

THE POISONING CASE.

Evidence at the Coroner's Inquest Last Evening.

Startling Testimony of Drs. Johnson and Warburton.

They Were Asked to Help the Girl in Her Trouble.

Result of the Analysis—Verdict of the Jury.

This coroner's inquest in view of the body of Miss Damaris Watt McEachern, who died by poisoning was reported yesterday, was resumed in the City Court Room last evening, Dr. McLeod presiding. Attorney General Peters was present and assisted the coroner in the examination of the witnesses. The attendance of spectators was not so large as was expected, as the doors of the Court Room were kept locked, and a great many young persons who went there out of curiosity to see and hear what was going on, were not admitted. The witnesses examined were Dr. H. D. Johnson, Dr. James Warburton, and Mr. Donald McEachern, father of the deceased girl. Dr. Johnson was the first witness put up on the stand. He testified that in connection with Dr. Warburton he had made a post mortem examination of the body of the deceased girl, Damaris Watt McEachern, on Sunday morning last, and quoted from notes taken at the time. They found rigor mortis well marked; body well nourished; no marks of violence or stain; no excoriations around the mouth. On opening the body all the parts exposed appeared healthy, and there were no apparent signs of congestion. On turning back the omentum, the small intestines in spots showed signs of inflammation. On opening the thorax, the lungs were found healthy, the pleura somewhat adherent to the chest wall. The pericardium on being opened was found to contain about half an ounce of fluid; heart apparently normal. B. turning to the abdomen, the liver appeared normal. The stomach appeared healthy, but on further inspection and examination much inflammation was shown, with thickening. On separating it from the bowel, marked inflammation of a catarrhal character was shown. The oesophagus was traced up and removed in part with the stomach, and was found much inflamed and thickened. He removed the heart, stomach and oesophagus in part, liver, spleen, uterus and appendages and both kidneys, and took them to his office for further examination. At the office examination, the heart was found quite healthy. The right cavities contained blood in clots; the left cavities were almost empty. He found a focus of thrombosis in second and third month. The stomach, liver, kidneys and spleen are saved for further examination, if necessary; also the oesophagus in part attached to the stomach. Witness made a further examination of some vomited matter and some of the contents of the stomach. He removed a little better than a table spoonful of the contents of the stomach, and also scraped the parts outside the ligature at the pyloric end of the stomach. On Sunday evening, at nine o'clock he, with Mr. A. S. Johnson and Dr. James Warburton, examined this vomited matter. First, a portion of the matter was filtered and Marsh's test applied, with no result. Second, took a portion of vomited matter, same as before, filtered it, filtered in hydrochloric acid, put in small copper wire and warmed the solution, with no change; and on standing until morning there was still no change. At the third test the same quantity of vomited matter was used, to which they applied a strong solution of ammonia, with no result. The vomited matter under examination was secured on Saturday afternoon—about three hours before the girl's death, and twenty-two hours after he was called in on Monday morning they took a ligature of the pyloric end of the stomach and poured out a small portion of the contents into a clean chafin dish. We re-ripped the ligature and scraped the parts outside the ligature. We then placed the contents in a test tube with a little water and dilute hydrochloric acid, and filtered it. We then applied Marsh's test; result—a slight mirror on porcelain showing either arsenic or antimony. Next we placed a portion of the same scrapings in a test tube, adding strong ammonia, and got as a result a slight white deposit which might show mercury or antimony. In witness' opinion the cause of death was arsenic poisoning. He based his opinion on the symptoms during life, the appearance of the stomach after death, and the result of the analysis. When he arrived at McEachern's house about half-past seven on Friday evening last, he found the patient in bed, complaining greatly of pain in the throat and down to the stomach and in the stomach. She was vomiting freely, also severely purging. She had great thirst with almost total inability to swallow. The pulse was then slow, and not very strong. Her countenance was pale, her face was clammy and cold. Her pupils appeared natural. Her voice was indistinct and husky. Her intellect was clear, but she spoke with great difficulty. Witness said to her "You must be poisoned. You have taken something. What did you take?" But first of all, when witness came into the room the girl appeared so deathlike that he brought a lamp over to see if her eyes were glazed. Her breathing was as of one dying, a rattle being in her throat. Then he asked her what she had taken. She said, "I took a white powder." He asked her where she got it. She told him she got it from a man who had betrayed her. He had no difficulty in understanding what she meant. She refused to tell him who gave her the powder. He got some luke-warm water—being by this time satisfied she had been poisoned and treated her on that basis. He tried to get some of the water down her throat. She vomited it as one, and he thought she did not swallow any of the water. It seemed to choke her. He then went over to Watson's drug store and got some salad oil and poured some of it down

