A Little History

"I've found it! I've found it," he shouted to my companion, running towards us with a test-tube in his hand. "I've found a re-agent which is precipitated by haemoglobin, and by nothing else... Why, man, it is the most practical medical discovery for years. Don't you see that it gives us an infallible test for blood stains?... The old guaiacum test was very clumsy and uncertain. So is the microscopic examination for blood corpuscles. The latter is valueless if the stains are a few hours old. Now, this appears to act as well whether the blood is old or new. Had this test been invented, there are hundreds of men now walking the earth who would long ago have paid the penalty of their crimes... Criminal cases are continually hinging upon that one point. A man is suspected of a crime months perhaps after it has been committed. His linen or clothes are examined and brownish stains discovered upon them. Are they blood stains, or mud stains, or rust stains, or fruit stains, or what are they? That is a question which has puzzled many an expert, and why? Because there was no reliable test. Now we have the Sherlock Holmes's test, and there will no longer be any uncertainty."

Mathieu Orfila

Toxicology

1787-1853
- **Alphonse Bertillon**
  - Anthropometry
  - 1853-1914
- **Francis Galton**
  - Fingerprints
  - 1822-1911
- **Leone Lattes**
  - Blood typing
  - 1887-1954
- Calvin Goddard
  - Forensic ballistics
  - 1891 - 1955

- Albert S. Osborn
  - Document analysis
  - 1858 - 1946

- Hans Gross
  - Criminalistics
  - 1847-1915
Edmond Locard
- 1877-1966
- Locard's Exchange Principle