

“Makes friends and retains them”

‘Medicinal’ Opiates in Canada, 1780 – 1913



Transcribed & Curated by Chris Willmore
May 2022

For the students of UVic's University 101, 102 and 201
(especially those who ask questions)¹

Transcribed, edited, photographed and curated
by
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Cover image: A bottle of “Dr. McMunn’s Elixir of Opium” in the curator’s collection.

¹ This sourcebook was partly inspired by a question a UNI 101/102/201 student asked about laudanum – one I could not answer at the time. This text is, in part, my long-delayed reply.

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Doctors, Druggists, Dealers and Users

“A dose of laudanum in a glass of grog”² (Eagle Hills, 1780)

Fur traders were aware of the addictive power of opiates. They used this to their advantage by adulterating the alcohol they traded to the Blackfoot with laudanum, an opium-based medicine. This was not disclosed to their “clients”³.

The agents principally employed [in the fur trade] in the distant parts of the country were French Canadian, known by the name of *Coueurs des bois*, a set of men who, by accompanying the natives on their hunting and trading excursions, had become so attached to the Indian way of life, that they had lost all relish for their former habits and native homes. The missionaries complained of the licentious manners of these men, whom they presented as a disgrace to the Christian religion, while the Indians, losing all respect for them, laid them under frequent contributions; the merchants who had embarked in the trade were disgusted with their ill success, and refused to continue their advances.

Sir Alexander [McKenzie] states, that in the year 1780, as some of these traders were about to depart from the Eagle Hills, where a large band of Indians were engaged in drinking near their houses, a Canadian, “to ease himself of the troublesome importunities of a native, gave him a dose of laudanum in a glass of grog, which effectually prevented him from giving further trouble to any one, by setting him asleep for ever.” The consequence of this was a fray, in which one of the traders and several of the men were killed, and the rest saved themselves by flight.

“The Cholera”⁴ (Quebec, 1832)

For many years, opium was reputed to be an effective treatment for cholera.

Having now so many data to go by of the efficacy of our practice, in this most direful disease (Cholera), and knowing that the members of the medical profession are not agreed upon a decided or uniform mode of treatment, we take the liberty of announcing to the public, through the medium of your types, that our practice consists in ordering a *total* abstinence from all liquids (and solids, of course) from the moment the person feels himself under the influence of any symptom threatening Cholera, by which sufficient time is gained to obtain proper medical advice.

Our prescription is simply one pill, containing one grain of fresh opium and seven of calomel, which is to be swallowed dry, without the aid of any liquid, if

² From A Sketch of the British Fur Trade in North America. (1815). *Cowper's Poems and Life*, 16(31), 129-172.

³ My thanks to Julian Blank Antelope's *The Secret History of the Wild West* (TV series) for bringing his important case to my attention.

⁴ From Arnoldi, D. & Arnoldi, F. C. T. (1832, June 21). THE CHOLERA. *Montreal Gazette*, p. 2. Written by D. Arnoldi and Francis C. T. Arnoldi, M.D.

possible. The use of all beverages, we insist upon being most strictly abstained from, until every symptom has subsided, and something like hunger has returned. In few instances have we had occasion to repeat the pill, unless the patient's stomach did not retain the first (and which was uniformly occasioned by the fluids present in the stomach at the time), and in the course of a few hours, we generally followed up by an ounce of Epsom salts, dissolved in half a pint of water, and a wine-glass-full taken every hour. The subsequent treatment varied according to the peculiarities of the case, and could be regulated by the judgment of any practitioner, keeping strictly in mind the yet remaining irritability of the stomach as to fluids.

Our exertions have been too frequently paralysed by the absurd practice of taking laudanum or opium pills previous to sending for advice. The peculiarity of our plan, and to which we ascribe our whole success, consists in obtaining the arrest of the urgent symptoms by the least possible dose of opium, *and absolutely doing nothing*. The plan is too simple to be generally credited, but hundreds have experienced the efficacy of it, and we would strongly recommend, at least, the first trial to every medical man.

“Our opium eater”⁵ (Ontario, 1834)

We have to notice a devourer of this drug, who, at 80 years of age, and with little more than three shillings per week for his bodily support, assures us that he enjoys bliss and health by the use of a narcotic, which, whatever may have been its effect on the individual in question, is generally destructive to health and happiness.

Our opium eater is a person named Barrow, a working jeweler, and of, originally, good connections, but now very poor, and residing in the metropolis. The following account, from his own pen, was given to a gentleman who has known him for many years:-

“I first began with one grain in 1810, on account of a pain in my breast, and depression of spirits. I did not increase it more than two or three grains till 1818. I was engaged to dinner, but was so weak and depressed that I could not walk across the room, or dress myself; I then ventured on four grains, and these four grains daily kept me in a pleasant state for some weeks. I kept on increasing the dose to 20 grains and about 1825, to 40 grains, but I found, after the 40 grains had had its proper effect, that I became more depressed than ever, and being engaged to another party to dine, I took half a gill of laudanum, or one ounce, from which I felt a kind of intoxication, but went to the party, and there being plenty of oranges I counteracted its effect by that means, and got well home and had a sound night's sleep.

“My sufferings from 1803 to 1827, no tongue nor pen can describe; for I was frequently bed-ridden for months together; but for the laudanum and opium I never could have existed under it; with the continual temptation of putting an end to my existence. Since November, 1827, this horrible affliction has left me, and at present my health and spirits are as good as I could wish them to be.

⁵ From CONFESSIONS OF AN OPIUM EATER. (1834, August 5). *British Whig* (Kingston), p. 2.

“On one occasion during my illness I was tempted to put an end to my pains by taking three drachms of opium – one hundred and eighty grains, never expecting to open my eyes again; but to my own astonishment I overcame this. I took it about two o’clock in the day, and went to bed and slept till eight or nine o’clock at night, when I rose, went out, and got a pint of porter made hot, with a little sugar in it, my usual potion to make me sleep. I returned to bed about ten o’clock, fell asleep, and awoke about three or four in the morning.

“I was [up] for a long while before I could discover whether I was yet an inhabitant of this earth, but was, or seemed to be, in a state of bliss, surrounded by superior spirits, who showed me my heart in a glass case, and told me this was the heart I had when on earth. I sat up in bed, and was feeling about, and put my hand on my snuff-box. I was then convinced I was yet mortal. I then vomited most copiously, and having a prodigious thirst and heat, I kept drinking large draughts of cold water, which when I parted with, felt as hot as boiling water. When I had discharged the whole contents of my stomach, I fell asleep, and continued so for nearly twelve hours, in a state of perfect bliss, and continued well and happy for a considerable period. I have now reduced my dose to 15 grains daily, and am in perfect health.”

“Singular human being”⁶ (Ontario, 1855)

We have in this village [of Elmira, Ontario] one of the most singular human beings (all things considered) to be found in this corner of the world. He is a dwarf, about 18 years of age, quite small and deformed, and, not exactly an opium-eater, but a laudanum drinker. He has been a victim of the habit for years, and all attempts to prevent his indulgence in the stupefying drug has been in vain. The desire for more and more is steadily gaining on him, until at the present time, he actually drinks two ounces of laudanum every day; and what is more remarkable, *all at one time!* This enormous potation is swallowed at a regular hour in the afternoon of each day, a pipe and tobacco then follow, and smoking is in order till midnight, unless, indeed, the subject – which is sometimes the case – falls asleep, when he is helped to bed.

The only object for which this strange creature seems to live is this deadly narcotic, and his only care and ambition is centred in producing the little means required to buy the two-ounce draught. As it has been found impossible to place any effectual barrier between the drug and the drugged, the attempt has been abandoned, and it has been thought best to hereafter interpose no obstacles in the way of his free indulgence.

In accordance with this determination, we understand that the victim, whose yellow and haggard visage gives fearful evidence of the presence of the coiled serpent, which alternately writhes and slumbers in his bosom – has made a contract for the daily supply at reduced prices, with one of our drug stores, from whence he draws the

⁶ From SINGULAR HUMAN BEING. (1855, December 14). *Semi-Weekly Expositor* (Brantford), p. 1.

“living death,” whose influences have been likened to shadowy glimpses of heaven, followed by the realities of hell, with the most punctilious punctuality.

“The strange story of George Moore, druggist”⁷ (B.C., 1862)

The early servants of the Hudson’s Bay Company resided behind the palisades and within the fort, or clustered in one-story cabins of hewn logs, white-washed inside and out, and built without the slightest regard to architectural effect or sanitation. The men who came here [to Victoria] in pursuit of gold in 1858 erected their places of business along the line of Yates and Wharf streets, and disposed of their goods on a strictly cash basis. The thoroughfares, which were wagon tracks in summer, in winter became quagmires in which horses and drays often stuck and men sank to their knees. The navigation of what are now our chief business streets forty-five years ago required a man who was able to “take the sun,” as they say at sea, to cross them dry-shod and mud-free. Above Broad Street, as late as the winter of 1861-62, the roads were absolutely impassable. There were no street lights, sewers, water or cabs – none of the conveniences that now contribute to make life without the business centre enjoyable. Many of the heaviest merchants occupied rooms above or behind their warehouses and raised families of children blooming with health and vigor. [...]

One of the most picturesque characters in the downtown district at that time was George⁸ Moore, a druggist, who dispensed drugs and chemicals at A. J. Langley & Co.’s, at the corner of Boomerang Alley and Yates Street. Mr. Moore was an Englishman of rather retiring manners. He was amiable and good-natured to a fault, and was never known to turn his back upon a glass of good brandy or rum, in which genial habit he was not alone. To his intimates he was known as “Pem” Moore; to mere acquaintances as Moore; to the general public as Dr. Moore. As a druggist he had few equals, and as prescriptions were charged at the rate of from \$2 to \$5, it will be understood that the profits were large and that Moore earned the liberal salary that was paid him. Moore did not live at or near his place of business. Early in 1859 he had married a Mrs. Stein, the widow of a German grocer, whose husband had left her a tidy little fortune, out of which she built a brick dwelling on Gordon Street. After the marriage Mrs. Moore hyphenated her name and had her cards printed “Mrs. Stein-Moore.” Several of Moore’s friends ventured to address him as “Stein-Moore,” but the manner in which he received the innovation caused them to refrain from repeating the liberty, and so they returned to the more familiar if less musical appellation of “Pem” Moore. [...]

Moore, as I have said, was a kind-hearted man and performed many acts of goodness which, no doubt, stand recorded to his credit in the Better Land. He was a

⁷ From Higgins, D. W. (1912, November 8). The Strange Story of George Moore, Druggist. *The Express* (North Vancouver), p. 6. Concluded on p. 6 of the issue of Nov. 12, 1912. Though this story was published in 1912, it relates incidents from December 1861. Written by David Williams Higgins (1834 – 1917).

⁸ Possibly a typo. The first Victoria Directory lists a James Moore was working at Langley Brothers, and the 1863 British Columbia Directory has a James Moore, druggist, at 53 Government Street.

most careful druggist, and no mistake was ever traced to him. With all his amiability he could be very firm when the occasion required, as the tale I am about to relate will show.

