, of graceful and powerful build, with strongly marked features, beautifully clear complexion, a sweeping mustache and jet black hair..."

New York World, November 19, 1888, 'HE IS "ECCENTRIC" DR. TWOMBLETY':

"His own face is covered with pimples, and although his features are otherwise regular, his appearance on this account is somewhat repulsive."

Evening Star (Washington, D.C.), Monday, 19 November 1888, 'Arrested on Suspicion':

"He is about fifty-five years old, tall and rather heavy, and looks as if he painted his cheeks and dyed his hair, heavy mustache and side whiskers. He is well off and peculiar, and is the inventor of a preparation for the cure of pimples."



New York World, 26 November 1888, 'HE IS A MYSTERY TO ALL, WHO AND WHAT IS "DR" TWOMBLETY, THE WHITECHAPEL SUSPECT?':

"I have known Dr. Twomblety by sight for thirty years," said William H Carr, "... I never saw any one who could tell anything about him, though hundreds of people knew his name and had seen him in cities all over the country. I have not seen him for several years and the last time he came into the hotel I noticed that he was aging rapidly... James Pryor, the detective of the Fifth Avenue Hotel, appeared to know more of the mysterious Twomblety than any one else. "It must be about twenty years ago since I first saw him," said Pryor, "and I can see him now just like he was then. He had an army officer's cap, a big cape and light colored trousers. He was a dandy then, I tell you. You couldn't find a finer made man in this town. He had a big black mustache, one of the backing brush kind, black eyes, a good complexion [1860s], and a walk like he had just been elected Alderman ..."



Rochester Democrat and Republican, 3 December 1888:

Colonel C. A. Dunham, a well-known lawyer who lives near Fairview, N.J., was intimately acquainted with Twomblety for many years, and, in his own mind, had long connected him with the Whitechapel horrors ... "A titan in stature, with a very red face and long flowing mustache, he would have been a noticeable personage in any place and in any garb..."

The New York World, January 29, 1889, HE WORE A BIG SLOUCH HAT [Interview with a New York World reporter]:

The pictures that have been published of Dr. Tumbley in London and New York give a very good idea of him. He is a powerfully built man and stands 6 feet 2 inches in his stockings. His long black mustache has been trimmed close and reaches down in the shape of a thick growth of beard around his chin, which he keeps smooth shaven. His face is ruddy [definition, reddish or rosy crimson color] and he has blue eyes. If he ever dressed sensationally in the past, he does not do so now. Yesterday he wore a dark suit which was by no means new, and a little peaked traveling cap. Altogether, he gave the appearance of a prosperous Western farmer. He wore no jewelry.



Atchison Daily Globe, Kansas, 15 December 1888, "OH! DR. TUMBLETY., He Was Charged with Being the Whitechapel Fiend - Where Is He Now?":

...and was an extremely well built though homely featured man. His face was very red, and his mustache dyed a jet black.

Newark Advocate, Ohio, 30 May 1903, "Kept Identity A Secret":

St. Louis, May 30. Dr. Tumblety was suffering from valvular disease of the heart. He came to the hospital under the assumed name of Mr. Townsend. He was unmarried. He amassed a fortune as an advertising physician 40 or 50 years ago, when that line of medical practice was rare. Dr. Tumblety refused absolutely to tell anything about his life or relatives.

Note that the very first time Tumblety visited Europe was AFTER he contracted the progressive disease. He also reveals that his illness was the reason why he went to Europe, specifically London:

"About this period [while in Washington, D.C., in 1863] I experienced a decline of health of an alarming character, which induced me to abandon my project of entering the army and seriously contemplate a trip to Europe ... "

[a supposed letter from Abraham Lincoln on 12 June 1863 to Lord John Russell in London] *"Dear Sir: The bearer of this, Francis Tumblety, M.D. an esteemed friend of mine, is about to visit London for the first time, and consequently be a stranger in your metropolis..."*

He then gave one additional and important detail:

"...Since the publication of the foregoing [1872] I have visited far off places, including the golden regions of California, Great Britain and Ireland, and the European continent. My tour was not one of mere pleasure, but rather research on behalf of my profession..."

When Tumblety had to 'seriously contemplate a trip to Europe', it was because of his illness, so this 'European research' seems to have been a search for a cure, in other words, to search for an elixir of health.

