



*I only quote
this as a
trivial
example of
observation
and
inference.*

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

Adventure XIV -- The Adventure of the Copper Beeches

1. "But, indeed, if you are trivial, I cannot blame you, for the days of the great cases are past. Man, or at least criminal man, has lost all enterprise and originality. As to my own little practice, it seems to be degenerating into an agency for recovering lost lead pencils and giving advice to young ladies from boarding-schools."
2. "Data! data! data!" he cried impatiently. "I can't make bricks without clay."
3. "I am glad of all details, whether they seem to you to be relevant or not."
4. "I confess that it is not the situation which I should like to see a sister of mine apply for."
5. "If I claim full justice for my art, it is because it is an impersonal thing -- a thing beyond myself. Crime is common. Logic is rare. Therefore it is upon the logic rather than upon the crime that you should dwell."
6. "It is one of the curses of a mind with a turn like mine that I must look at everything with reference to my own special subject."



7. "My dear Watson, you as a medical man are continually gaining light as to the tendencies of a child by the study of the parents. Don't you see that the converse is equally valid. I have frequently gained my first real insight into the character of parents by studying their children."
8. "Pshaw, my dear fellow, what do the public, the great unobservant public, who could hardly tell a weaver by his tooth or a compositor by his left thumb, care about the finer shades of analysis and deduction!"
9. "The pressure of public opinion can do in the town what the law cannot accomplish. There is no lane so vile that the scream of a tortured child, or the thud of a drunkard's blow, does not beget sympathy and indignation among the neighbors, and then the whole machinery of justice is ever so close that a word of complaint can set it going, and there is but a step between the crime and the dock. But look at these lonely houses, each in its own fields, filled for the most part with poor ignorant folk who know little of the law. Think of the deeds of hellish cruelty, the hidden wickedness which may go on, year in, year out, in such places, and none the wiser."
10. "To the man who loves art for its own sake it is frequently in its least important and lowliest manifestations that the keenest pleasure is to be derived."
11. "You have erred, perhaps in attempting to put color and life into each of your statements instead of confining yourself to the task of placing upon record that severe reasoning from cause to effect which is really the only notable feature about the thing."