One dark and dismal night the rain fell in great sheets and the wind roared over sea and land. It was December of 1861. The hour was 10:30; the store was deserted by customers, and Moore was on the point of closing for the night when the door swung back with a bang and a female figure was blown in. She was closely muffled to protect her from the fury of the gale, and the lower part of the face was hidden behind a red shawl. In spite of the shawl Moore could see that the woman was nice-looking, and that she had coal-black eyes that sparkled with what seemed to be an unnatural fire. Approaching the counter the woman hesitated for a moment and then, allowing her eyes to fall, said in a faltering voice:

“I want two bits’ worth of laudanum.”

“What do you want it for?”

“I want it for the toothache.”

“It wouldn’t require so large a quantity as that. A few drops on cotton wool will do. Here, I’ll put a few drops in the tooth.”

“No, no, no,” said the woman, shrinking away. “I must have two bits’ worth. All my teeth are aching. Give it [to] me and let me go.”

Moore considered a moment. He felt certain that the woman before him meant to commit suicide. If he refused to sell her poison, someone else might.

“Well,” he said, “you may have the poison if you will promise to be careful in its use.”

Moore filled a small phial with a dark fluid, labeled it “Laudanum, Poison,” and handed it to the customer. She almost snatched it from his hand. She threw down the coin, and with a smothered “Thank you” left the store as rapidly as she had entered it.

Moore gazed after her with a queer look in his eye, while a smile played about the corners of his mouth. Then he lighted a little candle and, placing it within a tin lantern (coal oil was not then used in lanterns), banked the fire, closed and locked the safe (that was before combinations were invented), fastened the doors and sallied forth into the night. The feeble rays shed by the candle guided his footsteps along the muddy footpath (no boarded sidewalks then existed).

He walked along Yates through the slop until he reached Government Street. The wind was holding high revel. Signboards creaked and buildings groaned and trembled before the heavy blasts that tore freely through the little town, as if anxious to sweep the place clean off the map. Moore’s hat blew off, but he did not stop to recover it. His course led past the corner of Bastion and Government Streets. The [fort’s] guns frowned down upon him as if they were preparing to go off on their own accord, and contest with the elements a right to a monopoly of the noise.

The lonely wayfarer continued to pick his patch slowly and was passing the palisades of the fort when the feeble rays cast by his lantern disclosed something that gave him a start and caused his kind heart to beat with alarm. In an instant he had recovered himself and, bending down, saw that the figure of a woman lay extended

on the walk. A glance showed that the prostrate woman was the one who had asked for the laudanum a short time before. He placed his hand on her shoulder and shook her gently. The woman moaned and, drawing the red shawl over her face, turned her back on the light.

“Come,” said Moore. “Get up. This is no place for a human being on such a night; and a woman, too,” he added.

“Oh! Go away and let me die,” the woman replied in pitiful accents.

“Let you die! No, indeed,” said the druggist. “Why should you die? What have you done to make you wish to die?”

“Oh! I’ve taken poison – laudanum,” she said. “In a few minutes I shall be dead.”

“But you have not taken poison,” persisted Moore.

“I have, indeed. I bought it at Langley’s – two bits’ worth. I swallowed it all and have laid down here to sleep. Oh! Go away and let me die in peace,” she moaned.

“Woman,” said Moore. “I am the druggist who filled your order. I did not give you laudanum. I gave you a small phial of weak paregoric, with a dash of ipecac to act as an emetic. If you wait till that kills you, [you] will live forever.”

The woman sat up and in imploring tones begged Moore to assure her that he had spoken the truth. No reply was necessary, for at that moment the ipecac made its presence manifested in no uncertain way. When the woman had sufficiently recovered Moore assisted her to her feet. Her clothes were wringing wet and she trembled with cold and weakness.

“Have you told me the truth?” she again asked the druggist.

“Yes,” replied Moore. “As God is my judge, I gave you nothing that would harm you. Now come with me to my home like a good girl and my wife will look after you.”

He half led, half carried the forlorn creature, who was too weak to resist, to his door. A blazing fire filled the hearth; a cold grouse flanked with a bottle of Pyramid beer and another of brandy stood on the dining-room table, set there for Mr. Moore’s supper. In less time than it has taken to write it, Moore led the woman to an easy chair before the fire and poured out a generous jorum of brandy, which he almost forced down her throat. Then he ran out of the room and aroused his wife. She soon came bustling in, clad in a wrapper.

Mrs. Stein-Moore was a German and spoke broken English. She was eccentric, vain and silly on most subjects, but when it came to helping a woman in distress she was the best-hearted creature in the world. She almost dragged the stranger off to her room, where she gave her a hot bath, hung up her wet raiment to dry, and then put her to bed between blankets with a bottle filled with hot water at her feet.

In the morning early the stranger awoke, arrayed herself in her garments, and would have left the house by stealth after penning a short note of thanks to her host and hostess, but they were on the alert and barred her egress. They made her partake of breakfast, which she did while grateful tears chased each other down her face.

Mr. and Mrs. Moore made no effort to gain her confidence and the woman left after telling Mr. Moore that her name was Wilmer, that she was married and resided with her husband on or near the present line of lower Pandora Street. Some days

later the Moores inquired and found that the Wilmers had left Pandora Avenue [sic.] and gone whither no one knew. They heard no more of the woman for a long time – nearly a year.

One bright afternoon, late in the autumn of 1862, Mrs. Moore was called into her drawing-room by a message brought by the servant that a lady wished to see her. Upon entering the room the visitor arose. She was tall and graceful and was well dressed in clothes of fashionable make and fine texture. Mrs. Moore paused in the act of extending her hand, for the lady seemed an entire stranger.

“You do not recognize me?” asked the visitor.

“No, I cannot remember to have seen you before.”

“And yet,” returned the lady with a smile, “you have met me before and have entertained me.”

Mrs. Moore studied the face carefully and then shook her head. She did not recognize a line of the features.

“You do not recall my face?” the lady asked.

“No, I cannot recall it to mind.”

“Well, then, I am Mrs. Wilmer, whom your husband found lying on the street and brought here, and to whom you were so good. I have come to tell you that fortune has smiled upon me. My husband has made much gold at Cariboo. He is interested in one of the richest claims on William Creek, and I have brought you this nugget as a gift to show how much we appreciate your great goodness to me when I needed your help.”

She handed Mrs. Moore a large lump of pure gold. Mrs. Moore at first declined the gift; but the lady insisted, and she finally yielded.

“Now,” said Mrs. Wilmer, “you are entitled to an explanation of my strange conduct a year ago. My husband and I are English born. He is one of the best men alive when he refrains from the use of liquor, but under that blasting influence he is a demon. On the night I bought the laudanum he came home in a state of intoxication and struck me. I ran into the street and made my way to Mr. Moore’s place. I fully intended to kill myself. When my husband found that I was gone he searched at once, for he really loves me. He searched for me all through that bitter night and when he got back to the house at noon he found me there. He took me in his arms and knelt at my feet. He asked my forgiveness a thousand times. He made a solemn vow on his mother’s Bible to drink no more. He has kept his oath. I went with him to Cariboo. I cooked and baked and washed and kept boarders while he worked in the mine, of which he is part owner. Providence blessed our efforts. We came down a week ago with nearly \$5,000, and there is plenty of gold awaiting our return in the spring. We have sent \$3,000 to England, and have given \$100 to the Royal Hospital. We have enough left to keep us through the winter. I am a very happy woman, Mrs. Moore, and whenever I ask God to forgive my great sin from the consequences of which the wisdom and foresight of your husband saved me, I always ask Him to bless you and your husband.”

Mrs. Moore was delighted that her visitor was the woman whom she had helped in an hour of deep distress, and the women embraced with expressions of

happiness and pleasure. [...] As Mrs. Wilmer rose to go, Mrs. Moore promised to call upon her soon. Then the ladies parted, never to meet again on this earth.

“The Pharmacy Bill”⁹ (Quebec, 1869)

A bill is before the Quebec Legislature entitled “An Act to incorporate the College of Pharmacy of the Province of Quebec,” the preamble of which sets forth:

“Whereas it is expedient for the safety of the public that all persons engaged in the sale of drugs and poisons and then dispensing of medicines should be fully qualified for such duties, and duly examined as to their competency, and registered according to their several degrees of proficiency,” &c.

The bill goes on to provide for the incorporation of druggists, the creation of a board of examiners, with power to grant or refuse certificates to practice Pharmacy, dispense medicines, and sell poisons, in three classes, viz.: Licentiates of Pharmacy, Certified Clerks, and Certified Pupils. After the 1st of May next it will be unlawful for any person to engage in the business of chemist and druggist, or to sell poisons unless licensed therefor, or to employ any clerk or pupil, unless he be duly registered, under a penalty not exceeding \$500.

The object of the Bill is said to be the safety of the public, and yet it abolishes the chief safeguard against the indiscriminate sale of poisons which was provided by a previous Act – a physician’s prescription. It makes no provision for the careful keeping of poisons in a separate closet of the store in bottles of peculiar make, which cannot be opened without undoing the stopper fastening, and it places no impediment to the sale of poisons to any person on demand, nor does it require the keeping of a register in which such sales shall be entered. So far, then, as the sale of poisons is concerned, the Bill instead of providing for the safety of the public, places it in a more insecure position.

What it does do, also, is to give the Pharmacists, as they call themselves, a monopoly of the trade in poisons. The safety of the public is no better secured by the provisions for licensing of druggists, their clerks, and pupils. If there is any necessity for a College of Pharmacy, and the technical instruction and examination it is to provide, it must arise from the admission of ignorance and incompetency of those now carrying on the business. There can be no mistake about this. If the existing system secures the requisite technical education and efficiency, there is no necessity to create a Corporation with many of the worst features of the old trade guilds, to accomplish what is now satisfactorily effected without this objectionable organization. If the Pharmacists now in business are so ignorant that the safety of the public requires a College of Pharmacy, we do not see how that safety is to be secured by that clause of the Bill which exempts all those who are in business prior to May next, from the course of instruction and examination imposed on those who seek to enter it afterwards. The payment of ten dollars each for a certificate that they are duly qualified can hardly be looked upon as an additional security.

⁹ From The Pharmacy Bill. (1869, December 7). *Evening Star* (Montreal), p. 2.

The Bill makes no provision whatever for the safety of the public in the most material respect of requiring that medicines shall not be prepared, nor prescriptions dispensed, except by the druggist himself, or by a duly qualified assistant; the want of which is a great evil. Every person accustomed to deal at drug stores is aware how much of the business on which the efficacy of medicines and frequently life itself depends is trusted to mere boys. There is hardly a druggist who will not, while protesting that he himself never allows this to be done in his establishment, admit that it is too much the rule in other houses. Those who have been behind the scenes know that the most important operations of the laboratory and the shop, the preparation and dispensing of medicines, are in very many instances entrusted to boys who have served but a portion of their apprenticeship, and who do not possess either the requisite knowledge nor the necessary appreciation of the responsibility imposed on them, to be so trusted.