Amazingly, Tumblety discusses an elixir of health in his 1872 autobiography. He quotes Dr A R Porter's address to the *Botanical Medical Reformer*:

In the vegetable kingdom there may be found the elixir of health—there may be found the healing balm. Would to Heaven that the study of this extensive division of natural objects was more generally pursued and appreciated; because, if it were, and the medicinal properties of plants better understood, disease might be more easily and successfully treated...

The *Bridgeport News* article talks about a concoction of both the vegetable kingdom and the animal kingdom. Tumblety had available to him the knowledge that Victorian London was a location where certain wealthy men were attempting to discover an elixir of life. I found the following article in *Urology Today* which discusses elixir of life ideas from London in the late 19th century:

N. L. Miller discussed the use of "Injection, Ligation and Transplantation: the Search for the Glandular Fountain of Youth." She began with the Emerson quote: "All diseases run into one: old age." So everyone seeks the fountain of youth. She believes that modern endocrinology began with Brown-Sequard, who self-injected crushed testicles and "got new vigor". Physicians soon tried this on their patients. Then... the Steinach rejuvenation procedure of vasectomy also became popular. Voronoff went a step further by transplanting sliced ape/monkey testes into the abdominal wall. This became so popular that the French government eventually had to ban primate hunting in their colonies. So all forms of searching for the elixir of youth have been tried. Today, we have hormones of all types that can be given to males or females: androgens, estrogens, growth hormone, etc. Thus, we continue our search for the perfect "anti-aging medicine".

C. Nicholson continued the ideas of rejuvenation by filling out the discussion of Brown-Sequard's Elixir of Life: Pioneer Andrology and Genitourinary Endocrinology. The famous physician received his MD degree in 1846 and subsequently held positions in London, Paris and the USA. He is most famous for the description spinal cord hemi-transection and its resulting neurologic syndrome. But he also pursued the "Elixir of Life" and in 1889 reported on his studies of injection of a mixture of dog blood of the testicular veins, semen and juices of the testis. This resulted in increased strength, stronger limbs, better urination and so forth. Soon, over 12,000 physicians accepted and used his treatment on patients. However, reanalysis of this treatment in 2002 led to the determination that most probably little testosterone entered the human blood after this treatment, and that there must have been a significant placebo effect.³



Dr Charles-Edouard Brown-Séquard (1818-1894) was a pioneer French endocrinologist and neurologist.⁴ An article in *Endocrine Today* tells us:

³ *Urology Today* conference report on 'History of Urology', AUA 2006, available at www.urotoday.com/287/conference_reports/history_of_urology/2024/

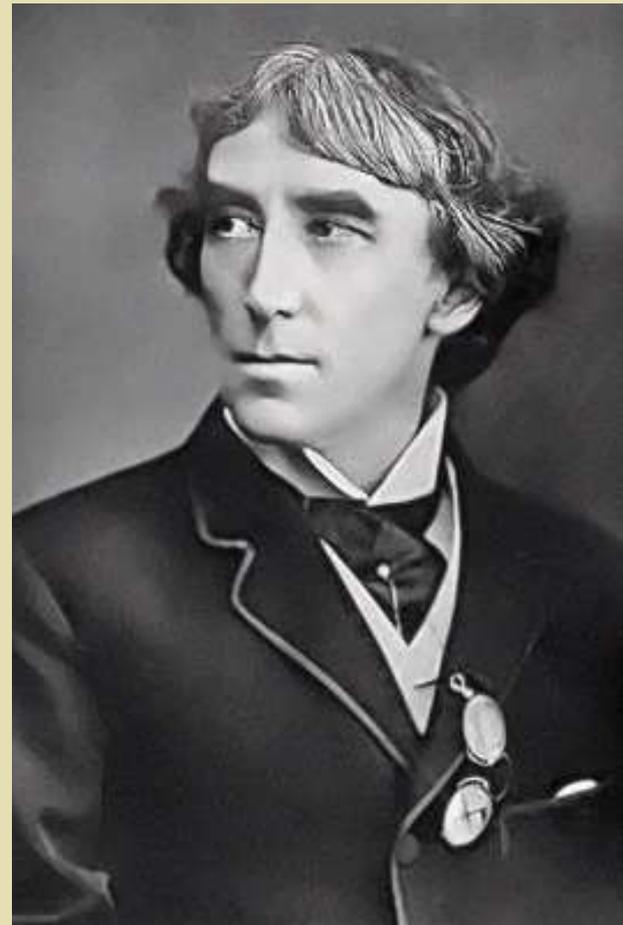
⁴ 'Behind a Name: Controversial "father" of endocrinology: Brown-Séquard', *Endocrine Today*, 25 February 2008 at www.endocrinetoday.com/view.aspx?rid=26589. Brown-Séquard was born in 1818 in Mauritius, a British colony. He could claim nationality in the United States because of his father, Edward Brown, an American sea captain, in France, because of his mother Charlotte Séquard, and in Britain, because of his birth on a British colonial island.

