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"OIL UNDER THE WINDOW"

A Review by the Author, Norman Berrow.

In the country house of Sir Julius Wincham, an eminent but somewhat unscrupulous financier in the city of London, were three marvellous pearl necklaces. Originally, when Sir Julius had first acquired them, they had been in one long rope; but Sir Julius, realising that here was portable wealth, had divided it into three, and given them to members of his family. One went to his sister, one to his niece, Mary, and the other to his wife. Sir Julius, now a widower, kept this third one in trust for Mary, who was eventually to get all three.

(At least, I think that was something of the idea. N.B.—con apologia.)

To Sir Julius one evening came a curt note from an unknown, signing himself "The Black," stating that he, "The Black," would visit Wincham House very shortly and possess himself of the necklace that Sir Julius was holding in trust. Sir Julius pooh-poohed the threat, and threw the note into the fire.

But "The Black" came. He came one evening as Sir Julius was dressing for dinner, and he left bearing the necklace, and leaving Sir Julius half-strangled. That same evening Sir Julius's chauffeur disappeared—to be found later, murdered.

"The Black" sent another note. And again, despite police protection, and Inspector Mellish, of Scotland Yard, he came. This time he took with him the second necklace, that of Sir Julius's sister. Again there was another short disappearance, and another murder, that of Sir Julius's valet. And again he left another note, saying that he would be back for the third and last necklace.

The problems that faced Inspector Mellish were these: Why the apparently unnecessary killings? What connection, if any, had they with the robberies? How was he going to stop "The Black" from getting the third necklace? Lastly, who was "The Black?"

And not until the Inspector saw the oil under the dining-room window could he make any attempt to answer them. Then he guessed.

(And did he guess aright?)

This, as far as I can remember, is the essence of the thing. In addition it contains a certain amount of alleged humour, and is written with the author's well-known flair (?). And I think it's fair to medium tripe.

FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR

Our Library year closes on January 31st every year, and as usual at such times we are busy preparing reports and balances. The work of the Library has gone along on the usual lines, even to an increase in the number of subscribers. The Juvenile Department has had a busy year, showing an increase in numbers of juvenile subscribers and quite a large addition to the number of books on the shelves. It is most regrettable that we are unable to give our young members proper and sufficient seating accommodation and room to enjoy either reading or pictures.

It will be interesting to watch and see how

the City Council deals with the motion to be brought forward by Dr. Guthrie re the Canterbury Public Library. I am wondering how long we shall have to wait before the City Council seriously considers the difficulties under which we do the work of running our Library, for while we sometimes get indignant at the apathy of the City Fathers, when we are continually being reminded of the way our young members have to put up with such cramped quarters, we also realise that the same condition exists in the other departments of our Library.

We have waited for some years now for a new building, and sometimes we almost lose hope. However, let us at the end of this financial year fervently express the hope that during the coming year something practical and tangible will be done, and then the Chair believes that Linwood will not only increase—if not in leaps and bounds—then at least steadily, and that everyone, both subscribers and management will find greater pleasure and comfort in working for "Our Library."

Though the "Linwood Library Gazette" is devoted wholly to purely Library matters and affairs, it is fitting that we should refer to the death of King George V., an event that has brought such deep sorrow to the Empire and from all parts of the world, such wonderful testimony of the great esteem and high regard held by those who owed him no allegiance.

When the news flashed round the world that "The King is dead" men were at first stunned by its suddenness, quickly followed by a poignant sense of loss. King George held a place in the hearts of British people hardly comparable with the feelings held for previous sovereigns; it was deeper and of a rarer quality, we felt that he was ours, for we had heard his voice speaking to us as a father might speak to his sons and daughters, with a spiritual force, appealing in its intensity and emotional power. Those who heard will remember the sincerity of his tones, and however long life may be those words will ever be an inspiration and a fragrant comforting memory.

We respectfully tender our sincere sympathy to King Edward VIII., Queen Mary, and to all the members of the Royal Family in their great bereavement and sorrow.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

OUR FOUNDERS. No. 5

W. W. Tanner

Of the founders of our Library, Mr W. W. Tanner must rank with Mr Dan Richardson and Mr A. Marshall. Mr Tanner was born in the village of Moulton, Northamptonshire, in 1851. He was educated at the Church of England school in the village, and was later apprenticed to the cordwaining business. When his apprenticeship was over the bottom fell out of the business because of the new method of rivetting soles coming into general use. Mr Tanner immediately turned his attention to the rivetting work, and was employed in the shoe trade in Northampton

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