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# 血字的研究

A Study in Scarlet  
福尔摩斯侦探小说

RACHE

阿瑟·柯南·道尔 著  
青闰 译注

现场的墙壁上  
用鲜血赫然写着“RACHE”  
有关爱与复仇的惨案



外文出版社  
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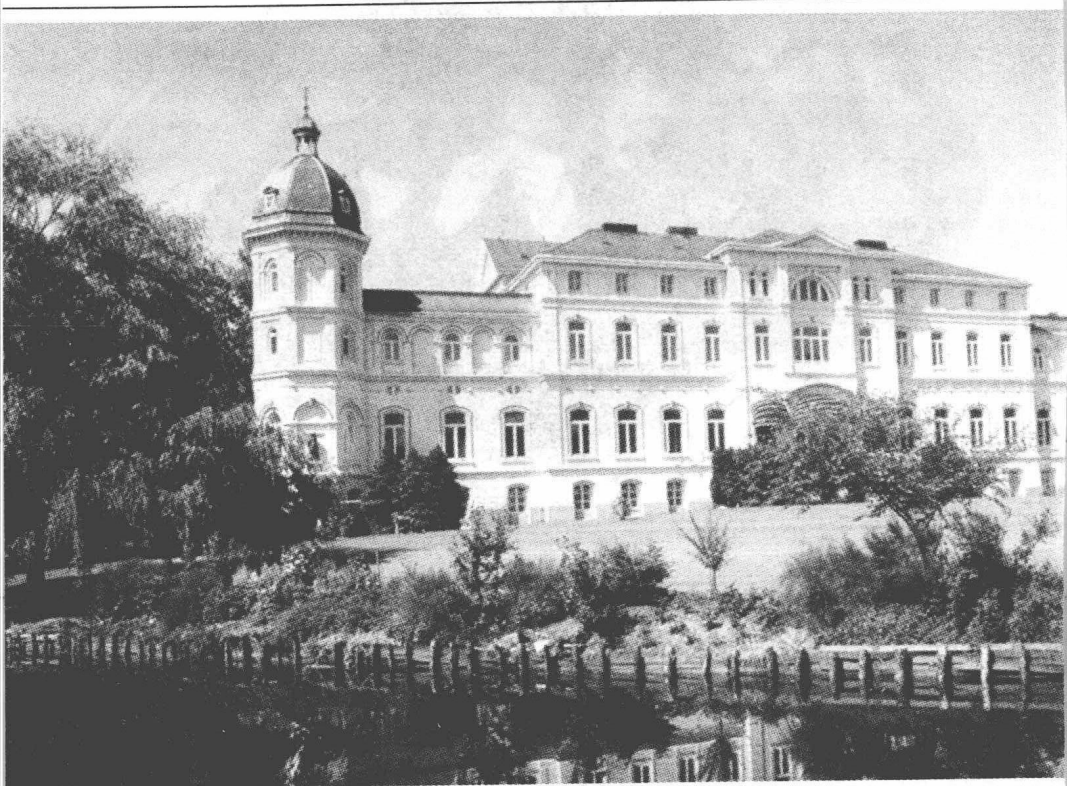
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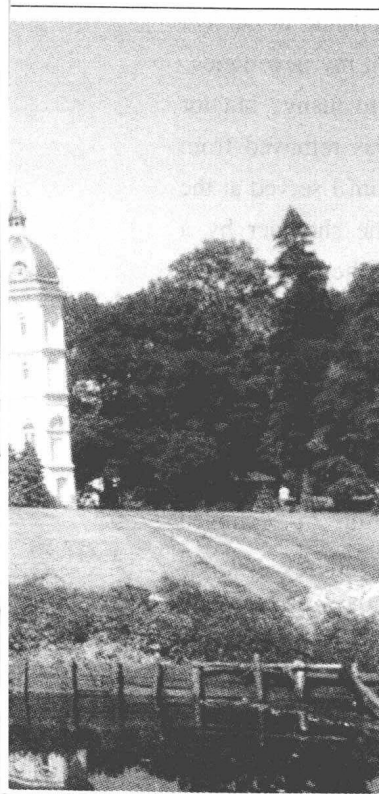
# Chapter 1