In June 1889, at the age of 72, [Brown-Séquard] made his most famous presentation about a series of rejuvenation experiments to the Societe de Biologie [in Paris]. He claimed that daily injections of testicular blood, seminal fluid, and testicular extract from guinea pigs and dogs made him feel 30 years younger. He told the audience, whose average age was 71, that with the use of these injections he was able to lift heavier weights than before, work for hours after dinner, and run up and down steps.

His presentation made a huge impact on the medical community. Despite much criticism and ridicule of Brown-Séquard and his conclusions, both the medical and popular press publicized his conclusions.⁵

At the same time that Dr Brown-Séquard was searching for an elixir of life, well-to-do gentlemen in London were using the Middle Ages practice of alchemy to search for a chemical elixir of life. Freemasonry was rumored to be involved in alchemy due to the influence of Rosicrucianism, a theology of a secret society of mystics interested in discovering insights into nature.^{6/7/8} At this date, secret societies such as the Freemasons flourished in London's West End. According to Dr Andrew Prescott, Director at the Centre for Research into Freemasonry at the University of Sheffield, Yorkshire, UK:

One of the engines behind the development of Victorian middle class culture was the multiplicity of clubs and societies in both London and the provinces. One of the largest and most influential of these was freemasonry. Mainstream craft freemasonry in England was governed by the United Grand Lodge, a descendant of the first Grand Lodge established in London in 1717. Victoria's reign saw an astonishing boom in freemasonry. In 1840, there were just over a hundred lodges in London and 340 in the provinces. By 1894, the number of London lodges alone had increased to 382, and the provincial lodges showed a similarly large increase. There were also English masonic lodges throughout the Empire, and by 1894 there were altogether 2543 lodges on the register of United Grand Lodge.⁹



Sir Henry Irving

5 *'Behind a Name: Controversial "father" of endocrinology: Brown-Séquard', Endocrine Today, 25 February 2008 at www.endocrinetoday.com/view.aspx?rid=26589*

6 *Jeff Dannes, 'Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn' (Jan 2009), Washington and Lee University, 'Magic, Science, and Religion', available at home.wlu.edu/~lubint/touchstone/GoldenDawn-Dannes.htm.*

7 *C E Lindgren, 'The Rose Cross in America 1800-1909' (Chapter three of The Rose Cross, 1996), available at users.panola.com/lindgren/rosecross-2.html*

8 *R A Gilbert, 'The masonic career of A. E. Waite, Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon,' available at freemasonry.bcy.ca/aqc/waite/waite.html.*

9 *Andrew Prescott, 'Brother Irving: Sir Henry Irving and Freemasonry' (Dec 2003), available at www.theirvingsociety.org.uk/brother_irving.htm.*



Sir William Cusins

The famed actor and manager of the Lyceum Theatre, Sir Henry Irving, was a noted Freemason. Dr Prescott states:

Biographies of Victorian worthies frequently list their masonic honours with other social attainments, and in reporting details of Sir Henry Irving's involvement with freemasonry in his Life of Irving, Austin Brereton was following these precedents in order to emphasise Irving's respectability. The information given by Brereton is confirmed by the register of membership held by the United Grand Lodge of England and available for consultation at the Library and Museum of Freemasonry. There are three degrees in craft freemasonry: entered apprentice; fellow craft; and master mason. Irving was initiated and became an entered apprentice in the Jerusalem Lodge No. 197, which met at Freemasons' Hall in London, on 27 April 1877. Irving was initiated by the master of the lodge, the organist Sir William Cusins.¹⁰

