

A NORFOLK AUTHOR.



MR. CHRISTOPHER BUSH,  
of Great Hockham, author of "Dead Man  
Twice," reviewed elsewhere.

A THRILLING DETECTIVE STORY

"Dead Man Twice." By Christopher Bush.  
Heinemann. 7s. 6d. net.

Mr. Bush, whose first detective story, "The Perfect Murder Case," took him at one bound into the rank of best sellers both in this country and in America—it was chosen as the book of the month by the "Crime Club" of that country—has written another intriguing story which well merits the attention of connoisseurs of detective fiction. Michael France was a heavy-weight boxer, who seemed likely to win back for England the championship of the world. Yet on the very eve of his entry into training for the big fight he was found shot in one of the rooms of his London house, and on another floor was the dead body of his butler, a victim of cyanide poisoning, with a suicide confession under it written in the handwriting of his master. This double mystery baffled for a long time the efforts of Scotland Yard and of the two private detectives—Franklin and Travers—to whom we owed the elucidation of "The Perfect Murder Case." Three or four different people might have had motives for getting rid of France, but no one could explain how the murder had been done. Still less could they understand the death of Somers. Yet Franklin and Travers between them succeed in unravelling as pretty a tangle of clues as ever was to be found in detective fiction or in real life. The ingenuity of the story is equalled by its cumulative excitement and we have been able to find no flaw in either its reasoning or its culmination, though there is one improbability which still beats us—however anyone could really believe that an English heavyweight could ever have such high hopes of lifting a world championship as Mr. Bush makes us believe of Michael France.