A boy is set to make up a dozen pills containing six grains of Morphia. To save a little trouble he either shakes on to his slab what he guesses to be the right quantity, which is just as likely to be more as less, or he carelessly weighs it with the result of having over-weight. The mixing is done after the same fashion, so that the resulting mass contains in one part not half what it should, and in another twice as much. The patient takes one pill that should contain half a gram of morphia, but actually has only a quarter in it, and the desired effect not being produced, on the next occasion, he takes two pills, and this time gets two grains, and perhaps dies suddenly to the astonishment of his physician. These sort of poisonings are of anything but rare occurrence, although the greater part of them are hushed up, or afford matter for learned discussions on the fatal effects of small doses of Morphia, under certain conditions of the stomach and brain. The condition in nearly all these frequent cases, was the small boy at the druggist's.

Only recently an estimable lady came to her death by another of this druggist's boys innocent little dodges to make his work easy. She had been in the habit of taking a weak Morphia mixture to allay pain. There was but a single dose of the ordinary quantity left in the bottle. She took it, soon showed symptoms of narcotic poisoning, and died. Of course the cause was [determined to be] a peculiar condition of the stomach or brain. Now come behind the screen of Mr. Jalap's dispensing department, where only the most competent assistants are employed, and you will find one of his apprentices making up a narcotic mixture. He weighs or guesses the quantity of morphia on to a piece of paper, puts it dry into the bottle, adds the liquid ingredients of the prescription with an occasional shake, and this process is what is too often the fact of the assertion: "*Prescriptions carefully prepared.*" There will probably be a slight sediment at the bottom of the bottle hardly distinguishable; it may dissolve before the patient gets to the last dose, or, if not, it may kill him, as in the case above mentioned, and in many more that have come under our observation.

Far too many of the cases of accidental poisoning that occur are the work of the careless druggist or his reckless assistants and apprentices. We believe, so far as this Province [of Quebec] is concerned, there is no instance during the past ten years of death from accidental or intentional poisoning where the means were not obtained

from a regular druggist. So that if the public safety is to be consulted and provided for, we want protection from the indiscriminate sale of poisons by druggists, and we want stringent regulations to prevent medicines being compounded, and prescriptions dispensed by any other but thoroughly qualified persons, [and] by the druggist himself whenever possible. With the disappearance of the druggist's boy from the scene, oxalic acid would not be so frequently sold for salts, nor laudanum for tincture of senna, and there would be a cessation of that uncertain action of medicines which now so frequently baffles the physician, and sometimes ends the patient.

“A sad case”¹⁰ (Ontario, 1869)

The wife of a settler in the Township of Glenelg, sometime within the last four months, presented her husband with child number eight, which, with all its predecessors, is stout and healthy. The woman's medical attendant was Dr. Burns, of Priceville. Shortly after her confinement the doctor left three pills, with directions as to the manner of being administered, and a caution to her husband not to be alarmed if they produced the appearance of madness. The doctor properly estimated their effect. Madness ensued, but unfortunately it was not temporary, for to-day the poor woman is a raving maniac, and her body prostrated, except when agitated by the fever of delirium.

At an early stage of the malady Dr. Gunn, of Durham, was called in, who, it appears, after a series of professional visits, advised that the patient should be removed to the hospital in Toronto. Thither the husband proceeded with her. The conditions of admission to the hospital was, on application to the Mayor, found to be, on payment of \$12 a month, and a guarantee from the Reeve of the Township of Glenelg, that all demands would be satisfied.

Not being prepared to meet these requirements in every particular, the husband of the invalid called upon Dr. Newcome, to whom he was recommended, as a man wielding influence at the hospital. The doctor encouraged him to expect admission for his wife on more favorable terms than were offered by the Mayor, gave him a note to the Surgeon of the hospital, charged him a fee of \$2, which was paid, and promised to meet him and his wife at the hospital.

They went, but there was no Dr. Newcome. The resident medical superintendent of the hospital refused her admission on the ground of unfitness and recommended that she should be taken to the lunatic asylum. To the asylum she was taken, but the asylum already being filled even beyond its proper sanitary capacity, she could not be received.

¹⁰ From BURNS vs. WHITE AND JOHNSON. (1870, January 20). *Durham Chronicle*, p. 2. [As part of a discussion of the libel case detailed in the following article, the *Chronicle* reprinted a portion of “A Sad Case”, as transcribed below.]

“A libel case”¹¹ (Ontario, 1870)

In which a medical man obtains damages from the proprietors of a newspaper.
Tried at Toronto, January 12, 1870.

Burns *v.* White and Johson. This was an action for libel, by a doctor, against the proprietors of the *Durham Chronicle*, arising out of various articles published in that paper, their publication commencing on July 15, 2869, with the recital, “A Sad Case,”¹² together with comments on the treatment of a patient, Mrs. Flowers, by the plaintiff, Dr. Burns, then residing in Priceville. Other leaders followed, and also letters from professional gentlemen. The result was that an apology was demanded by Dr. Burns’ solicitors, which was refused, and the present action commenced. Mr. Harrison, Q.C., for plaintiff, and Hon. Mr. Cameron, Q.C., and Dr. McMichael, Q.C., for defendant.

Mr. Harrison, having opened the case, called Hugh McMillan, who deposed that he was a subscriber to the *Durham Chronicle*; he had read the article headed “A Sad Case.” Mr. Harrison was about to ask what the effect of this article was upon the witness, when Mr. Cameron objected, and asked if the above was all the evidence to be given to prove publication. Mr. Harrison said it was not.

[The] witness stood down, and Mr. Barrett, plaintiff’s attorney, was called, and deposed that he received the papers, and knew that the defendants were the proprietors. He had done business with them. He expected that the circulation was over 1,000. Dr. Burns was then residing at Priceville, about 10 miles from Durham, and had been in practice about a year. The article was much spoken of, and the general impression was that the doctor had been guilty of malpractice. There was a public meeting held on the subject after the reiteration of the libel in the second article.

By Hon. Mr. Cameron, Dr. Burns left Priceville for Listowel in the County of Perth, before the article appeared. The latter was about 40 miles distance. He supposed that the paper was not circulated in the County of Perth. He believed that Dr. Burns had an excellent practice. [He] did not know of any person in the County of Perth that had refused to employ the doctor in consequence of that article. He believed that the article stated the facts, but he did not know them of his own personal knowledge. Dr. Burns said to him that the object of the medicine was to quiet the woman, but that it possibly might bring on delirium. He thought that the article was right when it stated that she was “a raving maniac.”

Mr. McMillan was again examined. He thought that the articles were very injurious to the doctor, because it charged him with giving wrong medicine. The article was looked upon generally as it was by himself. He thought the doctor had a good practice before.

¹¹ From A LIBEL CASE. (1870). *Canada Medical Journal and Monthly Record of Medical and Surgical Science*, 6(9), pp. 419 – 427.

¹² This article does not appear to have survived, but part of it was quoted by the *Durham Chronicle* in an article from January 20, 1870, discussing the libel case.

In cross examination, Mr. Flowers, the husband of [the] deceased, told him that he thought it was improper medicine.

Dr. Burns, the plaintiff, was next examined. He got his diploma from the University of Toronto in 1866, and his teaching included midwifery. He first practiced in Nisestead, and removed to Priceville in the winter of 1869. He attended Mrs. Flowers the day before Good Friday, about seven or eight days after her delivery. She was then in a restless and nervous condition. He prescribed for her. He gave her a powder composed of sulphate of morphine, combined with ipecacuanha and nitrate of potash. There were three powders made. The proportion was about a $\frac{1}{4}$ grain of morphia, $1\frac{1}{2}$ grains of ipecacuanha, and 6 grains of nitrate of potash. He gave one, and left directions that the others should be taken at intervals of four hours. They were given to produce quiet and rest. The above was a common prescription, and he had frequently given it. The effect of it was to slightly stimulate at first, and afterwards to quiet. It was not calculated by any means to produce madness. He cautioned the husband not to be alarmed if she became giddy.

He called to see her again on the morning of Good Friday, and he found her in a state of mania. She was in a state which might be styled puerperal mania, having violent delirium, high and rapid pulse, and being apparently insensible to all questions asked her. Her skin was dry and hot, and in a feverish condition. After his second visit he advised a consultation. These effects were not the result of his medicine, and the patient was naturally very weak, having been lately confined.

Dr. Porter was called in, and until he came [the] witness continued to give her opium. Dr. Porter approved of the treatment and advised its continuance. She became somewhat quieter after they left. He saw her on Saturday, and the raving had then ceased, and her condition was then much improved. He told Mr. Flowers to call on him the following day, whether she was better or worse, as she might have a relapse.

Instead of sending or calling on Sunday, he believed Dr. Gunn was called in. A message was left for him to see her at a neighbor's after she had been under the care of Dr. Gunn a fortnight, but he did not go and see her as it was contrary to professional etiquette for him to do so.

He saw the paper containing the first article in the same week that it was published. It was sent to him by a friend. He was then living in Listowel, the reason of his removal being that the latter place was larger. The article had been injurious to him in Listowel by keeping patients from him. It had been very much talked of by the people at Listowel. He understood that the article made a charge of malpractice against him. This was the charge the people made who read the paper. His practice was better before this was published than it has been since. There was no other reason to account for the change.

[In response to a question] by Hon. Mr. Cameron: The effect had been to injure him in getting new patients. His prescription was prepared from his bottles. He had several other articles in his chest. He found her very wild and violent. He had only known of one case of puerperal mania, when he was a student. He did not change the treatment at all. He did not know the defendants.

Re-examined – He did not know the author of the article. He knew that one of the doctors in Listowel had used the article to his detriment.

Dr. Workman was next called. [He] was superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum. He had been in the profession since 1825. He knew Annie Flowers, the woman referred to. She was now insane. He had heard the prescription given by Dr. Burns, and thought it would not produce insanity. It was ridiculous to suppose that such would have the effect, that being the medicine and the quantity. There might be a temporary delirium resulting from it, which would pass off, and would not produce permanent insanity. The dose, if it erred at all, was too small. If taken by a sane person it would have a quieting effect, but the idiosyncrasies sometimes altered the effect of medicine, and if the woman had been insane during the process of incubation, the dose was too small. This insanity was seldom discovered except it was developed by sudden action or otherwise. She came under his charge on the 17th September last, and still remained under his care. He had, therefore, opportunity of examining her, and his opinion was that her insanity was partly to be accounted for by the fact that she had had eight children, and was only 32 years of age. He thought it might be hereditary.

Hon. Mr. Cameron said he should prove that this was not the case.

[The] witness asked how he would do it.

Hon. Mr. Cameron understood that the witness was of [the] opinion that every one was more or less insane.

Witness:- Did I think so!

Hon. Mr. Cameron:- I think that you have given that as your opinion.

Witness:- You confound me, I think, with a more eminent man – Lord Brougham.

Mr. Harrison:- We should have soon to increase our Asylum if that were the case. (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. Cameron:- Of course he does not think that we are so bad as that.

[The] witness's examination continued. He was hopeful of her recovery, her *mens sana* would improve with her *corpore sano*, [and] the account in the paper was incorrect.

Puerperal mania put a woman in a raving and excited condition, and in that case the proper remedy was to send her to the Asylum. He did not think that medicine was of much use. Puerperal mania was not common. He had cases before he went to the Asylum, and had seen many cases since.