I came upon another secret society, an offshoot of the Freemasons, called the Order of the Golden Dawn whose central philosophy was Rosicrucianism. Members of the Order are known to have dabbled in alchemy. Bram Stoker, the author of *Dracula* and business manager for Irving, was a member. According to Jeff Dannes of Washington and Lee University:

*The Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn (G.D.) was a secret fraternal organization dedicated to the study (with practical focus) of occult and esoteric practices. The organization was founded in the late 1880s by prominent Freemasons, and drew heavily on the tradition of Victorian Freemasonry, and from the German Rosicrucian movement. The Order also based much of its ritual practice on ancient texts, particularly the Egyptian "Book of the Dead" and the Hebrew Kabbala, but G.D. never identified itself as a religion or substitute for religion. Like Rosicrucians and some Kabbalists, G.D. adherents (called adepts) sought to "penetrate the mysteries of nature," that is, to reform philosophy and science to reveal divine truths. **The Order used alchemy, astrology and other such practices to reveal a member's "true life."** Golden Dawn adepts could be of any religious persuasion and any gender. The group recruited members from all sections of European Society, **though many were members of Britain's intellectual elite: W.B. Yeats, Aleister Crowley, and Bram Stoker all belonged to the Order...**¹¹*

When Tumblety was socializing with the military elite in Washington, D.C., during the Civil War, could he have come in contact with the idea of Rosicrucianism? At the same time Tumblety was in Washington so was General Ethan Allen Hitchcock (1798-1870), special advisor to the Secretary of War. Hitchcock was a high member and author of an American Rosicrucian society called the Fraternitas Rosae Crucis. He was also the head of a Washington-based Rosicrucian club associated with the society.^{12, 13} Note what he stated about the elixir of life:

10 Andrew Prescott, 'Brother Irving: Sir Henry Irving and Freemasonry' (Dec 2003), available at www.theirvingsociety.org.uk/brother_irving.htm.

11 Dannes, 'Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn' op cit.

12 The Fraternitas Rosae Crucis Fraternity, 'General Ethan Allen Hitchcock', available at www.soul.org/E%20A%20Hitchcock.html

13 C E Lindgren, biography of Paschal Beverly Randolph (Jan 2000), American National Biography, ACLS and Oxford University Press, available at users.panola.com/AAGHS/ARTICLES/Randolph-1.html

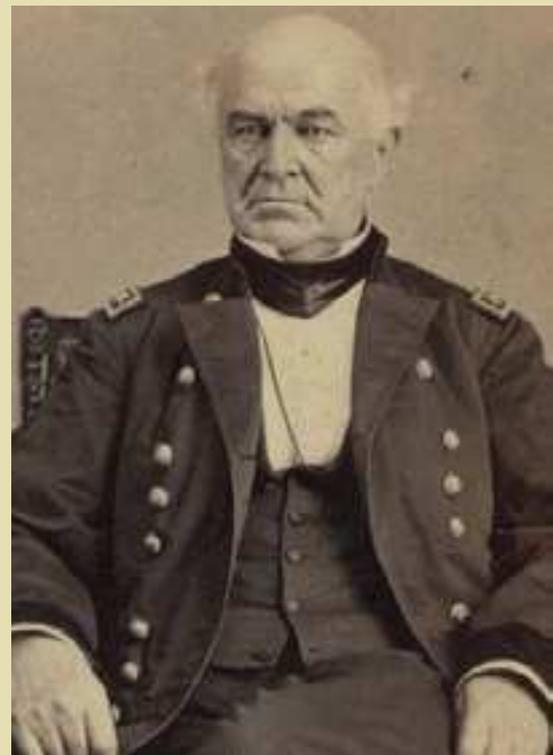
*I am convinced that the character of the Alchemists, and the object of their study, have been universally misconceived; and as a matter of fact [proven such by experience], the subject is of such importance to the seeker for truth, that the mystery should be revealed... The opinion has become almost universal, that Alchemy is a 'pretended science by which gold and silver were to be made by the transmutation being called the Philosopher's Stone.' Those who professed this Art are supposed to have been either impostors or under the delusion created by impostors and mountebanks... It was in that midnight of darkness that a light from heaven was discussed in books for the initiated, as the Elixir of Life, the Water of Life, the Universal Medicine, and the Philosopher's Stone.*¹⁴

General Hitchcock was also closely associated with the European Rosicrucian societies. He was a member of the Order of the Rose of England, and of L'Ordre du Lis of France and he patterned the Rosicrucian Club of Washington somewhat after the two. He also was a member of the Order of the Double Eagle of Austria.

