

Torture Room in Murder Trial

Fez, Morocco, Nov. 14.—Curious Europeans, stolid Mohammedans in white burnouses and a gathering of riff-raff from Barbary Coast brothels sat in Criminal Court today while the once-glamorous Moulay Hassen, one of the most famous courtesans and dancers of her day, went on trial for murder.

The former beauty, now a squat, wrinkled woman of middle age, was accused of killing two diseased inmates of a brothel she ran after her own charms faded. Stories of sinister mystery in the squalid house of ill fame in nearby Mekines, where as a dancer she had her greatest successes, have spread throughout Morocco. Mme. Hassen was reputed to have a torture chamber in which she punished women held as virtual slaves.

Chronicle of Charges.
The chronicle of charges was like a page out of medieval history. A manservant, who escaped from the sinister house of Mme. Hassen in the labyrinthine native quarter of Mekines, told police of the activities which led them to investigate the proprietress and charge her with two murders and scores of tortures.

Once noted as a beauty in gay places from Lahat to Algiers, Mme. Hassen's fame had declined with her beauty. She had once been nominated for membership in the Legion of Honor, but when she began to grow ugly, she retired from public life. According to Government investigators, she started operating disorderly houses, and obtained a measure of revenge for the secret that life as a courtesan had left upon her, by torturing the beautiful Arab girls she enslaved.

Missing Girls Traced.
In the brothel at Mekines she set up a chamber of horrors in which she carried on her sinister activity, the charges said. Girls who had disappeared from the world without leaving any apparent trace, were found to have fallen into Mme. Hassen's hands, wasting their lives amid frequent beatings and tortures.

The Government said it will try to show specifically that she "hastened the deaths" of two women, afflicted with incurable disease, in order to avoid having to report the deaths to police.

After they were murdered, she had the bodies spirited to the Mekines Mussulman cemetery, where one of the bodies was buried. The burial party had to leave in haste, and the second body was not buried.

She Denies Charges.
It was taken to secluded place outside Mekines where the corpse was boiled for several hours in a cauldron to make it unrecognizable. The manservant said she tried to feed the remains to dogs but they would not eat it at once, and police found the remains. Many inmates of the house were

expected to testify against the woman, who has flatly denied the charges.

The house was in a district forbidden to French officers, but Mme. Hassen, according to stories disclosed by the investigation, operated a wild night club at another address where officers were drugged with incense and native dancing orgies, and lured into visiting her house.

In 1936 police attention was attracted to the house by discovery of a body of a young girl near the backdoor of the place. The walls were ripped open and three other bodies were found buried in them. During two years of inquiry the police were able to trace only fourteen of the scores of inmates who had come to Mme. Hassen's place during the past fifteen years.

Gen. Gardner Off To Hawaii Today

Brig. Gen. Fulton Q. C. Gardner will sail at noon today from the Brooklyn Army Base to take command of the coast artillery in Hawaii. He has been at Ft. Hancock, N. J., as commandant of the Sandy Hook harbor defense. Also aboard the U. S. transport Republic will be 750 newly enlisted soldiers.

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