

FORTUNE TELLING AT CARDIFF.

At the Cardiff police court yesterday morning William C. Jordan, aged 70, and residing at 70, Partridge road, was charged with being a rogue and a vagabond, and with professing to tell fortunes and read the planots. Prisoner was represented by Mr McLachlan. It appears that he has carried on his curious avocation for many years, and was always able to find hundreds of dupes. As many as 15 girls and married women were known to visit his house in one day, and not a few of the male sex used also to attend. The police consider that he has ruined scores of young girls by unfitting their minds for ordinary work, and they have been trying for a long time to catch him.

The first witness called was a domestic servant. On the 23rd instant, in company with another young woman, she went to 70, Partridge road, the residence of prisoner. They were shown into a back parlour, and defendant asked them what they wanted. She said she wanted her planet ruled, which meant her fortune to be told. He said his charge was what they liked to give. They offered half-a-crown each, and they placed their coins on the table. He asked their ages, the dates and hours of their birth. She said she was born in 1864, December 26th, between four and five in the morning. He then said there was a dark brown young man for her, but he was sorry she was born on December 26th, as it was the day after the pudding. Her young man was to be a porter or inspector on the line, and when she was 50 years of age she would have sufficient money to keep her husband and herself without working. She was likely to be married between 23 and 24, and she was rather fond of young men. Her time of courting would be short, and she would have a change every month. Her sweetheart would not be either a collier or a plasterer. Mr Jordan took the half-crown up from the table and put it in his pocket. He also said she was likely to have some trouble with a sudden death in the family. If they wanted their planets written out they must call next day. He also told her friend's fortune. They called again the following Wednesday evening for the written fortunes, and he would not write them out unless they paid. They gave him 3s each, and he supplied them with two microscopes, which were covered with cabalistic signs having an astronomical bearing, and underneath which their characters were written out. Mr McLachlan, in the course of a cross-examination, ascertained that witness and the other girl had been sent by the police.

Inspector Cox said he watched the girls go in and out of prisoner's house on both occasions, and they handed to him the papers given them by prisoner. During the last evening, while he was waiting, he saw six women go in and two men come out. He afterwards went in and saw Jordan, whom he arrested on the charge of being a rogue and a vagabond. The table in the room was covered with books, amongst which were 25 works of astrology, which he brought away. There was also a letter addressed to a lady at the Black Lion inn, in some portion of North Wales, inside of which there was a horoscope. He took prisoner to the police station and charged him with professing to tell fortunes and rule planets. He replied, "All you can do is to give me three months." Numerous complaints had been made against Jordan by his neighbours, who was ruining people for miles around.

The Stipendiary—I don't object to you obtaining the necessary evidence, but I do most certainly object to girls being employed for the purpose. How much did this man say he would get?

Inspector Cox—Three months.

The Stipendiary—Well, he can have them.