her throat. After some struggling part of it went down and part returned through her nose. He kept on using the oil until she was able to swallow better, and then gave her some luke-warm water. From that time her vomiting was almost continuous. She would vomit matter of a grayish color. He ordered all the discharges to be retained for the purpose of examination. Her throat continued very sore, and the pain being intense in her stomach he gave her a quarter of a grain of morphia, and also a short time afterwards gave her five grains of bismuth. She retained this for some time. This was about 11 o'clock at night. Her extremities were very cold. She complained of being cold, and he had hot irons put in the bed. As soon as the stomach could retain anything he began giving her milk, which she would retain for a while, then vomit. She could retain nothing altogether. She had no passage of urine after midnight on Friday. She told witness this on Saturday morning, and she had none after. He left her first at 11 o'clock with orders to keep up using the milk of tea and water, and to let him know at once if any change took place. He returned about a quarter to seven on Saturday morning. She then felt better as far as the pain was concerned, the vomiting was less, but she was much weaker. He tried to give her barley-water and port wine in water to strengthen her; he also ordered beef juice to be prepared and gave her more milk. She retained for some time, also better. She said she felt much better, and thought that she would soon be all right, if only the other trouble was over, by which she meant the miscarriage. He told her the pain would be apt to kill her before it produced that effect. She said she thought she would get better. He left her at half-past eight, and returned about eleven. She said she had neither vomited or purged since the morning. He saw that she was still getting weaker, and requested that Dr. Warburton should be called in to see her. They saw her together at 3 o'clock on Saturday afternoon. Her symptoms were about as at 11; pulse probably beating 130 to the minute and very faint. They considered that practically there was no hope of her recovery. Of this her mother told her after they left. The deceased informed witness of this later when he also told her that she could not recover. He told her this about 5 o'clock, and then asked her again who gave her the powder and she said it was the man who had given her the other medicines which she had taken and that she would not tell his name—that she would rather die. She told witness previous to this on the night before, where he could find four bottles, viz under the bed between the ticks, and he found three bottles there. She also told him to look under the bureau where he found several bottles. These bottles each contained a few drops of some medicine. He took the bottles, put them in his pocket and asked her who gave them to her. She told him it was the man whom she had told him of when she came to consult him. (In reply to the Attorney-General, witness explained that the girl came to consult him on the fourth of April. She told him she was in trouble—that a man had forced her against her will in a house and she had come to get something. He told her she should make him marry her. She said he was a married man and could not marry her; he will pay any amount of money if you will marry me all right. He told her he could do nothing for her. She then said that the man had told her he would consult his own physician and get something from him if she could not get anything from witness.) After telling the girl she could not live, she told witness that the man who had given her all these medicines was the same man who had betrayed her, and of whom she had told him when she consulted him, and that it was the same man who gave her the powder. Besides the bottles that he had given her and which witness had secured, this man gave her some ergot and some powders that looked like flax seed. Witness had the four bottles she showed him in her room; also a sample of another bottle of one which she said she had taken two doses on Friday. He ordered her mother to keep this bottle and its contents after he had secured a sample. He asked for that bottle since, and the mother said she had destroyed it. He had, however, a sample of it. He showed all these samples to Dr. Warburton. On his first visit he told the girl she was poisoned. She said she knew it was poison as soon as she took it. He also told her mother on his first visit that the girl was poisoned and for her to try and find out who did it. When he left after his first visit her father was down stairs and was not alone. Witness did not tell him she was poisoned. He asked him if it was English cholera. Witness said it looked like English cholera. He told him this because he was not alone there and because he thought that the mother could tell him. Having told the patient and the mother he thought that was sufficient. The girl told him he had been taking medicine to procure a miscarriage, but that whenever she took the powder she felt sick. She did not know the powder was poisonous when she took it. Witness came to the conclusion that the powder was an irritant poison. Two of the bottles which witness secured, as far as he could judge, contained oil of juniper, one of them contained what he considered oil of saffron; both are used greatly for abortion. The fourth bottle is so flavored that he could not really say what drug was used; the fifth bottle contains the sample referred to before. This bottle contains turpentine in minimum form. Since the girl's death witness secured three other bottles from her mother. One contained turpentine and castor oil, another small bottle contained some aromatic solution of a deep carmine color, and the third is a ginger bottle with some brandy in it. Witness' opinion is that she was poisoned by some metallic poison. She said she took the powder in jam, and the powder alone would be half a table-spoonful. He had preserved the stomach for examination by expert analysts. He had no doubt in the world but that the woman was poisoned. At first he hoped by constant vomiting and purging to save her life, but when after so many hours she continued to get weaker he knew that enough poison would be absorbed by the food to cause her death. Dr. James Warburton was next called, and corroborated the statements of the previous witness concerning the post mortem examination which they jointly held. From the symptoms he observed and from the