## Mr. Sherlock Holmes



## 第一章 夏洛克·福尔 摩斯先生

听到我们的脚步声，他回头瞥了一眼，欢叫着一跃而起。“我发现了！我发现了！”他对我的同伴喊着，手里拿着一个试管朝我们跑来。“我发现了一种试剂，只能用血红蛋白沉淀，其他什么都不行。”就是他发现金矿，脸上的表情也不可能比现在更高兴。



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**<sup>①</sup> for surgeons in the Army. Having completed my studies there, I was duly attached to the Fifth Northumberland **Fusiliers**<sup>②</sup> 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**<sup>③</sup> bullet, which shattered the bone and grazed the **subclavian**<sup>④</sup> artery. I should have fallen into the hands of the murderous **Ghazis**<sup>⑤</sup> 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**<sup>⑥</sup> **fever**<sup>⑦</sup>, that curse of our Indian possessions. For months my life was **despaired of**, and when at last I came to myself and became **convalescent**<sup>⑧</sup>, I was so weak and **emaciated**<sup>⑨</sup> that a

- ① prescribe  
/prɪs'kraɪb/ *vt.*  
规定；指示
- ② fusilier  
/fjuːzɪ'lɪə/ *n.*  
燧发枪手；燧发  
枪手团
- ③ jezail /dʒe'zeɪl/  
*n.* 吉赛尔步枪；  
阿富汗长滑膛枪
- ④ subclavian  
/sʌb'kleɪvɪən/  
*adj.* 锁骨下的
- ⑤ Ghazis /'gɑːzɪ/  
*n.* 抗击异教徒的  
伊斯兰教徒战士
- ⑥ enteric /en'terɪk/  
*adj.* 肠内的
- ⑦ enteric fever *n.*  
伤寒
- ⑧ convalescent  
/kɒnvə'lesnt/  
*adj.* (病后) 逐  
渐恢复健康的；  
渐愈的
- ⑨ emaciated  
/i'meɪ'fiɪtɪd/  
*adj.* 瘦弱的；衰  
弱的

1878 年我获得伦敦大学医学博士学位，然后又接着去奈特利修完了军医规定的课程。我在那里完成学业后，被及时派往诺森伯兰郡第 5 燧发枪团担任助理军医。这个团当时驻扎在印度，而我还未能加入该团，第二次阿富汗战役就已经爆发了。我在孟买上岸后，获悉我那个军团已经向前挺进；穿过边关，深入到了敌人国境。然而，我还是和许多像我一样处境的其他军官跟在后面，平安到达了坎达哈。我在那里找到了我那个团，马上开始新的职责。

这次战役给许多人带来了荣誉和晋升，但对我来说却只是不幸和灾难。我被调出原来那个旅，隶属于伯克郡旅，和这个旅一起参加了迈旺德决战。在这次决战中，我被一颗吉赛尔步枪子弹打中了肩部，打碎了骨头，擦伤了锁骨下动脉。要不是我的勤务兵默里忠诚勇敢把我推上驮马，安全驮到了英军阵地，我就会落入凶残的伊斯兰教徒战士之手。

我痛苦疲惫，长期困苦，身体虚弱，和一大批伤员一起被转移到了白沙瓦后方医院。在这里，我得以恢复，健康状况好转，能在病房走动，甚至还能在阳台上晒一小会儿太阳，这时我染上了伤寒——这是我们印度属地的祸患。一连几个月，人们对我的生命都一筹莫展。最后，我终于恢复知觉，渐渐痊愈，却非常虚弱消瘦，医生会诊后，决定把我送回英国，一天也不能耽误。于是，我就被送上

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**<sup>⑩</sup> 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**<sup>⑪</sup> 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**<sup>⑫</sup> and rusticate somewhere in the country, or that I must make a complete alteration in my style of living. Choosing 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**<sup>⑬</sup> of mine, but now I hailed him with enthusiasm, and he, in his turn, appeared to be delighted to see me. In the **exuberance**<sup>⑭</sup> of my joy, I asked him to lunch with me at the Holborn, and we started off together in a **hansom**<sup>⑮</sup>.

