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中英文阅读 一书两用

# 福尔摩斯探案集 (全译本)

Mysteries of Sherlock Holmes

(英) 柯南道尔 (Doyle, Arthur Conan) 著

英语学习大书虫研究室 译

英语大书虫世界文学名著文库

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(英)阿·柯南道尔 著  
英语学习大书虫研究室 译

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## 导 读

福尔摩斯在中国,是一个家喻户晓,妇孺皆知的人物。他头脑冷静,思维敏捷,逻辑严谨,行动迅速,通过严密的推理或心理分析层层推进,将真相逐步抽剥出来,最终以戏剧性的惊诧完成整个案件。因此他在世界范围内受到广泛的欢迎,几乎已经成为严密推理的代名词。

福尔摩斯这一形象的塑造者阿·柯南道尔(1859—1930),1859年出生于苏格兰爱丁堡附近的皮卡地普拉斯,父亲是政府的一位公务员。他青少年时代在教会学校上学,后于爱丁堡大学学医学,1885年获医学博士学位。1902年被封爵。他的首部作品《血字的研究》于1887年出版,从此一发不可收拾。他于1891年弃医从文,专事写作。

福尔摩斯之所以大受欢迎,其中一个主要的原因就是他那有血有肉的人物形象。他有普通人的优点和缺点,乐观、正直、热情、勇敢,当然有时也很傲慢、尖刻、自以为是。他穿梭于多雾的伦敦的大街小巷,出没于城镇和乡村,与各行各业三教九流的人物接触,就如同我们身边的普通大众中的一个,使读者很容易从心理上接纳他、认可他。但是,福尔摩斯并不是一个真实存在的侦探,小说也不是专门总结他一生的侦查经验,因此,福尔摩斯身上存在着许多虚构成分。

福尔摩斯是一个塑造得十分成功的人物典型。在他身上所反映的侦探经验和方法,至今还有一定的借鉴意义。首先,他十分重视调查研究,对自己所承办的案件,几乎毫无例外地要到现场进行细致的勘查。其次,他对待案子极其认真负责,常常不避艰险,深入虎穴,有时甚至在自己身上进行毒气实验。再次,他善于运用心理学和逻辑学。另外,福尔摩斯还十分注意搜集资料,积累知识,其广泛的知识面和丰富的生活经验让读者顿生钦佩。

柯南道尔在创作手法上显示了非凡的功力。小说写得惊险、刺激、充满悬念，结构严密，丝丝入扣，起伏跌宕，引人入胜。它不断从各个方面提出各种问题，吸引读者随着福尔摩斯脚步逐渐走向事情的真相，那种云雾散尽、目标骤然清晰的喜悦让人爱不释手。这种手法在某种程度上类似中国的章回小说，也是今天侦探小说常用的一种手法。小说还常常利用惊险的情节，扣人心弦，刺激读者的感情，使读者既感到恐怖，却又欲罢不能，从而留下深刻的印象。

然而正统的文学史认为柯南道尔的福尔摩斯缺乏深刻的、真正的社会意义。可西方评论家戈德史密斯却说：“一本书可以有上百条谬误，但它却十分有趣。”柯南道尔侦探小说的艺术技巧，对后来产生了相当大的影响。

一般认为，埃德爱伦·坡是侦探小说之父，威尔基·柯林斯把侦探小说推向了新的阶段。但是毫无疑问，柯南道尔因为塑造了福尔摩斯这样一个完美的、令人难以忘怀的神探的形象而成为最有影响的、家喻户晓的侦探小说家。

本书选取了《血字的研究》、《四签名》、《巴斯克维尔猎犬》、《恐怖谷》四个长篇。大抵都是柯南道尔有代表意义的作品，基本上囊括了福尔摩斯探案故事的精华，使读者得以窥见福尔摩斯系列探案故事的风貌。

译 者

二〇〇一年一月

## 目 录

血字的研究 .....	(1)
四签名 .....	(157)
巴斯克维尔的猎犬 .....	(305)
恐怖谷 .....	(517)