description of the powder which deceased had taken he was of opinion that she died from some irritant poison. Witness took part in the tests made on Sunday and Monday, and in his opinion he did not know either mercury, antimony or arsenic. By the Attorney-General—Did any person go to you and consult with you in reference to this girl? Answer—Yes; William Larter came to me. This was about three weeks ago. He said there was a girl in trouble and he wanted something to put her right. Witness asked him the girl's name and he said it was McEachern, that she used to live in the rear-end of the house that "Rony" Steele lived in, across the street from witness' place. Witness understood that some one of that name had lived there. Larter wanted to know if he (witness) would give him anything to relieve her, and he said "No." He asked him if there was anyone in Charlottetown who would do it for him, and he (witness) did not think so. He then wanted to know if it could be done in Halifax. Witness said he didn't know. He didn't think so. Larter said he had given her ergot, but he did not say when. Witness said that if he had given her ergot he had better leave her alone. Ergot is used to bring on abortion, and it may be said to be practically a poison when given in large doses or long continued. The tests made on Sunday and Monday were only preliminary, and he would allow that a more complete one be made. Witness had attended Larter; but was not the family doctor. Dr. Johnson was recalled, and in answer to a jurymen, said the girl had told him she had taken all the powder at one dose. He did not ask her particularly if she had taken the powder according to directions. He could not get a trace of the powder—could not even find the paper that was around it. Donald McEachern, father of the deceased, said he had been living in his present house since the 25th of January. Before that they lived in J. D. McLeod's house, next to Larter's, for three months, and previous to that they lived on Kent Street, in O'Far's house. Roney Steele lived in one end of the house. His daughter was as smart as ever she was in her life on Friday. She and Katie Macdonald were out all the afternoon. She was apparently in the best of spirits and in her usual health. He had a suspicion she was taking medicine before that, but had no personal knowledge of it. There is another daughter of at home. She is about 13 or 14 years of age. There is also a boy about eleven. These, with himself and wife, make up the family. Witness came in from his farm at Lot 48 on Friday morning early, crossing by the second boat. He remained home all that day. Larter was in the back kitchen that afternoon before the girl got sick. Witness thought he was in also in the morning. He saw Larter talking to the girl, but could not hear what they said. They were talking low-whispering—and witness was in an adjoining room. Witness did not know his daughter was poisoned until after she was dead. Then Dr. Johnson told him and said there would have to be an inquest, or that he would acquaint the coroner and he could do as he pleased. Larter has visited the house daily after warm water to mix his drinks. His (witness) family got their water from a tap in Larter's premises. He did not think Larter and his daughter were acquainted before they moved down on Richmond Street. This closed the evidence, and after a short deliberation the jury returned the following verdict: "That the deceased came to her death by poison which was administered to her by some other person with felonious intent." Slate, the druggist, arrested at Summerside yesterday, was brought to town last evening. A young lad named Murphy, employed about Larter's bar, was also arrested yesterday afternoon as a witness.

Larter in the Dock

The Evidence Given at the Preliminary Examination.

Testimony of Larter's Bartender and Others.

What Larter Instructed Young Murphy to Say.