Dr. Oldwright also gave some testimony with regard to the medical bearing of the doses administered. He said morphia in small doses might produce delirium, which would pass off, but would not cause insanity. If there were no appearances of insanity, the dose was proper.

Dr. Kennedy, who was for 6½ years clinical assistant in the Lunatic Asylum, and had been practicing for himself 4 years, was also called, and gave similar evidence to the previous witness.

Cross-examined:- If the woman became excited after the taking of medicine, the medicine would partly cause it, but it would not therefore wholly account for it.

This closed the case for the plaintiff.

Hon. Mr. Cameron then called the husband of the woman referred to.

Mr. Flowers deposed that he was the husband of the woman now lying in an insane condition. She was confined on the 19th of March, and Dr. Burns came the 25th of the same month. She had had seven children previously, and had only a midwife with the exception of the first child. [He] had not seen anything the matter with her previously. [They] had been married 15 years. He sent for Dr. Burns, and when he came he examined her. She did not appear nervous and excited. After the examination he prescribed the three powders and left instructions as to the manner in which they were to be administered. The time of the Doctor's calling was about mid-day. The Doctor told him if his wife became delirious while taking these powders, that he was not to be alarmed. He could see no change in her. After the second dose there was a great change, her eyes looking wild and glaring. She got worse till the time that the third dose was administered, and she was still getting worse.

The Doctor was again sent for. He came, and seeing her condition, said he would give her a sleeping powder. He did not describe the medicine as being given with that intention. Additional advice was called in after the sleeping medicine had been given. Dr. Porter was sent for on the suggestion of Dr. Burns. He treated his wife for three days, and he changed him because he did not think that the result justified the remarks he had made to [the] witness. His wife said her teeth were loose and her flesh quite numb.

Mr. Harrison said the woman was insane, and her statement could not therefore be received.

Examination resumed:- He spoke about the matter before the account was published in the paper. He had read the article in that paper, and it set forth substantially what he stated with the exception of the word "pills" in place of "powder," and "madness" in place of "light-headedness," or "delirium."

Examined by Mr. Harrison:- He did not say to any one that his wife's madness was the result of improper treatment. He sent a letter to the paper. The letter was written for him by Mr. Jackson, M. P., who interested himself in the case. His wife was over eighteen when she was married. She was now past 33 and the time of her last birth was about 32. She had six children living and two dead. Dr. Burns did not say that she would become "mad," but either "delirious" or "light-headed". [The] witness sent for a doctor because she did not seem well. The confinement was got over so far as usual. She was assisted by a neighbor as at previous confinements.

Samuel Scott, examined by Hon. Mr. Cameron, deposed that he was [the] brother-in-law of the unfortunate woman. He saw the medicines prepared, and they were done by guess work. There were no means to weigh or measure them. He gave him instructions when to give the medicine.

Cross-examined:- He had never said to any one that the medicine had made her mad, but that was his own opinion. He did not know whether it was the result of the medicine or not, but he had said that it followed.

Dr. Oldwright was re-examined, and said a chill might have indicated fever, or pus in the blood, or something wrong in lactation. It usually, however, indicated a

febrile condition. Excessive flooding sometimes produced a coldness with extreme weakness.

Hon. Mr. Cameron addressed the jury. He said his learned friend had over-rated the importance of a country newspaper like the Durham *Chronicle*. He had represented it in the light of a daily paper published in a city, and given it as much prominence as the *Globe*, *Leader* or *Telegraph*. Such, however, was not the fact. A country newspaper had a very limited circulation indeed. In the case of the *Chronicle*, however, there was no real ground for a libel suit. The article in question was headed "A Sad Case," and, after making a statement of facts, it wound up by expressing a belief that it was a case of quackery on the part of Dr. Burns.

Now, the jury was aware of the necessity of defending the liberty of the Press. It was [in] the interest of the people to preserve it unmuzzled. The article on which this suit was founded was either a malicious one, or simply an item of news which had occurred in the County. The jury had absolute control in a case of this kind. They were to deal not only with the facts, but also with the intent with which they were published. The jury would observe that the article in question was simply a statement of the facts as they occurred. There was an admission on the part of the doctor that the medicine which he prescribed would result in temporary madness. The result, however, was permanent insanity. In that case, would anyone imagine that the madness was caused by anything else than the medicine? It was for the jury to determine the question. [...]

Mr. Harrison, Q. C., then addressed the jury on behalf of the plaintiff. [...] The law said that for every wrong there was redress, and the question was whether great injury had been done to this doctor by the circulation of this report. The press was responsible for what they said of their fellow men, and their liberty of criticism was within limits. The law gave a privilege to the press in the way of allowing them to apologize for a libel, but this not having been done, the defendants now stood in the same position as private individuals. The question was therefore for the jury as to whether there was a libel or not. The sting of the libel was that the madness was ascribed to the effect of the medicine given. The particulars of the case were then detailed, the learned counsel contending that the treatment was proved to be correct according to the medical evidence, and that the statement of the paper that the insanity was the result of the medicine was incorrect and libelous. [...] He called upon the jury to do justice to his client, and if they did what they thought right, he would be satisfied. [...]

His lordship then summed up with great judgment. [...] If the intention of the article was defamatory – and the jury had to follow their own conclusions as reasonable men – then they would find a verdict for the plaintiff, but if they thought that there did not appear in the article any evidence of such an intention, then they would find a contrary verdict. [...]

The jury then retired, and after two hours' consultation, returned a verdict for the plaintiff with \$100 damages.

“Melancholy and fatal occurrence”¹³ (Ontario, 1870)

Yesterday morning Coroner D. Van Cortland was called on to hold an inquest on the body of a young boy named Thomas Jordan, the son of one of the members of the City Police Force, who came to his death suddenly on the evening previous, under most painful and melancholy circumstances. It seems that very recently Constable Jordan had gone with his family to reside on the LeBreton Flats, and since his removal to his new home the little boy in question, a fine child of five years and three months of age, was taken ill with cold and intermittent fever.

At the beginning of the present week his father called in to see him a young medical practitioner residing in the neighborhood, named Dr. Phileon. This gentleman, a graduate of Laval University, of Quebec, though but recently established here, has acquired already a considerable practice in that portion of the city, and seems respected and liked by all parties about there for ability in his profession and his kindly courtesy and attention to his patients. For some two or three days he visited Jordan's child twice a day, and on Thursday saw [him] once. In the evening, shortly after six o'clock, Jordan went round to the Doctor's residence, and after paying him and thanking him for the care he had bestowed on the boy, said he seemed to be decidedly better, though still weak. He said also that he feared the child was suffering from worms. While in the surgery some other parties came in, and before Jordan left the Doctor prepared six powders, which he gave him, three in one packet being marked "For to-night." These Doctor Phileon said were quinine. One of them was to be given to the child as soon as the father returned home, a second was to be administered during the middle of the night, and the third to be kept until after the Doctor's promised visit next morning.

Jordan at once returned home, and mixing one of the powders as directed, gave it to the child, who refused at first to take it. The father then took a couple of teaspoonfuls to induce the boy to drink it, and found it hot and peppery in taste. The child, after a little coaxing, at last took the mixture, but complained of its being salty and burning him. He was then laying in his mother's lap, and in a few moments was seized with convulsions, and became rapidly speechless and insensible. The mother, alarmed and grief-stricken at what she rightly conceived to be the approaching death of her fine son, called out to his father that the medicine had killed the boy, and hardly were the words out [her] mouth when Dr. Phileon entered the house in haste.

It seems that in a very few moments after Jordan's departure with the medicine, he had again occasion to make up more quinine powder, and on taking up the bottles discovered that he had given Jordan powders from a vial of acetate of morphia, each powder being two grains in weight, enough to kill any adult. Seeing at once what the fatal effects of his error might be, the unfortunate young man started at once for the house of the patient, hoping to be in time to avert the evil, and taking with him an emetic for the boy, in case the dose should have been administered. When he arrived he found the family as we have described, the father and mother almost

¹³ From MELANCHOLY AND FATAL OCCURRENCE. (1870, February 5). *Ottawa Citizen*, p. 3.

frantic at the fate that had overtaken their child. He at once proceeded to administer the emetic, and with great promptness and presence of mind used all possible exertions to recover the boy. But alas, all his efforts were unavailing. The large dose of the narcotic poison had been rapidly absorbed into the system, and in a quarter of an hour after his arrival the deadly work had been completed. Dr. Phileon certainly exerted himself to the utmost to avert the effects of his fatal error, and in his endeavors to provoke an ejection of the fluid from the patient's stomach had his hands severely bitten and lacerated by the little one in his convulsive struggles.

Another man of the police force residing in the neighborhood was sent for by Jordan's mother in law, and by him Dr. Phileon was taken into custody and detained till yesterday. These were the facts laid before the jury, and in accordance with them a verdict of accidental death by poisoning was returned, coupled with a strong condemnation of the practice of not keeping dangerous medicines so separate and distinct from others as to make mistakes of the kind impossible. To Mr. Jordan and his family the blow has been a most severe one, and will be hardly less deeply felt by the unwitting author of their misery. On the part of Dr. Phileon no blame can be attached, beyond what seems to be but too common a fault among parties handling such dangerous articles. It seems at first almost incredible that any person should keep two substances, similar in appearance, weight, and to some extent in taste, in similar bottles in close proximity, one of which was a powerful and deadly poison and the other a comparatively harmless drug. Such however was the fact.

This case is, however, not a singular one. In almost every city in the country similar ones have occurred. In Toronto, some time since, a like "fatal accident" occurred. In Quebec Mr. Murney lost his life in a similar fashion, and in England, it will be remembered that a chemist mixed "accidentally" pounds of arsenic in his lozenges, and poisoned numbers before the "mistake" was discovered. No precautions can be too stringent to guard the public against the recurrence of these "mistakes". In none of the cases would anyone impute intentional wrong, or even general carelessness to the authors of the mischief, and none feel more bitterly than they themselves, probably, the evil they have caused. Knowing the liability for such errors to recur in the course of practice, the medical practitioner or druggist who neglects any precaution to render a "mistake" impossible, may at any moment find his neglect as fatal in its effect as though he intended mischief.

Mr. Jordan's little boy will be buried this morning at Aylmer.

"The sale of poisons"¹⁴ (Ontario, 1870)

Many of our readers will, by this time, have learned of the recent prosecution of a number of our city druggists for alleged infraction of the law regarding the sale of poisons. The case is one of considerable interest to all classes of the community, and, to druggists, especially so. Nor is this interest of a purely local nature, inasmuch

¹⁴ From THE SALE OF POISONS. (1870). *The Canadian Pharmaceutical Journal*, 3(2), 180-181. Probably written by Edward Buckingham Shuttleworth (1842 – 1934), editor of the journal and founder (in 1879) of the E. B. Shuttleworth Chemical Company Limited, based in Toronto.

as the statute relates to all parts of the Province [of Ontario], and should the decision which is now pending be rendered in favor of the prosecution, it is probable that druggists in other cities and towns would soon have to suffer a like humiliation with their Toronto brethren, by becoming a prey to the treachery of that most despicable of creatures – a common informer.