"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."



⑩ irretrievably  
/,iri'tri:vəbli/  
adv. 不能挽回地；不能补救地

⑪ gravitate  
/'græviteit/ vt.  
使受吸引

⑫ metropolis  
/mi'trɒpəlɪs/ n.  
大都市；首府

⑬ crony /'krəʊni/  
n. 密友；好朋友

⑭ exuberance  
/ɪg'zjʊbəərəns/  
n. (感情等的)  
过度 (或极度)  
表现；充溢

⑮ hansom  
/'hænsəm/ n.  
双轮双座单马车

了“奥仑梯兹号”运兵船，一个月后在朴次茅斯码头上岸。我的健康遭到了损坏，难以复原，但仁慈的政府准许我再过9个月假期，让我努力改善健康状况。

我在英国无亲无故，所以像空气一样自由——或者像一天收入11先令6便士的人那样自由。在这种情况下，我自然被吸引到了伦敦这个大污水坑，大英帝国所有吊儿郎当、游手好闲的人都势不可挡地流向了这里。我在伦敦河滨马路上的一家内部旅馆呆了一段时间，过着一种缺乏安慰、没有意义的生活，一有钱就花光，出手大方，大大超出了应有的限度。因此，我的财力变得令人担忧。我马上就意识到，我要么必须离开大都市，定居到乡下的某个地方，要么必须彻底改变自己的生活方式。我选择了后一种方法，开始决定离开旅馆，然后在一个不太炫耀、花费较少的住宅安家。

就在最终这样决定那天，我正站在标准酒吧门前，这时有人轻轻拍了拍我的肩膀。我回过头，认出是小斯坦福德。他是我在巴特医院时手下的一名裹伤员。在伦敦的茫茫人海中，看到一张友善的面孔，对一个孤独的人的确是一件快事。尽管当时斯坦福德根本不是我特别要好的朋友，但现在我向他热情欢呼。见到我，他好像也非常高兴。我喜悦难捺，就请他一起到霍尔本吃午饭。于是，我们就乘坐双轮双座马车一起出发了。

“华生，你一直在干什么？”当我们快速穿过人来车往的伦敦大街时，他不加掩饰地惊问道。“你骨瘦如柴，面色发黑。”

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**<sup>®</sup>, 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 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**<sup>®</sup>, 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**<sup>®</sup> 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.

⑩ commiseratingly  
/kə'mizə'reɪtɪŋli/  
adv. 怜悯地；同情地

⑪ anatomy  
/ə'naetəmi/ n.  
解剖学

⑫ desultory  
/'desəltəri/ adj.  
杂乱的；无条理的

我向他简述了自己的冒险经历，还没等我讲完，我们就到达了目的地。

“可怜的家伙！”听了我的不幸遭遇，他同情地说。“你现在要做什么？”

“寻找住处，”我说。“设法解决问题，看能不能找到一些价格合理而又舒适的房间。”

“这是一件怪事，”我的伙伴说。“今天你是第二个对我使用这种措辞的人。”

“谁是第一个？”我问。

“是一个在医院化学试验室工作的家伙。他今天早上还在哀叹自己，因为他已经找到了几个好房间，这些房间太贵，又找不到人和他平摊。”

“哎呀！”我叫道，“如果他真想找人合住分摊，我正是他要找的人。我宁愿有一个同伴，也不愿独自一人。”