Another Rosicrucian that Tumblety may have met prior to his London trip was the founder of the Fraternitas Rosae Crucis, Paschal Beverly Randolph (1825-1875).¹⁵ He was an American medical doctor and writer. According to A E Waite, Randolph introduced Rosicrucianism and sex magic to the United States. In the 1840s and 1850s, Randolph traveled to Europe to meet with the European Rosicrucians. In 1858 in London, he was made the Supreme Grand Master of the Western World and Knight of the L'Ordre du Lis. He was a close friend of President Abraham Lincoln and was at Lincoln's funeral. Coincidentally, Francis Tumblety was also at the funeral, by his own account in his 1872 book.¹⁶

In his *Ripperologist* article entitled 'Knocking on Pall Mall's Door', Joe Chetcuti writes about the Beefsteak Room and the associated Beefsteak Club in London's West End:

*[The Beefsteak Room was a] private dining area was located inside the famous Lyceum Theatre in London's West End. Beginning in early August 1888, American actor Richard Mansfield performed in 'Dr Jekyll and Mr. Hyde' on the Lyceum stage, ...the vast majority of these patrons were never given the opportunity to step foot on the carpet of the exclusive Beefsteak Room. Entry into this chamber was by invitation only - an invitation sent by Sir Henry Irving himself - the manager of the theatre.*¹⁷



General Ethan Allen Hitchcock



Paschal Beverly Randolph

¹⁴ *The Fraternitas Rosae Crucis Fraternity, 'General Ethan Allen Hitchcock', op cit.*

¹⁵ *Lindgren, biography of Paschal Beverly Randolph, op cit.*

¹⁶ *Francis Tumblety, A Narrative of Dr. Tumblety, op cit.*

¹⁷ *Joe Chetcuti, 'Knocking on Pall Mall's Door', Ripperologist 87, January 2008.*

Many of the West End clubs and theatres were playgrounds for the elite. Bram Stoker was an active member of the Beefsteak Club. Joe Chetcuti states, 'Writer Thomas Hall Caine was part of the inner circle of this social setting and would consistently receive an invitation from Irving to enter through the Lyceum's rear entrance.' Stoker was also frequently seen with Hall Caine, a former lover and associate of Tumblety.

The following is a paragraph on Francis Tumblety in the Suspects section at casebook.org:

*After [the Civil War] Tumblety wisely chose to leave the U.S. for London in the late 1860s, soon after travelling to Berlin, then to Liverpool in 1874. It was there that he was to meet the not-yet famous Sir Henry Hall Caine (then 21), who was bisexual and almost certainly carried on a homosexual affair with the 'doctor.' The two carried on their romance until 1876, when Tumblety returned to New York City. While in New York, Tumblety aroused suspicion through his 'seeming mania for the company of young men and grown-up youths.'*¹⁸



Hall Caine

Joe Chetcuti notes that literary critic Elaine Showalter spoke of 'the shadow of homosexuality that surrounded clubland', such as the Beefsteak Club.¹⁹ With Tumblety's ex-boyfriend a member of the elite Beefsteak Club and it having a shadow of homosexuality, it certainly seems like this world would have been a draw for Tumblety to frequent, given the Irish-American doctor's homosexual preferences. Notice what Dr Tumblety stated to *The New World* reporter on 29 January 1889:

*If it were necessary I could show you letters from many distinguished people whom I have met abroad. I am a frequenter of some of the best London clubs, among others the Carleton Club and the Beefsteak Club...*²⁰

At around the same time that the 'eminent' engineer proposed the theory that Jack the Ripper was searching for ingredients to an elixir of life as reported in the above *Bridgeport News* article of 8 October 1888, the *Reno Evening Gazette*, Reno, Nevada, on the same date, told its readers that Colonel Francis Hughes-Hallett, Member of Parliament for Rochester, Kent, was convinced that Jack the Ripper was a wealthy London West End club man:

