

A CLEVER DETECTIVE

Robert Benson searches a House And Finds Considerable Stolen Property.

Mrs. August Huard, who lives at 123 First avenue west, is in serious trouble, and it would appear to be trouble which she has brought upon herself. It seems that for several weeks the retail merchants of the city, and especially the large dry goods dealers, have complained of losses sustained at the hands of shoplifters. About two weeks ago I. Freimuth notified Detective Robert Benson that about \$100 worth of valuable black silk lace and other articles were stolen from his counters, and he asked the detective to look up the matter.

After two weeks of some of the finest detective work ever done in Duluth, Mr. Benson came to the conclusion that Mrs. Huard was the thief, and yesterday he applied to County Attorney Tear for a search warrant. Armed with this valuable weapon, he called on Mrs. Huard, together with a salesman of Mr. Freimuth, and proceeded to search the premises. He found in the woman's trunks a regular dry goods lay-out, such as laces, silks, gloves, and even several suits of clothes and innumerable pairs of boots and shoes. Mrs. Huard vowed up and down that she had never stolen anything and, to emphasize her arguments, she fainted several times besides going into hysterics. But the detective went on with his work and the salesman identified several articles. The black lace, however, was not to be found. It was afterwards learned that a great part of it had been sent out West to some town, where, it would appear, the woman has been accustomed to send the stolen goods. It seems that she has been in the habit of going out early in the morning with a basket under her shawl, when the stores are just opened and when the salesmen are not on the lookout for shoplifters.

All this was discovered through a bit of tell tale ribbon, which Mrs. Huard's little girl took to Freimuth's store to match. Now this was a peculiar kind of cloth, of which Mr. Freimuth only had a remnant, and that remnant was stolen from him. Mr. Benson at once came to the conclusion that Mrs. Huard had stolen that remnant, and, as she did not have enough for her purpose, sent her little girl for more. Following up this clue, he finally traced the thefts to her door. Late yesterday afternoon Mr. Benson visited the woman and finally persuaded her to confess, and she gave up about \$60 worth of black silk lace which she had stolen. The bulk of the property has not yet been recovered. The woman has not yet been arrested.