VERY few people were admitted to the Courtroom this morning, the policemen being on duty at the doors and turning away all young lads and others who had no right to enter the room. The prisoner was in his seat, facing the Magistrate, and did not look at all uneasy. He was very quiet, however, and except for speaking a few words to Mr. W. S. Stewart before the case began, he never opened his mouth all morning. About 10.30 the Stipendiary took his seat on the bench, and the case was opened by Mr. H. V. Palmer, the Clerk of the Court, calling upon the prisoner, who stood up while the charge was read: Thomas Coyle (sworn)—examined by the Attorney-General.—I live in Charlottetown and am a bricklayer. I know Mr. Larter, and know a boy named Murphy who works with him. On Sunday last I was at the Steam Navigation Co.'s wharf. The Northumberland was there. That was at a quarter past two. There were a lot of people there; I had no particular business there. I strolled down to see the boat go out. She went out at 3 o'clock. I know Charles Slate. After I had been on the wharf some time my attention was drawn to Slate by Mr. Edson. The boy Murphy was with Slate. The two were going to the west side of the wharf. I was on the east side of the wharf at the time. Slate appeared to be partly drunk. I noticed that one of his suspenders hung down behind his coat. He looked rather disreputable. I looked again at Slate and he took a long drink. We made a remark about the big drink he was taking. Murphy came along and took something out of his pocket. I thought they were bank bills. I did not see what he did with them. Larter appeared then and joined them in the gangway where Slate was drinking. Larter did not stay long—about five minutes—and that was the last I saw of him. I did not see him do anything or hear him say anything. Then Slate and Murphy went on board the ship. They went on the top deck and strolled around there for a few moments. I was standing on the wharf all the time. Slate walked up to Capt. Cameron and spoke to him, and pulled out some notes; then went back to Murphy. Murphy took two notes and gave them to Slate. Murphy then shook hands with Slate and came ashore. I stayed till the steamer went, and Slate went away in the boat so far as I could see. Wm. Murphy (sworn)—Examined by Mr. Peters.—I am either 13 or 14 years of age. I know Mr. Larter, and have worked for him, from about the 1st of August last. I have attended the bar for him, sometimes alone. My stepfather's name is Peter Trainer. He is the man who mends pumps and hauls houses. I live home, but work with Larter in day time. I remember last Sunday, and know Charles Slate. I have not known him very long. I saw him on Sunday. I saw him first at the head of Powell Street, near Euston Street. He was standing on the sidewalk talking to another man. Mr. Larter was with me. We had started together, Larter and myself, and the two of us stopped at the Kirk, where we saw Slate. Then Slate joined us where we were standing. I then walked down Fitzroy Street past Mr. Leigh's, and they came after me. They were talking. I don't know and cannot swear that I heard what they said. I might forget. We went around by the back of St. Peter's Church and up the other side of the block, and Slate left us at Weeks' corner. After we parted with Slate we walked around two or three blocks and came to Queen Street, where we met Mr. McEachern's brother, Mr. Larter spoke to him. Slate was not with us. Then we went down by Grafton Street, and McEachern went into some yard, and Larter and I went to where we had met Slate before, only nearer Euston Street. There Mr. Larter told me to go on ahead and try if I could see Slate. I went out on Spring Park Road, past Mrs. M. Quaid's, and on the way back went into Mrs. Crosby's house and saw Slate there. I looked at him and gave him a hint that I wanted him to come out. He came out and we walked together to Euston Street, and went towards Mr. Larter's house. Larter had gone home when we came out of Mrs. Crosby's house. Slate went out of the M. I. peque Road, and I went to Mr. Larter's house and saw Mr. Larter sitting at the window. When he saw me he came out to the front door. I went up and spoke to him. He had told me before that I was to do this and he would come to the door. I told him I had seen Slate, and that he had gone out the Malpeque Road. Then Larter said he would be out in a few minutes. Then I went out the Malpeque Road. Attorney-General—"Who told you to go out?" No answer. "Was it Larter?" "Yes; Larter told me to go out and find Slate." I found Slate loitering along, and I caught up to him and told him what Mr. Larter had said. We walked back together to find Larter. We could not see him. Then we strolled out the road again. I thought he was going too far out, and told him he had better turn back. We walked in again, and that time we met Larter. Then they went out the road talking, and I went to my aunt's. I next saw Slate after dinner. I got my dinner at my mother's. I saw Slate at the Steam Navigation Company's Wharf. I went to the wharf first. Mr. Larter told me he'd see me at the wharf at half-past one. He told me that. Well, I can't remember when, but it was

Household Requirements.

