

BURGLARY AT HANDCROSS PARK.

SILVER ARTICLES VALUED AT £140 TAKEN.

A number of silver articles (including a pair of antique candlesticks), valued at about £140, were stolen from Handcross Park, the residence of Mrs. T. P. Warren, during the night of Friday-Saturday.

The things were taken from the drawing room (the largest room in the house), situated on the right wing of the building.

The burglar (or burglars) effected an entrance by forcing one of the sash windows in the front of the house.

Marks on the woodwork of the other ten windows of the drawing room show that attempts had also been made to open these.

In addition to Mrs. Warren and her lady companion, there were in residence a staff of nine.

By 10.30 p.m. on Friday all were in bed, but not before the usual practice of drawing the blinds, fastening the windows and locking all the doors in the house was completed.

One member of the household sleeps in a room over the drawing room. No peculiar or unusual sounds were heard during the night, but when one of the housemaids entered the drawing room at half-past six in the morning she discovered that certain articles were missing and that one of the large windows had been left open, but the blind was still drawn.

No time was lost in reporting the matter to the butler (Mr. E. Lee), who immediately telephoned for the local constable. P.C. King was promptly on the spot, and soon afterwards he was joined by Police-Sergeant Wickens, of Cuckfield.

The drawing room was not disarranged, and a close examination revealed no footmarks. The doors leading to the adjoining rooms were not tampered with. No dog was kept on the premises.

There being no clue, there is little hope of a capture.