*A Study in Scarlet*

**血字的研究**





Part 1  
BEING A REPRINT FROM  
THE REMINISCENCES OF  
JOHN H. WATSON, M. D.,  
LATE OF THE ARMY  
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

Chapter 1

MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES

IN THE YEAR 1878 I took my degree of Doctor of Medicine of the University of London, and proceeded to Netley to go through the course prescribed for surgeons in the Army. Having completed my studies there, I was duly attached to the Fifth Northumberland Fusiliers as assistant surgeon. The regiment was stationed in India at the time, and before I could join it, the second Afghan war had broken out. On landing at Bombay, I learned that my corps had advanced through the passes, and was already deep in the enemy's country. I followed, however, with many other officers who were in the same situation as myself, and succeeded in reaching Candahar in safety, where I found my regiment, and at once entered upon my new duties.

The campaign brought honours and promotion to many, but for me it had nothing but misfortune and disaster. I was removed from my brigade and attached to the Berkshires, with whom I served at the fatal battle of Maiwand. There I was struck on the shoulder by a Jezail bullet, which shattered the bone and grazed the subclavian artery. I should have fallen into the hands of the murderous Ghazis

第一部

录自前陆军军医部医学  
博士约翰·H·华生回忆录

第一章

歇洛克·福尔摩斯先生

一八七八年我在伦敦大学获得了我的医学博士学位,接着就到内特黎攻读军医的必修课程。完成了那儿的学习之后,我立即被派往诺桑伯兰第五火枪团任助理军医。当时该团驻扎在印度,我还没有来得及赶到那儿去报到,第二次阿富汗战争就爆发了。到达孟买后,我得知我所属的那个团已经开拔,而且成功地穿过山隘,深入到了敌人的后方。尽管如此,我还是和其他许多落伍的军官一起追赶着部队,平安抵达坎达哈。在那儿我找到了我所属的团队,并马上就任我的新职务。

那场战争给许多的人带来了荣誉和提升的机会,但带给我的只是痛苦和灾难。我被调到了伯克郡旅,随即便陷入了旺旺德苦战。在这次战斗中,一颗还不清楚目标就发射了的子弹射中了我的肩膀,击碎了我的肩胛骨,并擦伤了锁骨下的动脉。如果不是我那勇敢的勤务兵莫里忠心耿耿,把我救起扔

had it not been for the devotion and courage shown by Murray, my orderly, who threw me across a pack-horse, and succeeded in bringing me safely to the British lines.

Worn with pain, and weak from the prolonged hardships which I had undergone, I was removed, with a great train of wounded sufferers, to the base hospital at Peshawar. Here I rallied, and had already improved so far as to be able to walk about the wards, and even to bask a little upon the veranda, when I was struck down by enteric fever, that curse of our Indian possessions. For months my life was despaired of, and when at last I came to myself and became convalescent, I was so weak and emaciated that a medical board determined that not a day should be lost in sending me back to England. I was despatched, accordingly, in the troopship *Orontes*, and landed a month later on Portsmouth jetty, with my health irretrievably ruined, but with permission from a paternal government to spend the next nine months in attempting to improve it.

I had neither kith nor kin in England, and was therefore as free as air—or as free as an income of eleven shillings and sixpence a day will permit a man to be. Under such circumstances I naturally gravitated to London, that great cesspool into which all the loungers and idlers of the Empire are irresistibly drained. There I stayed for some time at a private hotel in the Strand, leading a comfortless, meaningless existence, and spending such money as I had, considerably more freely than I ought. So alarming did the state of my finances become, that I soon realized that I must either leave the metropolis and rusticate somewhere in the country, or that I must make a complete alteration in my style of living. Choosing

在一匹驮马的背上,将我安全地带回英国阵地的话,我早就落入杀人如麻的格吉人手中了。

伤痛使我体力衰竭,长期的艰苦转战更使我弱不经风,于是我不得不与其他伤员一起被送到波舒尔后方医院。经过一段时间的调养,我的身体渐渐恢复,可是当我已经能够在病房中稍稍走动,甚至还能在走廊上晒一会儿太阳的时候,我又病倒了,染上了我们印度属地的那种该死的伤寒。连续几个月我昏迷不醒,奄奄一息,最后我终于清醒过来,逐渐痊愈,但我的身体十分虚弱和憔悴,因此医生会诊后,决定立即将我遣送回英国。于是,我乘坐兵船“爱伦提兹”号回国了,一个月后,我在朴茨茅斯的码头登岸。那时,我的健康状况已糟糕透顶,几乎到了难以恢复的地步,不过好心的政府给了我九个月的假期,让我休养生息。