小斯坦福德越过葡萄酒杯，相当奇怪地望着我。“你还不认识夏洛克·福尔摩斯吧，”他说，“你也许不愿和他作期同伴。”

“为什么，有什么对他不利的事儿吗？”

“噢，我不是说有什么对他不利的事儿。他是有点儿古怪——热衷于一些科学分科。据我所知，他是一个足够正派的人。”

“我想，是一个医科学生吧？”我说。

“不是——我不知道他想从事什么。我相信他精通解剖学，而且是一流的药剂师。但是，据我所知，他从来没有上过系统的医学课。他的研究非常杂乱古怪，但他已经积累了许多非凡的知识，常常让他的教授们大吃一惊。”

“你从来没有问过他在从事什么吗？”我问道。

“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**<sup>①</sup> 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 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**<sup>②</sup>, or what is it? Don’t be **mealy-mouthed**<sup>③</sup> 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**<sup>④</sup>, not out of **malevolence**<sup>⑤</sup>, 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.”

## ①9 studious

/'stju:djəs/ *adj.*

好学的；勤奋的

## ②0 formidable

/'fɔ:midəbl/

*adj.* 可怕的；令人畏惧的

## ②1 mealy-mouthed

/'mi:lɪ'maʊəd/

*adj.* 不直率的；说话拐弯抹角的

## ②2 alkaloid

/'ælkəloɪd/ *n.*

生物碱

## ②3 malevolence

/mə'levələns/ *n.*

恶意；狠毒

“没有，尽管他想说话时，可以侃侃而谈，但他是一个不会轻易说出实情的人。”

“我想见见他。”我说。“如果要和什么人合住，我更喜欢一个平静好学的人。我还不够强壮，受不了太多的喧闹和刺激。我在阿富汗受够了喧闹和刺激，剩下的时间不能再受了。我怎么才能见到你这位朋友呢？”

“他肯定在实验室，”我的同伴回答说。“他要么是一连几周避开那个地方，要么是从早到晚在那里工作。如果你愿意，我们午饭后就坐车一块去。”

“当然可以，”我回答说，随后话题又转向了其他方面。

在我们离开霍尔本，前往医院的途中，斯坦福德又对我说了一些我打算合住的那位先生的详情。

“如果你和他不能和睦相处，不要怪我，”他说，“我偶尔在实验室见过他，对他并不了解。因为你有这种打算，所以不能让我负责。”

“如果我们不能融洽相处，分开也不难。”我说。“斯坦福德，在我看来，”我盯着同伴补充道，“你要和这件事脱开干系，是有什么理由吧。是这个人的脾气很可怕，还是什么？不要拐弯抹角。”

“要表达难以言表的事儿并不容易，”他笑着说。“我看福尔摩斯有点儿太科学——都快到冷血的地步了。我可以想象，他给朋友一小捏最近的蔬菜生物碱品尝，你明白，不是出于恶意，而仅仅是出于一种调查精神，以便正确了解那些药效。说句公道话，我认为他同样会品尝。他好像非常喜欢明白精确的知识。”

“Very right too.”

“Yes, but it may be pushed to excess. When it comes to beating the subjects in the dissecting-rooms with a stick, it is certainly taking rather a **bizarre**<sup>®</sup> 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**<sup>®</sup> 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**<sup>®</sup>, 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**<sup>®</sup> 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.

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

②4 bizarre /bi'zɑː/  
adj. 稀奇古怪的; 怪诞的

②5 vista /'vɪstə/ n.  
(尤指从狭长通道中看出去的) 景色

②6 retort /rɪ'tɔːt/ n.  
蒸馏罐; 曲颈瓶

②7 precipitate  
/prɪ'sɪpɪteɪt/ vt.  
使沉淀

②8 cordially  
/'kɔːdjəli/ adv.  
诚恳地; 诚挚地

“也非常正确。”

“是的，但这样可能太过分了。他在解剖室里用棍子抽打那些尸体，这肯定是咄咄怪事。”

“抽打尸体!”

