



WILLEM
VAN DE POLL
AMSTERDAM

It all began with the police.

Whenever anyone admires the extraordinary sharpness and fidelity to nature shown in his photographs, Willem van de Poll laughs and says; that comes of his training with the Austrian C.I.D. For a year and a half at the beginning of his career, he photographed "the scene of the crime" for the Viennese police, which then possessed the best photographic laboratory in Europe. But an artist could not find full satisfaction in making exact reproductions of murders, catastrophes, finger-prints and fragments of corpses. . . Willem van de Poll, who comes of a well known family of physicians in Holland, was naturally expected also to take up medicine. But his great talent for drawing drew him irresistibly to another than the healing art. He forsook drawing, learned the art of photography in every detail and is to-day one of the most experienced technicians in any and every branch of photography.

When Willem van de Poll decided to work for the press, he received commissions which took him for years to Germany, England, France and later all over the world. He lived for a long time in India.

In those days a press photographer had to fulfil his tasks burdened with a huge apparatus and handicapped by inferior material—it was difficult work and therefore excellent training.