我在英国无亲无故,所以逍遥自在得很,一个每天收入十一先令六便士的人能有多么快乐,我也就有多么自在。在这样的情况下,我理所当然地去了伦敦,也就是汇集着大英帝国所有吊儿郎当、游手好闲之徒的那个大大粪池。我在湖滨路一家私人旅馆里住了一段时间,过着无所事事、无聊透顶的生活,我有多少钱就花多少,有时还入不敷出。我的经济状况使我警觉起来,很快我就认识到,要么我离开这个大都市搬到乡村小镇去,要么就彻底改变自己的生活方式。我选择了后一种,决心搬出这家旅馆,另找一个不太奢侈花费也不大

the latter alternative, I began by making up my mind to leave the hotel, and take up my quarters in some less pretentious and less expensive domicile.

On the very day that I had come to this conclusion, I was standing at the Criterion Bar, when someone tapped me on the shoulder, and turning round I recognized young Stamford, who had been a dresser under me at Bart's. The sight of a friendly face in the great wilderness of London is a pleasant thing indeed to a lonely man. In old days Stamford had never been a particular crony of mine, but now I hailed him with enthusiasm, and he, in his turn, appeared to be delighted to see me. In the exuberance of my joy, I asked him to lunch with me at the Holborn, and we started off together in a hansom.

"Whatever have you been doing with yourself, Watson?" he asked in undisguised wonder, as we rattled through the crowded London streets. "You are as thin as a lath and as brown as a nut."

I gave him a short sketch of my adventures, and had hardly concluded it by the time that we reached our destination.

"Poor devil!" he said, commiseratingly, after he had listened to my misfortunes. "What are you up to now?"

"Looking for lodgings," I answered. "Trying to solve the problem as to whether it is possible to get comfortable rooms at a reasonable price."

"That's a strange thing," remarked my companion; "you are the second man to-day that has used that expression to me."

"And who was the first?" I asked.

"A fellow who is working at the chemical laboratory up at the hospital. He was bemoaning himself this morning because he could not

的住处。

就在我决定这样做的那天,我正站在克莱梯利安酒吧门前的时候,忽然有人拍了拍我的肩膀,我回头一看,原来是小斯坦弗,他是我在巴茨时的一个助手。在这茫茫人海的伦敦城中,居然能够碰到一个熟人,对于一个人孤独的人来说,的确是一件令人愉快的事。斯坦弗当时并不是和我特别要好的朋友,但现在我竟热情地向他招呼起来,他见到我,似乎也很高兴。我在狂喜之余,立刻邀他到霍本餐厅去吃午饭,于是我们就一同乘车前往。

当我们的马车嘎吱嘎吱地穿过伦敦熙熙攘攘的街道时,他抑制不住好奇心问道:"华生,你最近究竟是怎么了?瞧你骨瘦如柴,脸色乌青的样子。"

我把我的经历向他简单地描述了一下,可话还没有讲完,我们就到达了目的地。

"可怜的家伙!"他听我讲完我的不幸遭遇后,同情地说,"那你现在在干什么呢?"

"找住处,"我答道,"看看能不能找到几间既舒适,价格又公道的房子。"

"这真是怪了,"我的同伴说,"你是今天第二个对我说这番话的人了。"

我问道:"头一个是谁?"

"是一个在医院化验室工作的人。今天早晨他还在唉声叹气,因为他找到了几间好房子,但是租金

get someone to go halves with him in some nice rooms which he had found, and which were too much for his purse."

"By Jove!" I cried; "if he really wants someone to share the rooms and the expense, I am the very man for him. I should prefer having a partner to being alone."