Colonel (F.C.) Hughes-Hallett of London, formerly of the Royal Artillery and a member of Parliament, is in this city. He says that he disguised himself and investigated the Whitechapel case just after the second murder - that of Martha Turner. He said to-day: "I had made up my mind, and I have seen no reason to change it, that the perpetrator of the atrocities is a West End man, a gentleman, a person of wealth and culture perhaps, but certainly of intellectual qualities, (finesse) and keen discrimination. I was convinced that my man left his club, as I was then doing, and disguised himself for his hideous nocturnal revel, as I was then about to do. My theory is

18 'Francis Tumblety' at www.casebook.org/suspects/tumblety.html

19 Chetcuti, 'Knocking on Pall Mall's Door', *op cit*.

20 *The New World*, 29 January 1889.

that the Whitechapel murderer is an army doctor, or medicine student, or a gentleman who has read medicine and studied anatomy as a fad or simply as part of a liberal education. I have no idea that he is practicing physician or hospital student. I believe him to be a gentleman and a man of leisure, or perhaps a retired army surgeon. He is a man of the world... ”²¹

When Hughes-Hallett stated, ‘as I was then doing’, in reference to him leaving his club just as the killer was, he was explaining to the reporter that the West End was his world and that he understood how the frequenters of that world thought. It seems plausible that the colonel knew of the shadow of homosexuality at the clubs and had this in mind when he was interviewed.

Recall that Bram Stoker was a member of the Order of the Golden Dawn, an Order known for its alchemy and search for an elixir of life. As an active member of the Beefsteak Club during the time of the Whitechapel murders and a friend of Tumblety’s ex-boyfriend, Hall Caine, it would not be a big stretch for Tumblety to know about the Order of the Golden Dawn and their goals.



Colonel Francis Hughes-Hallett

On a whim, I decided to Google ‘Order of the Golden Dawn’ and ‘Tumblety’. A fictional work by James Reese came up called *The Dracula Dossier: A Novel of Suspense*. Check out this summary of the plot as given in *Publishers Weekly*:

*In Reese’s scrupulously imagined thriller, told largely through entries from a lost journal kept by the author of Dracula in 1888, Bram Stoker attends an indoctrination ceremony of the Order of the Golden Dawn, at the behest of Oscar Wilde’s mum and a young William Butler Yeats. The ceremony goes horribly awry, resulting in one participant—Francis Tumblety, a patent medicine salesman newly arrived from America—becoming a vessel for the evil Egyptian god Set and applying his surgical skills to the slaughter of Whitechapel prostitutes in order to draw Stoker out for a supernatural showdown. Bestseller Reese (The Witchery) so perfectly pastiches the journal format that initially his story reads as dry and boringly as most private diaries. With Tumblety’s malignant conversion, though, the novel turns into a rip-roaring penny dreadful that compels reading to the end. Dracula fans will appreciate the nods to well-known works that Stoker wrote supposedly following this confrontation.*²²

I contacted writer James Reese to let him know how my research independently led to a similar connection between Tumblety and the Order of the Golden Dawn just as he described in his book. Mr Reese was quite intrigued by the connection. The difference between Mr Reese’s novel and what the present article is suggesting is the direct involvement of freemasonry. The prevalence of freemasonry in the West End created the social setting for the opportunity for an eminent engineer to be privy to the idea of Jack the Ripper seeking an elixir of life and also to be acquainted with Tumblety.