The details of the case, together with the evidence taken, will be found, in full, in another part of the Journal, and to this we refer to our readers for particulars; we give, however, a brief statement of the facts:-

Sometime during the middle of last month, the notorious informer, Mason, accompanied by one of his satellites, made a circuit of the drug stores of the city, and from twenty-five of these establishments succeeded in obtaining, by virtue of various artful misrepresentations, quantities of laudanum varying from forty minims to an ounce. Information was at once lodged with the police magistrate, and the offenders were, in due course, brought before that functionary. As the information was in all cases the same, it was proposed to try one as a test, which was accordingly done.

From the evidence of the informer, it appears that the laudanum was procured with considerable difficulty, and it was not until the purchaser gave full particulars as to the purpose for which he wanted it, urging, as a reason, that his rest had for several nights been broken – that the druggist consented to let him have the quantity required – a little over half an ounce.

The question arose as to whether laudanum came within the meaning of the statute in being “a deadly poison.” A number of witnesses, including Professor Croft and Dr. Lizars, were examined, but all agreed in their testimony that laudanum could not be so regarded, and could not, with propriety, be classed in the same category with arsenic, corrosive sublimate, and strychnia.

The case was remanded, from day to day, but nothing contradictory to this was elicited. The magistrate declined giving judgment when the evidence was concluded, and although nearly three weeks have elapsed, the decision has not yet been rendered.

It is not for us to say what the end of the case may be, but *from the evidence taken*, we certainly think that the point upon which the case appears to turn is clearly made out, and that laudanum cannot be considered a deadly poison, in the same light with poisons such as strychnia and arsenic. That the intent of the law is to include poisons such as these, and these only, will be apparent from a consideration of the following quotation from the Act in question:-

“No apothecary, chemist, druggist, vendor of medicine or other person shall sell or deliver any arsenic, corrosive sublimate, strychnine, or other poison, mineral or vegetable, simple or composite, commonly known as a deadly poison (or which, being incautiously or secretly administered, may cause immediate death) to any person who does not then produce and deliver a certificate or note from some person duly licensed to practice as a physician or surgeon, or some priest or minister of religion, resident in the locality, addressed to such druggist, &c., and mentioning the name, calling, or profession of the person requiring such poison; and stating the purpose for which it is required, and that it ought to be sold to the persons requiring

the same; and such certificate or note shall be kept by the person selling or delivering such poison as his justification for so doing.”

What is a deadly poison? This is a question somewhat difficult to answer. It is true we might give a general definition of the term, which might convey its commonly understood acceptance, but this definition might be widely incorrect. Happily, in this difficulty, the framers of the statute have plainly indicated what they, at least, understood by the term – that is – a poison “which being incautiously or secretly administered may cause immediate death.” Certainly laudanum cannot come under this designation, for we know that “immediate death” has never been known to result from its use, even in the most enormous quantities, and in all cases a sufficient time elapses for the exhibition of the proper remedies.

Some persons have endeavoured to assign a wider and more general meaning to the term as used in the Act. Thus, an erudite correspondent of the *Globe* informs the readers of that paper that a deadly poison is one “that will kill,” “or produce death in man.” A moment’s reflection shows this to be erroneous, but, assuming it to be correct, we might find hundreds of articles in a druggist’s stock which might be classed under the term.

The mere enumeration of theses would be sufficient to show their character, but let us go to fields less promising and find what the grocer does in the “deadly poison” line. Take one of the commoner articles – saltpeter. We find that in doses of one ounce it will prove fatal, and instances of such a termination have been recorded (*Wood & Bache*). [Then we have] cream of tartar; four or five teaspoonfuls have been found a fatal dose for an adult (*Taylor’s Medical Jurisprudence*). Essence of ratifia? A teaspoonful is a fatal dose; a case of poisoning by this quantity is reported in the *Lancet* in 1841. Cayenne pepper [is also a poisonous substance,] one ounce of which would cause death as certainly as a like quantity of laudanum. We might enumerate a number of similar instances, or might allude to alcoholic liquors which are, as a rule, comparatively slow in their action, but nevertheless remarkably sure; but [I] think we have adduced sufficient to show that if a deadly poison is one which will produce death in man, and that such is the meaning of the term as used in the Act, that informer Mason need not in future confine his attention exclusively to druggists.

We do not, at present, intend to pursue this subject further, but shall postpone our remarks until a legal decision has been given. In the meantime, we do not wish it to be understood that we treat the matter of the sale of poisons with undue laxity; we hold to quite the contrary, and think that every legal obligation compatible with the lawful use of dangerous substances should be laid down and enforced with the utmost rigor, but we believe that the present law is altogether insufficient for the purpose for which it was intended, as demonstrated by the fact that for over ten years it has remained a dead letter on our statute books, and when it is ultimately revived, it is only for the purpose of extorting money from one of the most respectable classes of the community, and placing it in the hands of one whose very avocation is a by-word and a disgrace.

The most impracticable and pernicious feature of the present law is that of requiring a physician or minister’s certificate as authority for the sale of poison (let

the rendering of the word be what it may). On this subject one of the *Globe's* correspondents very sensibly remarks:-

“Is a doctor or a minister any better qualified than a druggist to determine the uses to which a person may apply poison after having purchased it? Or, do they keep any record of the name, occupation, residence, &c., of those to whom they grant these certificaes? I believe the answer – No! will apply to both these questions. And I also believe that there is no druggist in the Dominion who would knowingly and willingly contravene the law as it now exists, if he could avoid it. But the thing is impossible! There is scarcely any article in the whole pharmacopoeia which can strictly be termed ‘innocuous,’ and one-half of the stock usually found on the shelves of a drug store might easily be termed ‘poisons.’ So that keeping to the precise letter of the law, a druggist would be compelled to give up his business and say with the Moor ‘Othello’s occupation’s gone,’ or by infringing it, as in the instance now on trial, place himself at the mercy of any one who through spite or impecuniosity may see fit to visit him with the terrors of the law.”

The druggist is the party with whom the responsibility of the sale of poisons should rest. The nature of his calling presupposes an intimate knowledge of their properties and uses; of these matters he is certainly a better judge than the priest or minister. His standing in the community is, as far as morality is concerned, as high as any. Care and watchfulness form an essential part of his education, and, in this respect, he is not a whit behind the physician. We are not unduly sounding the praises of the class we represent, for we find that others entertain an equally high estimate of the character of the profession.

On this subject a city contemporary editorially remarks:

“As a rule the educated druggist is one of the most careful of traders. A high sense of responsibility governs his proceedings, whether dispensing or retailing his goods. Not a few of them can point to occasions on which even the physician’s prescription has been corrected, and a catastrophe arising from a slip of the M. D.’s pen, averted by the watchfulness and intelligence of the dispenser.”

Let the druggist be allowed to use his own discretion in regard to the sale of poisons, and in thus assuming the guardianship of the public safety, we are sure that the welfare of the community will not suffer.

In speaking to druggists it is needless for us to remark that the passing of the proposed Pharmacy Act, as amended at the last sitting of the Legislature, would prove an effectual remedy for the evils and inconveniences with which both druggists and people are now harassed. It would insure adequate qualification on the part of those engaged in selling poisons, and at the same time guarantee all that the law can ask in regard to their sale. We hope that druggists, as well as lovers of good order, will do all in their power to promote the passing of this measure, by representing to members of the House, with whom they may have influence, the true state of affairs and the great necessity for putting this vexed question of poisons on a just and solid basis.

“Illegal sale of poison”¹⁵ (Ontario, 1870)

At the [Toronto] Police Court, on Friday, November 25th, twenty-five druggists were charged by George Albert Mason with having, on the 17th instant, sold poison contrary to law.

Mr. J. H. Patterson appeared for the prosecution and Dr. McMichael for the defence. Dr. McMichael proposed that as the information was the same in all the cases, one of them be tried as a test. Mr. Patterson wished, however, to take each case separately. The first case on the calendar, that of J. O. Wood, was therefore called, when Dr. McMichael said the information contained no specific charge; it was not stated therein that the defendant had sold laudanum, and at any rate it was a question whether laudanum came under the statute, for that drug was not a deadly poison. Mr. Patterson said they did not claim that laudanum was a deadly poison; and with regard to Dr. McMichael’s first objection, that poison had been sold “contrary to law” was sufficient to warrant the case being tried.

John Gill, sworn – I live in Toronto [and] know the defendant; he keeps a drug store on Queen Street.

Mr. Patterson – Did you purchase anything in his place lately?

Witness – Yes; I bought some laudanum.

Dr. McMichael – Stop, witness; are you a professional man?

Witness – No.

Dr. McMichael – Well, show the article you purchased.

Witness – I bought the laudanum on the 17th. The defendant told me that he was liable to a fine of \$50 for selling it. When I asked him for it, he hesitated a little and then gave it to me (the laudanum purchased by the witness was produced). I paid 10 cents for it. When I got out of the store I marked the defendant’s name and number of his store on the wrapper of the bottle, and at night I put on the time I bought it. I bought the laudanum without a certificate from a medical man, priest or minister; the defendant did not ask me for any.

Cross-examined – It was about ten o’clock; the defendant gave me the laudanum. I can’t say whether there was any person else in the shop or not. I gave as a reason for wanting the laudanum that my rest had been broken for the last two or three nights. My rest had been broken. I bought some more laudanum on the same night. I cannot say from my personal knowledge what is in the bottle. I think the contents are the same now as when I bought the bottle, but I cannot swear that they are.

To Mr. Patterson – I delivered the bottle to Mason on the same night I purchased it.

G. A. Mason was next called, when Dr. McMichael objected to his evidence being taken, as under the statute an informer was not competent to give evidence, and besides this, [the] complainant had been disqualified as a witness in being convicted of perjury. Mr. Patterson held that the statute under which they were

¹⁵ From *Illegal Sale of Poison*. (1870). *The Canadian Pharmaceutical Journal*, 3(32), 179-180.

proceeding showed that an informer was a competent witness, and he read sec. 2 cap. 13 of 33 Vic., Stat. of Ontario, which was to the effect that no person should be disqualified by reason of crime or interest from giving evidence.

The magistrate inquired if either of the learned council had looked at the Perjury Act in connection with this case. Both of the learned gentlemen said they had not, and Dr. McMichael said that he would now have to ask for an adjournment, as he had business in other courts. Mr. Patterson said that he also desired an adjournment until he should have the contents of the various bottles that had been purchased analyzed.

The case was therefore adjourned until Tuesday, when it was again resumed, and George A. Mason was called as the first witness, and Dr. McMichael again objected to the reception of his evidence, on the ground of infamy. Mr. Patterson answered this objection by reading a clause from chapter 99, Con. Stat. of Canada, which was to the effect that in cases of summary jurisdiction, conviction should be made on the oath of one or more credible witnesses other than the informer. Dr. McMichael held that the phrase "other than" excluded the informer. He also objected to the reception of Mason's evidence on the ground that the latter was a prosecutor, having a pecuniary interest in the result of the case, and was therefore incompetent as a witness under Cap. 31 of 32 and 33 Vic. Sec. 45.