Young Stamford looked rather strangely at me over his wineglass. "You don't know Sherlock Holmes yet," he said; "perhaps you would not care for him as a constant companion."

"Why, what is there against him?"

"Oh, I didn't say there was anything against him. He is a little queer in his ideas—an enthusiast in some branches of science. As far as I know he is a decent fellow enough."

"A medical student, I suppose?" said I.

"No—I have no idea what he intends to go in for. I believe he is well up in anatomy, and he is a first-class chemist; but, as far as I know, he has never taken out any systematic medical classes. His studies are very desultory and eccentric, but he has amassed a lot of out-of-the-way knowledge which would astonish his professors."

"Did you never ask him what he was going in for?" I asked.

"No; he is not a man that it is easy to draw out, though he can be communicative enough when the fancy seizes him."

"I should like to meet him," I said. "If I am to lodge with anyone, I should prefer a man of studious and quiet habits. I am not strong enough yet to stand much noise or excitement. I had enough of both in Afghanistan to last me for the remainder of my natural existence. How could I meet this friend of

很贵,他一个人住不起,又找不到人跟他合租。"

我喊道:"好啊!如果他真的要找个人合住的话,我倒正是他要找的人。我觉得有个伴比独自一人住要好得多。"

小斯坦弗一边喝着酒,一边诧异地看着我说:"你还不认识歇洛克·福尔摩斯,或许你不会喜欢与他长期为伴呢。"

"怎么了,难道他有什么不好吗?"

"哦,我不是说他有什么地方不好。只不过他的想法有点儿怪——他对某些科学领域特别着迷。据我了解,他算得上是个正人君子。"

"我猜他是学医的吧?"我说。

"不是——我根本说不清他将来打算做什么。我相信他精通解剖学,而且是个一流的药剂师;但据我所知,他从来没有系统地听过医学课。他所研究的内容非常杂乱,还挺古怪,不过他掌握了许多怪异的知识,连他的教授们也感到非常惊讶。"

"你从来没有问过他打算从事哪一行吗?"我问。

"没有;他不是那种你轻易就能猜出他内心想法的人,不过,当他来了兴致时,他的话倒也挺多。"

我说:"我倒愿意见见他。如果我要和别人合住,我宁愿跟一个好学而又沉静的人住在一起。我现在身体还不大结实,受不了吵闹和刺激。我在阿富汗已经尝够了那种滋味,这一辈子再也不想受了。我怎样才能见到你的这位朋

yours?"

"He is sure to be at the laboratory," returned my companion. "He either avoids the place for weeks, or else he works there from morning till night. If you like, we will drive round together after luncheon."

"Certainly," I answered, and the conversation drifted away into other channels.

As we made our way to the hospital after leaving the Holborn, Stamford gave me a few more particulars about the gentleman whom I proposed to take as a fellow-lodger.

"You mustn't blame me if you don't get on with him," he said; "I know nothing more of him than I have learned from meeting him occasionally in the laboratory. You proposed this arrangement, so you must not hold me responsible."

"If we don't get on it will be easy to part company," I answered. "It seems to me, Stamford," I added, looking hard at my companion, "that you have some reason for washing your hands of the matter. Is this fellow's temper so formidable, or what is it? Don't be mealy-mouthed about it."

"It is not easy to express the inexpressible," he answered with a laugh. "Holmes is a little too scientific for my tastes—it approaches to cold-bloodedness. I could imagine his giving a friend a little pinch of the latest vegetable alkaloid, not out of malevolence, you understand, but simply out of a spirit of inquiry in order to have an accurate idea of the effects. To do him justice, I think that he would take it himself with the same readiness. He appears to have a passion for definite and exact knowledge."

"Very right too."

"Yes, but it may be pushed to excess. When it comes to beating the subjects in the

友呢?"