GRAND DISPLAY of Carpets, Curtains, Linoleum, Oilclothes, Mattings; Rordered Brussels Carpets; Bordered Axminster Carpets of the richest and finest textures and matchless colorings; beautiful Squares, suitable for reception rooms, dining rooms, drawing rooms, etc; Seamless Velvet Carpets, woven entirely in one piece; very fine Bordered Tapestry Carpets in a large variety of designs; Reversible Kidderminster Carpets in different col rings and sizes; Brussels and Tapestry Stair Carpets in lovely designs; Drawing Room, Hearth and Hall Rugs; Piano and Door Mats in Smyrna and Axminsters; great variety of Sheepskin and Goat Rugs in Crimson, Grey and Black; Reversible Portiaries in astry and Chenille, in lovely, chaste and rich colorings; 200 pairs White Lace and Muslin Curtains, suitable for Parlors, Drawing Rooms, Dining Rooms and Bedrooms, including some of the newest designs; also, a choice lot of 8-4 and 4-4 Oil Cloths, suitable for Halls and Dining Rooms.

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TELEGRAPHIC NEWS. ST. GEORGE PHARMACY, MORRIS BUILDING.

Terrible Drowning Accident. LONDON, May 2. A despatch from Zanzibar brings news of the drowning of 120 slaves by the capsizing of an Arab dhow in which captives were being conveyed south of Madagascar. It is complained that since the recognition by Great Britain of French protectorate over Madagascar, British cruisers have ceased to patrol Malagasy waters, and French authorities in that vicinity wink at the slave trade, which consequently is being revived.

New Commander. LONDON, May 2. Major General Alexander Montague Moore has been gazetted Commander of the Forces in Canada. Advice from various parts of the continent indicate that May Day celebrations passed over without any serious disturbances.

The Big Cheese. OTTAWA, May 2. Canada's big cheese is carrying everything before it in Chicago. On Saturday it carried the floor of the dairy building, where it is located down ten feet to terra firma. The floor was damaged but the cheese was not.

Railway Accident. HALIFAX, May 2. A collision occurred yesterday near Bedford, between the Pictou accommodation and the Quebec express train. The cowcatcher on each engine was badly damaged. It was three hours before the engines were extricated.

Higher Education. MONTREAL, May 2. Sir Donald Smith has given half a million dollars to complete his favorite scheme of higher education of women in connection with McGill University.

The World's Fair. CHICAGO, May 4. The Director of the works. Bureau, declares that 440,000 people passed through the turnstile at the World's Fair grounds yesterday.

Rifle Matches. OTTAWA, May 2. The Dominion Rifle Matches range held from last year, except the Sunday aggregate and the extra series are abolished.

He Will Resign. ST. JOHN, May 2. It is believed that Charles Harrison, M.P.P. for Sunbury, will resign his seat on account of ill health.

Assigned. MONTREAL, May 2. The regular assignment of Wm Darling & Co., hardware merchants, has been filed in court. Their liabilities are \$84,519.

Weather Bulletin. TORONTO, May 2.—10 a. m. Southeast to southwest wind; cloudy, with some rain at most places.

(Continued on Third Page)

NOTICE.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of the Charlottetown Gas Light Company will take place at the Gas Works on TUESDAY, the 3rd day of May, 1893, at the hour of eleven o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of electing Directors and the general transaction of business. LEMUEL MCKAY, Secretary.

BY AUCTION.

I AM instructed by the Rev. Ralph Brecken to sell by Auction, at the residence of the late J. R. Brecken, Esq., Lower St. Peter's Road, on WEDNESDAY, the 3rd day of May, next, commencing at 11 o'clock, a. m.:—Horses, Carriages, Sleighs, Robes, Furniture, etc. Particulars in handbills. R. BEARSTO, Auctioneer.

WHY IT IS SO!

We understand our business, we work for our customers, our customers appreciate our efforts and BUY OUR SHOES. These are the reasons of our increased trade. Everything new and nobby in Spring wear DAILY ARRIVING.

CONCERT.

Thursday Evening, May 11th, for which a very attractive programme has been prepared.

House and Lot at Auction.

I AM instructed by MRS. E. MCGREGOR to sell by Auction, on THURSDAY, 11th MAY, at 12 o'clock, noon, the House and Lot situated on the corner of Weymouth and Euston Streets. The house contains nine good, large rooms, pantry and kitchen, frost-proof cellar, stable and outbuildings. Terms at sale. CHAS. I. MORRISON, Auctioneer.

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Charlottetown, April 19, 1893.

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LOST—A case containing a pair of double lensed, gold-bowed Spectacles. The glasses have been specially adjusted to my eyes, would be of little use to another but of great service to me. Finder will be suitably rewarded by leaving at this office or at my residence, 211 King Street—J. A. GORDON. ap25