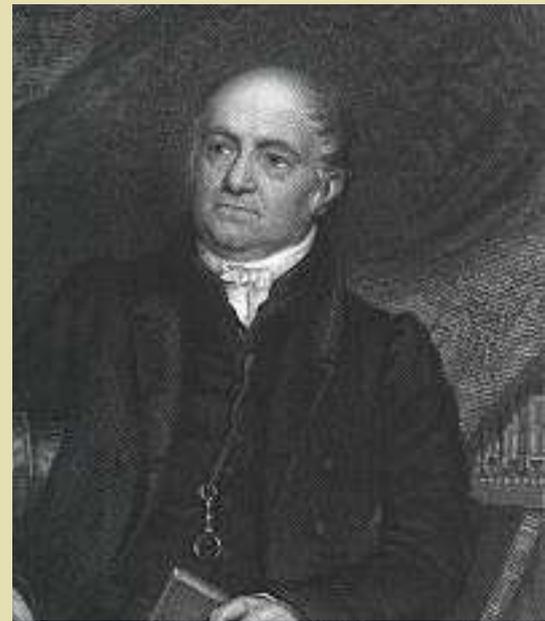
²¹ ‘LONDON HORRORS, A New Theory Relative to the Whitechapel Murders,’ *New York, Oct. 6., Reno Evening Gazette, Reno, Nevada, 8 October 1888.*

²² *Write-up on James Reese’s The Dracula Dossier: A Novel of Suspense (HarperCollins Publishers, New York, NY, 2008), as given in Publishers Weekly.*

This leads us back to the earlier cited 8 October 1888 *Bridgeport News* article. Was the eminent engineer who proposed the elixir of life theory also a member of these same West End clubs? Was he a freemason, and, thus, 'in the know' about secret societies such as the Order of the Golden Dawn and their search for the elixir of life?

Enter Sir Charles Hutton Gregory (1817-1898), an eminent British civil engineer, who was president of the Institute of Civil Engineers from 1867 to 1869. He was appointed a Knight Commander on the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George in November 1884. Notice what Dr Andrew Prescott states about civil engineers involved with freemasonry,

*The Jerusalem Lodge in which Irving had been initiated was one of London's oldest and most prestigious. It had been founded in 1771 and was one of the nineteen 'red apron' lodges which were entitled to nominate one of their members as Grand Steward. Jerusalem Lodge was the first private masonic lodge in England which the Prince of Wales visited after becoming a mason. The membership of the lodge was dominated by civil engineers and architects, including Sir Charles Hutton Gregory, President of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Charles Barry, the eldest son of the architect of the Palace of Westminster and a distinguished architect in his own right, John Whichcord, President of the Royal Institution of British Architects, and the general managers of the Midland Railway and the London and North Western Railway.*²³



Sir Charles Hutton Gregory

Sir Charles Gregory was a freemason in an Order not only dominated by civil engineers but that also included actor and theatre manager Sir Henry Irving as a member. With Irving having social interaction with Tumblety's ex-boyfriend Hall Caine and Bram Stoker, it is not out of the realm of possibility that the engineer mentioned in the *Bridgeport News* article was Gregory. Gregory's future wife was a veteran British actress, who frequently played at the Lyceum Theatre, Mary Anne or Fanny (Clifton) Stirling (1815-1898).²⁴ Fanny Stirling appeared at the Lyceum Theatre in 1857 in *A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing* and in 1884 in *Romeo and Juliet*. It is interesting that the *Bridgeport News* article tells us that 'The basis of this investigation has a startling Shakespearian flavor' - a comment perfectly suited for a theory involving the Lyceum Theatre and these possibly interconnected parties.

Was it mere coincidence that investigators possibly ended up in an East End herb store run by Jack the Ripper suspect Dr Francis Tumblety given that Tumblety himself claimed he socialized in the same West End clubs as men like Sir Charles Gregory, Irving, Stoker and Hall Caine?

²³ Prescott, 'Brother Irving: Sir Henry Irving and Freemasonry', *op cit.*

²⁴ 'Fanny Sterling' in C E Pascoe, *Our Actors and Actresses: The Dramatic List. Bronx, NY, and London, Benjamin Blom, Inc., 1880, republished 1969, p. 319.*



Michael Hawley holds a master's degree in science (invertebrate paleontology) and secondary science education at State University of New York, College of Buffalo, and has published research in fossil faunal distribution, microstratigraphy, and rock correlation. Additionally, he holds a bachelor's degree at Michigan State University in geology and geophysics and a second degree at the College of Buffalo, in earth science secondary education and chemistry. He has been involved in genealogical research since 1992, which ultimately led to his interest in ripperology research. He just retired as commander and naval aviator in the U.S. Navy, and is currently enjoying a career as a secondary earth science and chemistry teacher. He resides with his wife and six children in Greater Buffalo, New York.