我的同伴回答说:"他现在一定在化验室里。他要么就几个星期不去,要么就从早到晚在那里工作。如果你愿意的话,咱们吃过午饭就坐车一同去吧。"

我答道:"当然乐意啦。"之后,我们的话题就转到别的方面去了。

在我们离开霍本餐厅驱车前往医院的路上,斯坦弗又向我讲述了一些关于我的未来室友的详细情况。

他说:"要是你们俩相处得不融洽,可别责怪我。我对他的了解也仅仅局限于偶而在化验室碰到他。你自己提出来想和他住在一起,将来可不要把责任推到我身上来。"

"如果我们合不来,分手也很容易。"我答道。"斯坦弗,"我两眼紧紧盯着我的同伴接着说,"我觉得你不想插手此事一定有什么原因。这个人的脾气真的那么可怕,还是另外有什么原因?说话不要拐弯抹角。"

他笑了一笑说:"要把难以形容的事用言语表达出来可真不容易。我看福尔摩斯这个人有点太科学化了,几乎近于冷血的程度。我记得有一次,他拿一小撮植物碱给他的朋友品尝,你要知道,这并不是出于什么恶意,只不过是出于一种钻研的动机,想要正确地了解这种药物的不同效果而已。平心而论,我认为他自己也会一口把它吞下去的。看来他对于确切的知识有着强烈的爱好。"

"这也没什么错呀。"

"是的,可他可能太过分了。他在解剖室里用棍子抽打尸体,这

dissecting-rooms with a stick, it is certainly taking rather a bizarre shape."

"Beating the subjects!"

"Yes, to verify how far bruises may be produced after death. I saw him at it with my own eyes."

"And yet you say he is not a medical student?"

"No. Heaven knows what the objects of his studies are. But here we are, and you must form your own impressions about him." As he spoke, we turned down a narrow lane and passed through a small side-door, which opened into a wing of the great hospital. It was familiar ground to me, and I needed no guiding as we ascended the bleak stone staircase and made our way down the long corridor with its vista of whitewashed wall and dun-coloured doors. Near the farther end a low arched passage branched away from it and led to the chemical laboratory.

This was a lofty chamber, lined and littered with countless bottles. Broad, low tables were scattered about, which bristled with retorts, test-tubes, and little Bunsen lamps, with their blue flickering flames. There was only one student in the room, who was bending over a distant table absorbed in his work. At the sound of our steps he glanced round and sprang to his feet with a cry of pleasure. "I've found it! I've found it," he shouted to my companion, running towards us with a test-tube in his hand. "I have found a re-agent which is precipitated by haemoglobin, and by nothing else." Had he discovered a gold mine, greater delight could not have shone upon his features.

"Dr. Watson, Mr. Sherlock Holmes," said Stamford, introducing us.

未免太离谱了吧?"

"棍打尸体!"

"是的,为的是证实人死后还会留下什么样的伤痕。我亲眼见过这场面。"

"可你说他不是学医的。"

"是啊。可天知道他究竟都研究些什么。好了,我们到了,你可以自己瞧瞧他是个什么样的人。"话音未落,我们的马车驶进了一条窄窄的小巷,穿过了通向医院侧楼的一道边门。我对这地方很熟悉,不需要别人给我带路,我们走上阴森森的石头台阶,沿着一条长长的走廊走了过去,走廊的两边是粉刷过的白墙,上面开了许多深褐色的小门。走廊尽头有一条低矮的拱形过道岔了开去,通向化验室。

这是一间高大的屋子,里面摆满了数不清的瓶子。几张低矮的宽桌子横七竖八地立在屋里,上面放着曲颈瓶、试管和闪烁着蓝色火苗的煤气灯。屋子里只有一个人,他坐在较远的一张桌子前边,聚精会神地工作着。他听到我们的脚步声,回过头来瞧了一眼,接着就跳了起来,高兴地欢呼着:"我发现了!我发现了!"他对我的同伴大声说着,一面手里拿着一个试管向我们跑来,"我发现了一种试剂,只能用血红蛋白来沉淀,别的都不行。"即使他发现了金矿,也不见得会比现在更高兴。

斯坦弗给我们介绍说:"这位是华生医生,这位是歇洛克·福尔摩斯先生。"

“How are you?” he said cordially, gripping my hand with a strength for which I should hardly have given him credit. “You have been in Afghanistan, I perceive.”

“How on earth did you know that?” I asked in astonishment.