The Magistrate noted the objections and admitted Mason's evidence.

The witness stated:-

"I know the defendant. I was opposite Mr. Woods' store when Gill purchased the laudanum. I saw Mr. Wood serving it. Gill came out and gave me the bottle in a wrapper. The bottle was one he had just purchased in the store. The bottle produced in court on the last hearing of this case is the same. From the time I got the bottle on King Street until it was produced here I had it in my possession. The cork was not taken out of the bottle during that time."

Cross-examined – "I saw the defendant through the glass in the door."

Mr. Shapter was called as the next witness, and at first objected to be sworn on the same Bible that Mason had been sworn on. He finally did so, however, and stated:-

"I am a druggist of some years' experience. I should judge from the appearance of the fluid in the bottle produced that it is laudanum, but I do not know that it is. It smells like laudanum; it smells also like alcohol. Laudanum is a tincture of opium. In a fluid ounce of the laudanum of commerce there would be about three grains of opium. Opium is considered to be a poison, but not a deadly one. Strychnia, nux vomica, arsenic and corrosive sublimate are deadly poisons."

Mr. Patterson – "What is the difference between a deadly poison and one that is not deadly?"

Witness – "Well, about the best test would be for Mason to take a dose of strychnine and myself a dose of laudanum (laughter); for deadly poison there is no remedy. It is more immediate in its action than poison which is not deadly, i.e., two grains of the former will kill quicker than two grains of the other. I have not always found an ounce of laudanum a fatal dose for an adult. I do not remember any case in

which an ounce of laudanum proved fatal. I do not speak, in giving my classification, either from experience or from books. I give my own estimate of them. Three grains of arsenic might produce fatal results. I cannot tell in what time it would produce a fatal effect. I am not aware that two grains of opium would produce a fatal effect. I keep laudanum in my store, and dispense it. I do not sell it ordinarily as I do hair oil. When a man of ordinary intelligence asks for laudanum, I ask him what he is going to use it for, and if he knows its nature. If he gives satisfactory answer I let him have the laudanum. I would not give it in any quantity. I would determine by the purpose for which the customer wanted the laudanum the quantity to give him. I would use this caution because of its necessity, not because laudanum is a dangerous poison, but if it is incautiously used it may produce death, but not immediately. Prussic acid will cause instantaneous death. I am speaking of my experience on cats. I have had no experience of the deadly effects of prussic acid on a human being. I do not of my own experience know any poison that will produce instantaneous death. Laudanum is a vegetable poison.”

Cross-examined – “I would not class laudanum with arsenic, corrosive sublimate and strychnine; I would not call laudanum one of the poisons commonly known as deadly poisons. Laudanum is not a poison that can be administered secretly, or that would be likely to be taken incautiously. I will not swear that the liquid in the vial produced is laudanum. From what I have heard of Mason’s reputation for veracity, I would not believe him on oath.”

Re-examined – “I would not classify laudanum with the other poisons, because it is not so specific in its action. Mason has had me fined for selling liquor. I have no spite against him. I cannot tell whom I have heard speaking about his veracity, or where I have heard it spoken of; I have heard it spoken of repeatedly.”

Dr. Lizars, sworn:-

“I am a qualified physician in the Province of Ontario. I have been practicing since 1853. From the taste and smell of the contents of the bottle produced, I believe them to be laudanum – the common laudanum of commerce sold in drug stores and kept in most houses. Laudanum is a preparation of opium. I cannot say what is the strength of common laudanum. It is commonly known as a poison and labeled as such. Laudanum may be a deadly poison, and so may be arsenic, corrosive sublimate and strychnine. I never saw laudanum produce immediate death. There is no poison that I know of which will produce immediate death. Arsenic, corrosive sublimate and strychnine will not do so. I would take Taylor’s or Beck’s Medical Jurisprudence as [an] authority on poison. I think that arsenic might be looked upon as a deadly poison. I have known a number of persons [to] take laudanum to kill themselves. I have known a man [to] kill himself by taking it. There is a little over half an ounce or three quarters of laudanum in the vial produced. There is over two drachms in it. Laudanum is a poison that, if used incautiously, may produce death.”

Cross-examined – “I would not include laudanum in the same class of poisons as strychnine, arsenic and corrosive sublimate. Secretly or incautiously administered it would not cause immediate death. There is not the same danger of laudanum being incautiously taken in dangerous quantities as strychnine, arsenic and corrosive

sublimate. Laudanum can be secretly administered in dangerous quantities, but not with the facility of arsenic, strychnine and corrosive sublimate. Laudanum requires to be administered in such large quantities that it is likely to be detected at the time of taking it. I would not call laudanum a deadly poison in the same sense in which I would call arsenic and strychnine poisons. I would not include laudanum in the description of poisons mentioned in the statute. None of the poisons mentioned in the statute will cause immediate death. There is danger of laudanum being incautiously used. It can be administered in liquor so that the party taking it cannot detect it. It may be secretly administered. I do not think that laudanum is commonly taken as a deadly poison.”

At this stage the case was again adjourned until next day, when the following additional evidence was taken:

Professor Croft, sworn:-

“I am Professor of chemistry in the Toronto University. The fluid in the bottle is some preparation of opium. I cannot say without further examination whether it is laudanum or a sedative solution of opium. If taken in considerable quantities, opium is poisonous. The preparation in the bottle, if taken in certain quantities would be fatal. Some persons could take a pint of it in a day without being killed by it, and half a teaspoonful of it might kill a child. I think the laudanum of commerce contains about one grain of opium in 20 drops. All poisons are deadly. It would be hard to administer laudanum secretly, on account of its disagreeable taste, but it might be administered secretly in porter in sufficient quantities to cause death, though not immediately.”

Cross-examined – “Prussic acid will produce death in about five seconds, strychnine in about twenty minutes. Laudanum would not produce death so soon. It is kept in almost every house as a medicine. I do not think it is a poison in the meaning of the statute.”

Henry Burden, sworn:-

“I have been a chemist and druggist for about 20 years. When I sell any poison I require to know the party to whom I sell it and an order by a physician verbally or in writing. I do not use this precaution in selling laudanum, but I require to know something of the purchaser. If I knew my customer I would sell him a gallon if he asked for it. It is a poison. I cannot say that the liquid in the bottle produced is laudanum, but I think it is.”

Cross-examined – “I sell alcohol; it is a poison. From what I have heard of Mason’s reputation for veracity I would not believe him on oath. Laudanum is used in almost every family.”

Dr. Riddell, sworn:-

“The bottle produced contains laudanum. Laudanum is a poison. I have known it to kill people. It does not come under our statute; it is not a deadly poison.”

This concluded the evidence.

Dr. McMichael objected that there was no evidence of the sale of poison, and that the bottle produced had not been proved to be the identical bottle purchased from the defendant; assuming, however, that the liquid produced was laudanum, every

professional witness had said that it was not a deadly poison, and, therefore, it was not within the purview of the statute.

The Magistrate deferred judgment until Saturday.

“Dismissal of all the cases”¹⁶ (Ontario, 1871)

Our readers will be gratified to learn that the trial of a large number of our city druggists, for the alleged illegal sale of laudanum, has resulted in the dismissal of all the cases. It will be remembered that the trial was adjourned from time to time, but was finally appointed for Saturday, April 15th. In the meantime, Gale [sic.] – the satellite and only witness of Mason, the informer – having repented the error of his ways, had severed his connection with the main orb, or had so far departed from his prescribed orbit as to be wholly beyond the power of attraction – or so to speak, had flown off into space, so that the best efforts of Mason were fruitless in recovering him from his erratic wanderings. We do not wish our readers to think he had been spirited away – such was not the case. The non-appearance of the witness was due to a private quarrel between the parties. As there was no evidence for the prosecution, the cases were, of course, dismissed. We have, however, no doubt, that if the trial had been proceeded with, the result would have been the same, as the repeal of the old law would have materially affected the decision. Having now entered upon the new order of things, we can bid farewell to the informer, who may aptly exclaim, with the Moor of Venice, “Othello’s occupation’s gone!”

“An opium eater’s story”¹⁷ (Ontario, 1872)

At 25 I became interested in a Drug Store. At 28 I was afflicted with severe and obstinate attacks of *Neuralgia*, for which my physician prescribed *Sulphate of Morphia* to allay the acute pain, and a tonic, upon which I regained my appetite and strength. Finding relief from this treatment, knowing as I did the remedies used, standing as I knew them to be on the shelves of my own store, what wonder that, when I felt a recurrence of the pain, I should deal out to myself the medicine from which I drew such speedy relief? It is sometimes a satisfaction for me to know that I was unconscious of the wrong involved in the course I pursued. I never for a moment supposed but that, when health was fully restored, I could abandon with as much ease the *Morphia* as I could the preparation of Cinchona that followed it. There was none to say “Beware,” or point out to me the cloud no bigger than a man’s hand now, but which would grow and deepen until it completely enveloped me in its darkness. So, totally ignorant of the gulf yawning at my very feet, I lived a charmed life; the soothing influences of Opium were just suited to my temperament. What I had enjoyed most in life was enjoyed now with added zest – as if, whatever the tone of mind might be, it was strengthened now; the saddest mood grew sadder, the gentlest

¹⁶ From THE SALE OF POISON CASE. (1871). *The Canadian Pharmaceutical Journal*, 4(3), 40.

¹⁷ From An Opium Eater’s Story. (1872, August 2). *Brantford Expositor*, p. 1.

gentler. To this tendency I have sometimes thought might be attributed those grand dreams that De Quincey depicts with a master pen, rather than to anything inherent in *Opium* itself.

For the first two years of Opium-eating it does not become the horror and burden that it does at a later date. At about this period in my own experience, my attention was attracted, while cutting the leaves of Harper's Magazine, for August, 1867, to an article bearing [the title], "*What shall they do to be saved?*" Upon many other than myself, I doubt not, that article has fallen like the terrible thunderbolt bursting upon the clear, calm sky of a spring morning. I read it twice through before laying the book down, which I did at last, with an exclamation of impatience, saying to myself, "it's a sensational piece; it *cannot* be true." I took up the best magazine of the day, and tried in its pleasant pages to forget the disagreeable impression made upon my mind. A blur fell between my eyes and the page I tried to read. I think I felt as the King of olden times did when he first saw the hand-writing on the wall – for ever on the book, as it lay before me, I seemed to see, plainly written, "*Thou art the One.*" A nameless terror crept over me – a dire boding of ill took strange possession of me; I arose and went out into the warm summer afternoon, trusting I might cast it off. The grass seemed to have lost all of its freshness, the sky of all its brightness, in the few hours that had passed since morning, and I sat down from sheer weakness in a chair some person had left standing in the yard.