“对，是为了证实人死后可能产生什么程度的伤痕。我亲眼见他抽打过尸体。”

“可是，你说他不是医科学生?”

“对。天知道他研究的东西是什么。不过，我们到了，你对他什么印象，一看肯定知道。”他一边说，我们一边拐向一条窄巷，穿过通向大医院侧楼的一个小侧门。这是我熟悉的地方，所以我不用人领路。我们走上光秃秃的石楼梯，穿过长长的走廊。走廊两边是粉刷的墙壁和一些暗褐色的房门。接近走廊尽头有一个低矮的拱形过道，通向化学实验室。

这是一个高大的房间，横七竖八摆放着无数瓶子。几张又宽又矮的桌子四处散开，上面放满了蒸馏瓶、试管和一些闪着蓝色火焰的小本生灯。房间里只有一名学生，他正俯身在远处的一张桌子上聚精会神地工作。听到我们的脚步声，他回头瞥了一眼，欢叫着一跃而起。“我发现了! 我发现了!” 他对我同伴喊着，手里拿着一个试管朝我们跑来。“我发现了一种试剂，只能用血红蛋白沉淀，其他什么都不行。”就是他发现金矿，脸上的表情也不可能比现在高兴。

“华生医生，这位是夏洛克·福尔摩斯先生，”斯坦福德给我们介绍。

“你好!” 他用力握住我的手，诚恳地说。我简直不相信他有这么大劲儿。“我发觉，你曾经到过阿富汗。”

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

“Never mind,” said he, chuckling to himself. “The question now is about **haemoglobin**<sup>®</sup>. 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**<sup>®</sup> 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**<sup>®</sup> 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.

“Beautiful! beautiful! The old **guaiacum**<sup>®</sup> test was very clumsy and uncertain. So is the microscopic examination for blood **corpuscles**<sup>®</sup>. 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.



② haemoglobin  
/hi'mau'gləubin/  
n. 血红蛋白

③ infallible  
/in'fæləbl/ adj.  
绝对可靠的；肯定有效的

④ mahogany  
/mə'hɒɡəni/ n.  
红褐色

⑤ guaiacum  
/'gwaiækəm/ n.  
愈疮木（树）脂

⑥ corpuscle  
/'kɔ:pəs(ə)l/  
n. 血球；细胞

“你到底是怎么知道的？”我惊讶地问。

“不用担心，”他轻声笑道。“现在的问题是血红蛋白。毫无疑问，你看到我这个发现的意义了吧？”

“从化学上来说，这肯定很有趣，”我回答说，“但从实用上……”

“哎呀，伙计，这是几年来最实用的法医学发现。你看不出这能让我们在测定血迹时万无一失吗？到这边来！”他急忙拽住我的衣袖，把我拉到他一直工作的那张桌边。“让我们搞一些鲜血，”说着，他把一根长针扎进自己的手指，然后用化学吸液管吸走了那滴流出的血。“现在，我把这一小点鲜血加到一公升水里。你会发觉，这种混合液具有纯水的外观。血的比例不可能超过百万分之一。然而，我肯定，我们还能得到特有的反应。”他一边说，一边把几粒白色结晶放进容器，然后又加了几滴透明液体。溶液马上呈现出暗红褐色，随后淡褐色粉末沉淀到了玻璃瓶底。

“哈！哈！”他拍手叫道，就像小孩子拿到新玩具那样开心。“你对此怎么想？”

“这好像是一种非常精密的实验，”我说。

“好极了！好极了！原来的愈疮树脂实验非常笨，也靠不住。显微镜检验血球也一样。如果血迹过了几个小时，显微镜检验就没有价值了。现在，无论血迹新旧，这看来都一样会产生效果。如果这个试验方法早发明的话，现在世界上几百个逍遥法外的人早就会被绳之以法。”

“的确如此！”我喃喃说道。