“Never mind,” said he, chuckling to himself. “The question now is about haemoglobin. No doubt you see the significance of this discovery of mine?”

“It is interesting, chemically, no doubt,” I answered, “but practically—”

“Why, man, it is the most practical medico-legal discovery for years. Don't you see that it gives us an infallible test for blood stains? Come over here now!” He seized me by the coat-sleeve in his eagerness, and drew me over to the table at which he had been working. “Let us have some fresh blood,” he said, digging a long bodkin into his finger, and drawing off the resulting drop of blood in a chemical pipette. “Now, I add this small quantity of blood to a litre of water. You perceive that the resulting mixture has the appearance of pure water. The proportion of blood cannot be more than one in a million. I have no doubt, however, that we shall be able to obtain the characteristic reaction.” As he spoke, he threw into the vessel a few white crystals, and then added some drops of a transparent fluid. In an instant the contents assumed a dull mahogany colour, and a brownish dust was precipitated to the bottom of the glass jar.

“Ha! ha!” he cried, clapping his hands, and looking as delighted as a child with a new toy. “What do you think of that?”

“It seems to be a very delicate test,” I remarked.

“你好!”他热情地说,一边握紧我的手。他的力气比我想象的大得多。“我想你去过阿富汗。”

我惊诧地问:“你是怎么知道的?”

“这无关紧要,”他说着,咯咯地笑了起来,“现在的问题是血红蛋白。毫无疑问,你也看到我这发现的重要性了吧?”

我回答说:“当然,从化学的角度来说,这的确很有意思,可在实用性方面——”

“嘿,老兄,这是多年来法医学上最实用的发现。难道你没有看出来?这给我们检验血迹提供了一个百试百灵的办法。请到这边来!”他急切地抓住我的衣袖,把我拉到了他刚才工作的那张桌子旁。“我们弄点鲜血,”他说着,用一根长针刺破他的手指,把流出来的那滴血吸到了一支吸管里。“我现在把这点血放到一立升水里。你看,这种混合液看上去和纯净水完全一样。血在这里面的比例不超过百万分之一。但是,我相信我们一定能得到那特定的反应。”他边说边把几粒白色的晶体放进那个容器里,然后又加进去几滴透明的液体。立刻,那混合液就变成了暗红色,一些棕色颗粒慢慢沉淀到了瓶底。

“哈!哈!”他拍着手,像小孩子拿到新玩具似的兴高采烈地喊道:“你看怎么样?”

我说:“看来这倒是非常有趣的实验。”

“Beautiful! beautiful! The old guaiacum test was very clumsy and uncertain. So is the microscopic examination for blood corpuscles. The latter is valueless if the stains are a few hours old. Now, this appears to act as well whether the blood is old or new. Had this test been invented, there are hundreds of men now walking the earth who would long ago have paid the penalty of their crimes.”

“Indeed!” I murmured.

“Criminal cases are continually hinging upon that one point. A man is suspected of a crime months perhaps after it has been committed. His linen or clothes are examined and brownish stains discovered upon them. Are they blood stains, or mud stains, or rust stains, or fruit stains, or what are they? That is a question which has puzzled many an expert, and why? Because there was no reliable test. Now we have the Sherlock Holmes’s test, and there will no longer be any difficulty.”

His eyes fairly glittered as he spoke, and he put his hand over his heart and bowed as if to some applauding crowd conjured up by his imagination.

“You are to be congratulated,” I remarked, considerably surprised at his enthusiasm.

“There was the case of Von Bischoff at Frankfort last year. He would certainly have been hung had this test been in existence. Then there was Mason of Bradford, and the notorious Muller, and Lefevre of Montpellier, and Samson of New Orleans. I could name a score of cases in which it would have been decisive.”

