

CANON QUEERIES

Ralph Edwards

1. What would indicate that an artery had been grazed?
2. What was in store for Watson at the end of his nine months?
3. Why all the blue flickering flames for only one student?
4. How could Holmes be sure that nothing else precipitated his re-agent?
5. Why did Holmes seize Watson instead of Stamford by the coat-sleeve?
6. What composed 97% of Holmes's blood? (assume 1 liter = 30,000 drops)
7. Is there any evidence that the Sherlock Holmes test was ever used?
8. What were Watson's vices when he was well?
9. Was agreeing to share quarters strange after so brief an acquaintance?
10. Was Watson correct that Holmes was not a difficult man to live with?
11. Did poor pen, ink, left-handedness or carelessness blot Holmes's hands?
12. Reconcile "no knowledge of philosophy" with philosophical instruments.
13. Did the magazine name the author?
14. How did Holmes munch silently on toast?
15. Why "bread and cheese" instead of "bread and butter"?
16. Did Holmes *observe* that Dr. Watson was of a medical type?
17. Should a young gentleman address a middle-aged retired marine as "my lad"?
18. Did "no reply" indicate that Holmes had decided to take the case?
19. Do business cards usually indicate city, state and country, but no street address?
20. What was Holmes's experience with professional beauties?
21. How did Gregson and Lestrade travel to Lauriston Gardens?
22. Was state of hat, collar and cuffs compatible with activity, weather and Euston?
23. Does agitation remain showing on the face of the dead?
24. Is a Masonic device appropriate for a former Mormon?
25. Is plaster normally yellow?
26. Does a man with a nose bleed keep smoking a cigar?
27. Would a puddle on the garden walk be seen late at night?
28. Would Hope, steadying Drebber have taken long strides?
29. When had Watson previously flattered Holmes on the score of his art?
30. Does Holmes ever give any other police officer a half-sovereign for providing information?
31. Relate the condition of drains to typhoid fever. Why not enteric fever?
32. What "legal twist" might be discerned in four words of writing?
33. Was Hope fooled by the facsimile ring?
34. Was less than three weeks in London a reasonable time for Hope to track down Drebber?
35. When does a young girl become "of age"? What things would such a girl be too innocent to understand?
36. Why would a boy in the navy be costly?
37. Isn't a ladder to the second (third in the U.S.) floor very long and heavy?
38. How could Lestrade know that Stangerson usually did all the paying?

39. Why no luggage, passports, toiletry, etc., but a useless telegram?
40. What events led to the Cleveland police sending a telegram regarding Jefferson Hope? How would they know Hope's destination?
41. What happens to a pill box on a sill when a man in a long coat climbs out?
42. Why is the path 1500 miles in a territory that is 600 miles across?
43. How long does it take to die of hunger? of thirst?
44. What happened to brother Bob and his father?
45. Are desert nights suitable for unlighted walking?
46. Did women carry burdens during migrations to the West?
47. Were homespun garments common in 1847?
48. Were the Mormons all Anglo-Saxons?
49. Was there gold fever in California in 1859?
50. How distant were the Wahstach mountains?
51. Is Utah the Pacific slope?
52. Was Lucy's hair golden or chestnut?
53. Must the bride consent in a Mormon wedding?
54. Why do two people need a roomy villa when the servants sleep in an outhouse?
55. If one can get half-way through the mountains in a night, how many days does it take to get the rest of the way?
56. Was the wedding band a suitable keepsake?
57. What happened to the eleven wives of Drebber and Stangerson?
58. How did Hope locate his two men?
59. Why did Hope emphasize Holmes being on his trail?
60. At what time of day was the gentleman house-hunting in the Brixton Road?
61. What does "firing across a handkerchief" mean?
62. Why did Hope leave the candle burning?
63. Could Holmes have smelt poison through all the alcohol Drebber consumed?
64. What is the background for a belief that pure chance will favor the righteous?
65. Hope was suspicious of Holmes's advertisement. Why didn't he suspect anything when asked to drive his cab to the same address mentioned in the advertisement?
66. Why would the Cleveland police respond to a telegram from an unknown Englishman asking about Drebber's private affairs?
67. Did Holmes note two tracks entering and one leaving?
68. How far would an unattended horse travel?
69. Did Hope lead a useful life?
70. Should Hope have been hung if he had survived?
71. Is it pure coincidence that the superior mortals (Holmes, Ferrier and Hope) were bachelors?