

ROSEMOUNT,

94, WINDMILL STREET,

GRAVESEND.

12th September 1933.

Dear Sir Humphry Rolleston,

I must apologize for
not answering your question more promptly.

You are quite right. "Dr. Thorudye" is a
purely artificial character. His personality was
designed deliberately to suit the part which he
was to play, with no thought of any real person.

I should be very glad to have this definitely
stated by you, as I notice a tendency in some
directions to assume that Thorudye was built on
the foundations of Sir Bernard Spilsbury. Of
course, this is absurd if one considers Spilsbury's
age & the fact that Thorudye made his bow to the

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public nearly thirty years ago. But it is certainly
an odd coincidence that Spilsbury, whose vocation
so closely resembles Thorndyke's, should resemble
him almost as closely in personal appearance (as
described in "The Red Thumb Mark"). The fact is that
Spilsbury has infringed my copyright.

I am glad that Philip's information was what
you wanted.

yours sincerely

R Austin Freeman