“You seem to be a walking calendar of crime,” said Stamford with a laugh. “You

“妙极了！简直妙极了！过去用愈创木液做试验，既难做又不准确。用显微镜检验血球的方法也同样不好。如果血迹已干了几个钟头，再用后者来检验就不行了。现在，不论血迹新旧，这种新试剂都一样会发生作用。假如这个试验方法能早些发现，那么，世界上无数逍遥法外的罪犯早就受到法律的制裁了。”

我喃喃地说道：“果真不错！”

“许多刑事犯罪案件往往取决于这一点。也许罪行发生后几个月才能查出一个嫌疑犯。检查了他的衬衣或者其他衣物后，发现上面有褐色斑点。这些斑点究竟是血迹，还是泥迹，是铁锈还是果汁的痕迹，抑或是其他什么东西？这是一个使许多专家都感到为难的问题，可是为什么呢？就是因为没有可靠的检验方法。现在，我们有了歇洛克·福尔摩斯检验法，以后就不会有任何困难了。”

说话时，他的眼睛炯炯有神，他把手放在胸前鞠躬行礼，像是面对着许多假想之中鼓掌欢呼的观众似的。

看到他那激动的样子我颇感吃惊，说：“我们的确应该向你祝贺。”

“法兰克福去年发生了冯·比肖普案。如果当时有这种检验方法，他肯定被处以绞刑了。还有布莱福德的梅森一案；臭名昭著的缪勒一案；培立尔山的利菲弗一案以及新奥尔良的萨姆森一案。我可以列举出二十个这种检验方法能起决定作用的案子。”

斯坦弗笑着说：“你简直就像一部犯罪案件的活字典。你完全



might start a paper on those lines. Call it the 'Police News of the Past.' ”

“Very interesting reading it might be made, too,” remarked Sherlock Holmes, sticking a small piece of plaster over the prick on his finger. “I have to be careful,” he continued, turning to me with a smile, “for I dabble with poisons a good deal.” He held out his hand as he spoke, and I noticed that it was all mottled over with similar pieces of plaster, and discoloured with strong acids.

“We came here on business,” said Stamford, sitting down on a high three-legged stool, and pushing another one in my direction with his foot. “My friend here wants to take diggings; and as you were complaining that you could get no one to go halves with you, I thought that I had better bring you together.”

Sherlock Holmes seemed delighted at the idea of sharing his rooms with me. “I have my eye on a suite in Baker Street,” he said, “which would suit us down to the ground. You don't mind the smell of strong tobacco, I hope?”

“I always smoke ‘ship's’ myself,” I answered.

“That's good enough. I generally have chemicals about, and occasionally do experiments. Would that annoy you?”

“By no means.”

“Let me see—what are my other shortcomings? I get in the dumps at times, and don't open my mouth for days on end. You must not think I am sulky when I do that. Just let me alone, and I'll soon be right. What have you to confess now? It's just as well for two fellows to know the worst of one another before they begin to live together.”

I laughed at this cross-examination. “I keep a bull pup,” I said, “and I object to rows be-

可以创办一份报纸,报名就叫‘陈案警事录’。”

“这种读物一定很有意思。”歇洛克·福尔摩斯说着把一小块胶布贴在手指的针眼上,又转过脸微笑着对我说:“我得小心些。因为我常常要接触毒药。”说完,他伸出手让我看,我注意到上面贴满了大小一样的胶布,由于强酸的腐蚀都已变了颜色。

“我们到你这儿来有点事情,”斯坦弗说着就坐在一只三脚高凳上,并且用脚把另一只凳子向我这边推了推,接着又说,“我这位朋友要找个住处;因为你正抱怨找不着人跟你合住,所以我想正好给你们两人介绍一下。”

歇洛克·福尔摩斯似乎对我与他合租寓所一事感到非常高兴,他说:“我看中了贝克街的一套公寓,对两人合住非常合适。我希望你不介意浓烈的烟草味。”

我答道:“我自己也常常抽‘船牌’烟的。”

“那太好了。我常常把化学药品随便乱放,偶尔也做做试验。对此你不反对吧?”

“决不会。”

“让我想想看——我还有些什么毛病呢?我有时候心情不好,会一连几天不开口。如果你碰到这种情况,不要以为我在生气。不要管我,我很快就会好的。你现在有什么要告诉我的吗?在两个人住到一起之前,最好先把对方最大的缺点了解清楚。”

听到他这样追根问底,我不禁笑了起来。我说:“我养了一条小