As the days wore on I sought the society of my most genial companions – I visited the gayest scenes I knew of, for there was a strong under-current of determination not to give up the sweet but deadly ailment upon which I lived. I fancied that the book which still lay upon my parlor table might be a silent reminder of its contents, and I did not wish to remember, for was it not continually calling upon me for renunciation by ever whispering to me that the only way was the unwelcome way of abnegation? I wished to forget it forever and always, so I gave away the magazine, but the impression had been too deep, the lesson too thoroughly learned. Against my will it fascinated me. I procured a second copy and read it again and again, until at that time I could have repeated it word for word. It was the one thought ever present in my mind by day; and when at night I slept, it was to see my room peopled with shadowy forms, clothed in every variety of costume, all with sad faces, and every one pointing down what seemed a dark corridor, over the portals of which I saw printed in great black letters, OPIUM – SUICIDE. From these visions I always awoke, bathed in perspiration, and in an agony of body and mind, which rendered the nights more terrible, if possible, than were the days.

Fight against it as I would, this struggle could not last forever, and there came a time when I resolved to look the future square in the face, and at least deal *honestly* with myself. In so doing, I was forced to admit that the tendency of *Opium* was downward, [and] that its effects were as blighting as the cold North wind that blows on tender flowers. I knew full well that the Opium Eater's life was not that intended by the *Good Creator* for His children to live; I felt sure that, although the Siren had lured me on thus far with bright smiles and song, there were dark leaves she always turned, and a store of bitter, bitter wailings for her victim. Something seemed to tell

me a few more years would tell the whole story. I should lose my own self respect, become a burden to myself and my friends, with, perhaps, a little farther on, a *Mad House* or a *Suicide's Grave*. Could I meet such a fate without one effort to save myself? Every better feeling in my nature seemed to say, that whatever else I did, at whatever cost, there was one thing in the universe I *must* do; I *must do right*. So in a frame of mind bordering on despair, I resolved to abandon the drug.

Too proud to go to my friends to tell them of the pit into which I had fallen, and ask their help, I determined to depend on myself, and thus gathered what information I could. Common sense taught me that I should never succeed as long as a particle of *Morphine* remained in my possession; so when all other arrangements were concluded, I threw what I had into the brook that flows by, at the foot of the garden, in the rear of the house. If the three-score years and ten allowed to human life should be granted me on earth, I am sure, way down to the latest hour of my life, I shall never forget my feelings as I saw my treasure floating out upon the current beyond my reach. It seemed that every particle of life, and light, and joy, had been blotted out of the world at one fell stroke. I shrink at this part of my melancholy story.

I cannot describe to you the four weeks that followed, a whole month in which I never, to my own knowledge, or that of those who watched by my bed side, closed my eyes to sleep, or to any degree lost consciousness of what was happening in my room.

My friends talked of insanity and the Asylum, while they kept beyond my reach everything with which I could harm myself, a wise precaution, for I should not like to tell, even now, the terrible temptations that came to me in those hours of agony, when moments, as they crawled along, lengthened into hours, and one day seemed longer by far than many years I've seen. The long, long nights, spent in perpetual and unalleviated wretchedness, of both mind and body, it seemed would never wear away, and, when at last they did, the morning with its sunshine seemed more intolerable still. I am firmly convinced that no other suffering can compare with this. In all other sick rooms the faithful physician stands, with the ability and disposition to lift the burden and give a little quiet and ease to the suffering patient, but *materia medica* knows no relief here; it is the frightful battle to be fought, way on to the bitter end, never a ray of light to brighten, never the promise of a hope to cheer one on the rugged way. The chain that binds is strongly welded and must be torn apart with bleeding hands. Every inch of the track must be retraced one step at a time; cent for cent, dollar for dollar, is the premium to be paid, and never until the last farthing is laid down can the awful debt be canceled, and the sad sufferer stand upon "the ground of an assured freedom." Tell me – who has the strength to walk the rugged road and find its end? If the doctrine of endless misery, as taught by ancient Divines, be true, then lost spirits in Hades may know as much of torture as the Opium Eater; none other in the universe can, I am sure.

When six weeks had passed away and I came to notice myself and my surroundings once more, I found, one morning, my hand lying upon the counterpane of my bed. When I remembered it last, it was rosy and plump with health; now it was shrunken and parched like some old crone's. My hair, which I had known as glossy

and abundant, was two thirds gone and half of it as white as the snow; the eyes which were wont to flash back from the mirror sparkling and bright, had sunk so far in my head that I could scarcely see them at all, and, as if in fear of the terrible visions that had passed before them throughout the weary months, had turned themselves half way round, as if in a frantic attempt to escape.

An uninitiated person might suppose that after this fiery struggle the victory would be won, and all danger over.

No greater mistake could be made. Very many people can bear with heroic fortitude the great afflictions that come to them, but utterly faint and fall by the way under the little pin pricks of every day life. So it was with me. Something seemed to nerve me up during the first few weeks, and I *never* faltered. But *who* can imagine the utter desolation that followed? I never, for a single moment of time, forgot what a weary thing life was; a constant effort was necessary to drag myself up to the every day duties; the dreaded task that I was expected to perform. Can I *ever* forget the gray, grim mornings that dawned upon me? I felt that my chains were heavier than ever; my prison doors more firmly barred. I *could not free myself*. So I fought for ten long, dreary months; then I went down in the conflict. I think there is no sentence in all our English language so *comprehensive* as this, "*Lead me not into temptation.*" Did you ever stop to look a great temptation squarely in the face? Did you ever learn among your life lessons that you could not do right while you stopped to talk with wrong? This was what I did, stopped, and parleyed with temptation, and because I did it, I fell.

When the drear November days came, I reached out my hand and took back my bewitching enemy, knowing, as I did, that she would lead me through pleasant pastures, over green meadows, to the dark mountain passes, down rugged, thorny paths, and cast me at [last] a stranded wreck upon the shores of that shadowy river, through the floods of which we must all pass, sooner or later, on our way to the Gates of the Celestial City, to receive the reward that the Judge of all the earth shall give. No one could know how bitterly I blamed myself for thus weakly yielding. No person's censure upon my actions could be more severe than was my own. Living always with the consciousness of a secret resting upon me, I was utterly wretched, convinced that I was walking in forbidden paths, forced to be always merry, for I was determined to make things bright and cheerful for those about me, even though the blackness of darkness enveloped myself; offering nightly the yearning that the *Good Shepherd* would kindly forgive and take me home before others should know of my frailty. I lived on for two years more.

"Administered by him in mistake"¹⁸ (Ontario, 1875)

Coroner Allison, of Caledon East, held an inquest at the village of Charleston on Saturday evening on the body of a child named Lamont, about three years of age. From the evidence of Dr. Robinson, of Claude, it appears that the child died on the

¹⁸ From NEWS OF THE WEST. (1875, March 4). *The Evening Star* (Montreal), p. 3.

morning of the 25th ult. From the effects of a dose of morphia, administered by him in mistake for the sulphate of quinine. From the testimony given by the doctor himself, it appears that the said mistake was owing to the fact that Elliott & Co., druggists of Toronto, sent him a quantity of morphia in an ordinary quinine bottle, and that, although the label indicated correctly that the bottle contained morphia, the size and shape of the bottle led him (the doctor) to administer it for quinine.

“A sad affair”¹⁹ (Quebec, 1875)

An extremely sad affair took place on Saturday evening last, involving the death of an infant son of Mr. Fraser²⁰, of 131 St. Charles Barrommee street, [Montreal]. It appears from the evidence given below that the child had been suffering from some infantile ailment, that Dr. Trenholme was attending the child and had prescribed powders, which were relieving its suffering, [and that he] had visited the child on Saturday, telling [his]²¹ parents to send for another powder similar to those already given. In the meantime Dr. Trenholme, who had been attending a Mrs. Reynolds, prepared a dose of morphia for that lady, and upon the father of the infant Fraser calling for the powder, which he did late on Saturday night, Dr. Trenholme handed him the one already prepared for Mrs. Reynolds. The child, soon after taking the morphia, exhibited such alarming symptoms that Mr. Fraser went to Dr. Trenholme. The latter did all in his power to save the child, without success. These facts having been reported to Coroner Jones, a jury was sworn in, and the following is the result:-

Dr. Trenholme, being sworn, went on to give an account of his attendance upon the child, after which he said:

[TESTIMONY OF DR. TRENHOLME]

When I came in on the evening of Saturday last, between 7 and 8 o'clock, [I] saw a person in my office whom I did not recognize, and I said, “You have come for Mrs. Reynolds’ powder,” that I was sorry to have kept you waiting, but that it was already done up, and I am sure she will get a good night’s rest, and I hoped that she would be all right in the morning. To these remarks the man waiting made no reply other than “yes,” or other words to that effect, as if he understood what I had said, took the powder and left. The remarks I have just made were overheard by my wife, who was at the head of the stairs.

A few minutes after he had left one of the employees came from Mr. Reynolds for the powder for Mrs. Reynolds. I said, “I have just sent it; somebody has been here and taken it to her.” Reynolds’ man returned to the shop and was immediately sent back by Mr. Reynolds to say that he had sent no messenger for the powder; there must be some mistake about it. I said there could be no mistake; that I had asked the

¹⁹ From A SAD AFFAIR. (1875, December 21). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 4.

²⁰ The article spells this name as both ‘Frazer’ and ‘Fraser’. I’ve changed all instances to ‘Fraser’, as this is the name recorded on the child’s grave at the Cimetière Mont-Royal.

²¹ The original article frequently refers to the child as “it”. I have replaced this with “he/him” throughout, as the child is referred to as a boy.

man who had come for and taken Mrs. Reynolds' powder, and if it was not his man it must be some neighbor or friend of Mrs. Reynolds in Dalhousie street.

The messenger of Reynolds asked me what kind of person it was who took the powder. I said it was a man with dark complexion, and who lived immediately under Mrs. Reynolds. He then asked me if it was a man, describing a man who must have resembled Mr. Fraser. I found this description resembled the man who had taken the powder. I then delivered this man some fresh medicine for Mrs. Reynolds, so as to avoid her sending back again for medicine.

I heard nothing more about the matter till about midnight, when I was ready to go to a confinement. The bell rang and I opened the door, when the same person who took away the first powder in the evening said to me – “The powder you gave my child is killing [him]; [he] seems to be dying since he took it.”

I said – “Whose child?”

He replied – “Mrs. Fraser's.”

I then recognized the person as Mr. Fraser, and said I had made no powder for that child, and had given him the powder for Mrs. Reynolds. I asked him how he could make such a mistake, when I asked [him] if he had come for Mrs. Reynolds' powder in the evening when [he] first came. I then asked what time the child had taken it, as it was a large dose for an adult person, and that I was afraid he would lose his child.

I took the sleigh that was waiting for the accouchement, and drove to the hospital for antidotes, and being hurriedly supplied came to Fraser's at once, and found the child profoundly under the effects of the morphine; as the medicine had been so long retained I thought there would be more of it in the stomach to be removed, and that it was no use using a stomach pump, so I gave [him] an emetic, hoping to arouse it to action, but the emetic failed to act. [I] then injected under the skin [a] five minims solution of atropine, to try and save the child. [I] also applied mustard to [his] body. After remaining some time with the child I saw [him] four or five hours after. [He] was still alive. I have been informed that the child died at 9 o'clock a.m. yesterday, December 19th.

[In reply to a] question by the Foreman – When I put up powders to be called for, I always label them, but do not do so when I hand them to the persons to whom they are going.

