



I only quote
this as a
trivial
example of
observation
and
inference.

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

Adventure IV -- The Red-Headed League

1. "And now, Doctor, we've done our work, so it's time we had some play. A sandwich and a cup of coffee, and then off to violin-land, where all is sweetness and delicacy and harmony, and there are no red-headed clients to vex us with their conundrums."
2. "As a rule, when I have heard some slight indication of the course of events, I am able to guide myself by the thousands of other similar cases which occur to my memory. In the present instance I am forced to admit that the facts are, to the best of my belief, unique."
3. "As a rule, the more bizarre a thing is the less mysterious it proves to be. It is your commonplace, featureless crimes which are really puzzling, just as a commonplace face is the most difficult to identify."
4. "For strange effects and extraordinary combinations we must go to life itself, which is always far more daring than any effort of the imagination."
5. "He is in my judgment, the fourth smartest man in London, and for daring I am not sure that he has not a claim to be the third."
6. "I begin to think that I make a mistake in explaining. *Omne ignotum pro magnifico*, you know, and my



poor little reputation, such as it is, will suffer shipwreck if I am so candid."

7. "I have made a small study of tattoo marks and have even contributed to the literature of the subject."
8. "I know, my dear Watson, that you share my love of all that is bizarre and outside the conventions and humdrum routine of everyday life. You have shown your relish for it by the enthusiasm which has prompted you to chronicle, and, if you will excuse my saying so, somewhat to embellish so many of my own little adventures."
9. "It is introspective and I want to introspect."
10. "It is quite a three-pipe problem."
11. "It's a hobby of mine to have an exact knowledge of London."
12. "My life is spent in one long effort to escape from the commonplaces of existence. These little problems help me to do so."
13. "Omne ignotum pro magnifico" (everything unknown is grand)
14. "This is a time for observation, not for talk."