[In reply to a question] by a Juror – I think I saw Mr. Fraser cursorily but three or four times. I do not remember ever seeing Mr. Fraser at my office till Saturday night, and did not recognize him at that time. I am quite sure that I spoke perfectly distinctly, and that my wife, who was fully twenty feet distant, heard me. It was on the following morning my wife told me that she had heard all that I had said, and that she had heard no reply from Mr. Fraser. I think that delivering poison as a medicine, it would be better to label it, yet a strong dose for a child would be harmless to an adult, and on the other hand, a moderate dose for an adult might destroy the life of a child. In my own practice I label medicines unless giving a single dose to a person direct for the invalid. I prescribed before for looseness of bowels, and when visiting the child on Saturday last for a similar complaint, the mother said the last powders had done the little fellow a great deal of good – had acted like a charm. I

said, "Very good; I will send you up some more just like them." They were of a slate-color. Morphine was white. The powder given was white. The mother told me that the powder was so different in color that she hesitated to give it, and it was only after consultation with her husband that it was given. I am perfectly satisfied that the child took the powder. The symptoms indicated that.

[TESTIMONY OF MR. JAMES FRASER]

Mr. James Fraser, sworn – [I] am [a] storeman. [I] am the father of [the] deceased, Alex. McKay Fraser. On Friday [the] deceased was taken ill with diarrhea. Dr. Trenholme was asked by me to visit the child. Between twelve and one on Saturday Dr. Trenholme called to visit the child. [I] saw Dr. Trenholme when he called. He said, "Mr. Fraser, if you come to my place I will give you some powders, the same as the child got before."

About 8 I called at Dr. Trenholme's office. I rang the bell. The servant came to the door. I enquired if Dr. Trenholme was in. She answered that he was not, but enquired from Mrs. Trenholme if it would be long before he returned. Mrs. Trenholme answered that he would be a few minutes, and he walked in and sat down on a couch in the surgery. About quarter to nine, when Dr. Trenholme came in, he advanced towards the surgery, and while doing so I arose and said, "Doctor, I came for Mrs. Fraser's child's powder." The Doctor answered, "It is made up, and I might have left word for you to get it so as not to have kept you." He said, "I have only put up one, as that will be enough," or words to that effect. I then received the powder. I said to the Doctor it was a cold night; he answered it was. I bade him good evening and came away.

I had to attend a committee meeting to which I went direct from Dr. Trenholme's. It occupied my time until about half-past ten. It was a quarter to 11 when I arrived home. My wife asked me if I had got the powder from the doctor. I answered that I had. I opened the powder and handed it to my wife, telling her that I only received one – that he thought it was enough. My wife, on receiving the powder, said she thought that it was a larger one than the last the baby had got, but supposed it was larger on account of the baby being larger and stronger than before. It was about 11 o'clock when the powder was administered to [the] deceased. Shortly after, we retired to rest. In about twenty minutes after [the] deceased took the powder, my wife said to me [that] the baby was acting very strangely, by rolling its head and tossing about. I immediately got up, lit the lamp, and saw at once that there was something seriously wrong with [the] deceased. I hurried away to Dr. Trenholme's [and] rang the bell, Dr. Trenholme coming to the door.

I said to him, "The powder you gave me will be the cause of the baby's death."

The Doctor said, "What powder?"

I said, "The powder you gave me for my baby."

He said, "Whose baby?"

I answered, "Mr. Fraser's."

He said, "What Fraser?"

I said, "Fraser of Charles Borrommee Street."

He said, "My gracious, that powder was for – (some one whose name I do not remember). That was a dose of morphine, and I am afraid there is no hope for your child." He afterwards said to me that the party whom the morphine was for called for it, and putting his hand to his head, said he was testing his brain to think whom he had given the powder [to]. He inquired of me how long since the baby had received the powder. I told him about half an hour ago, when he told me he thought it would be too late.

He came right over with me in a sleigh, which he told the driver to stop at the General Hospital, as some wine that he had not in the house he would have to get in the hospital. I left the sleigh there and returned home to tell my wife that the powder the baby got was one put up for some one else. The Doctor arrived immediately after me, and gave some medicine to the child. He gave directions what to do. The Doctor said to the child's mother [that] he was very sorry, and could not account for the mistake. He mentioned to me that I had come for the powder for Mrs. Reynolds. I said to the doctor over again what I repeated in the surgery. He said my side whiskers and moustache resembled the party who came for Mrs. Reynolds' powder. I said to the doctor that I could speak English plainly, and likewise understand it. The second visit that the doctor made during the night [was] at [the home of] this party who resembled me, [which] was about two blocks from his house.

The child died about five minutes to nine on Sunday morning. [I] can't swear that Mrs. Fraser remarked on the color of the powder, but she did as to the quantity of it. I hear well; I made no mistake with regard to what the doctor said, nor with regard to my own answers. I was perfectly sober.

[TESTIMONY OF JOHN REDDY, M.D.]

John Reddy, M. D., sworn – I have come to the conclusion, having heard the evidence given by Dr. Trenholme, that he gave a powder of morphia of sufficient dose for an adult to Mr. James Fraser, and that the said powder was administered to his and his wife's knowledge to the deceased baby, and that death following from such [a] dose, it is sufficient to account for the death of said infant, and that unless for the interests of the law or by command of the Coroner or jury, I consider it unnecessary to make a post mortem examination of the body.

I have no more to add except that it has been admitted by Dr. Trenholme in his evidence that the powder would prove fatal to an infant, although of the proper strength for an adult. The morphia would be discovered by an expert, not by me. [...] My evidence would be totally insufficient to prove that morphia had been given to the child. Considering, moreover, that there had been no malicious intent, the doctor having admitted that he gave the powder, I see no necessity for a post mortem examination, and that the law is fully vindicated without any further examination.

[At this point] Dr. Trenholme wished to explain that there were other parties who heard the conversation in the surgery, and the evidence given by him could be corroborated by Mrs. Trenholme.

After deliberating for some time it was decided by the jury that it would be better to hear Mrs. Trenholme's testimony. The lady was accordingly sent for, and the inquiry re-opened.

[TESTIMONY OF MRS. TRENHOLME]

Sarah Angelina Hedge, wife of Edward Henry Trenholme, M. D., being sworn, testified:-

On Saturday night about eight o'clock a party came to my house and asked for Dr. Trenholme. The servant answered the door. The doctor had gone up to Dr. Hingston's, and she said he would return in a quarter of an hour. I replied that the doctor would be back in a few minutes. The party who came to the door went into the surgery. It was nearly half an hour before the doctor returned. I heard the doctor's voice in the surgery. [I] presume that he was addressing the party in the surgery. There was no other person in the flat. [I] heard no other voice than that of Dr. Trenholme. I was at the top of the stairs, having beef tea in my hands for my child. [I] heard the doctor come in with his pass key, and walk right through into the surgery. The door of the surgery was open, and I heard the doctor say: "You have come for Mrs. Reynolds' powder. I am sorry she has been suffering so much pain. This will give her a good night's rest." I heard nothing further from the doctor. I did not hear the person who was with the doctor say anything. Dr. Trenholme has a loud voice, and I am accustomed to his voice, but I heard no other voice except the doctor's. I did not see the party leave the house. [I] continued my way to my child's room.

VERDICT

The jury, after deliberation of over half an hour, returned the following verdict: "Wherefore, the jurors aforesaid, upon their oaths aforesaid, do say and declare that from the evidence we have heard, the deceased child, Alexander McKay Fraser, came to his death through the administering of a dose of morphia by mistake, and consider that Dr. Trenholme did not exercise proper care in the delivering of this medicine to the father of the child – a medicine which had been intended for another party altogether."

(Signed), Louis Gauthier, Alex. Craig, Narcisse Jubinville, Francois Xavier Payette, Daniel Flynn, Thomas Kent, Moise Chausee, Andrew Martin, Patrick Murphy, Ludger St. Jean, Oli[v]er Payette, Moise Chartrand.

"Opium eating"²² (Ontario, 1877)

The habit of stupefying the senses with chloral or opium is increasing to a fearful extent, if we are to believe the statements made by druggists in reference to the matter. We clip²³ the following as an indication of the manner in which the vice is indulged in:-

"As a rule, the male purchasers come themselves, but the women nearly always send a servant. I sell morphine, laudanum, opium pure, and 'Munn's elixir,'²⁴ but

²² From Opium Eating. (1877, October 24). *Daily Expositor* (Brantford), p. 1.

²³ I have not been able to find the source of the clipping.

²⁴ Henry Hartshorne's *The practical household physician*, published in Toronto by J.L. Nichols in 1901, has the following to say about this medicine: "Opium [...] is the most powerful and frequently used of the sleep-producing (*hypnotic*) and anodyne (pain-relieving) medicines. *Morphia* is its most characteristic and important active principle. *Laudanum*, *Paregoric*, and McMunn's Elixir are familiar

mostly morphine and laudanum. The number of women who take it is larger than the number of men, for the reason, I suppose, that they are naturally more nervous, and feel the need of something to soothe them. The habit grows steadily, requiring more frequent doses. What I sell to a customer this month will not suffice for next month; they will send more frequently. I have never known the habit to be cured, although some of my customers have tried to break off repeatedly. When I see that a customer is regularly increasing his doses, I have sometimes reduced the strength of what I send, but it does no good. Failing to produce the desired effect, they take more of it, so that my efforts only serve to aggravate them, and cause them to overwhelm me with complaints. I would rather not sell it, except on physicians' prescriptions, yet I cannot refuse my regular patrons, who buy other articles of me. If I did, they would simply transfer their patronage to some one else. I think the opium habit is steadily increasing. Where there was one victim ten years ago, there are ten now. I wish there was some law to control it, for I regard it as a more terrible vice than drunkenness, and one less easy to manage. It should be made a criminal offence to sell it in any form except on a physician's certificate."

"Convalescent"²⁵ (Ontario, 1878)

Mr. Marvin Knowlton, the well-known temperance lecturer, who came to this city [Toronto] on the 3d. instant, was taken to the Hospital this afternoon, insensible, having taken a terrific dose of paregoric. It is alleged that he was drunk at the time he took it. He hired a hack early in the day, and drove round to several places of ill-repute, and then went into a drug store, bought two six-ounce phials of paregoric, which would contain 12 grains of opium, poured the stuff into a tumbler, and drank it off. He again got into the back, and ordered the driver to drive round Queen's Park. Having driven about for some time, the hackman looked into the cab, and found his fare insensible. He informed a policeman, who, after taking him to the station, went for a doctor. Mr. Macfarlane, the doctor, ordered Knowlton to be taken to the Hospital. He remained unconscious for 3½ hours, and is now doing well. He states that he has been in the habit of taking from 12 to 16 ounces of paregoric every day.

"A spiteful lie"²⁶ (Ontario, 1879)

Burford, Feb. 5th, 1879

To the Editor of The Expositor

Sir – Certain persons, the ringleader of whom keeps a petty drug and whiskey shop, not many miles from this place, have been busy circulating, far and near, a

preparations containing it." (p. 650). "McMunn's Elixir of Opium is a preparation of still greater opiate strength than Laudanum. It has no very certain advantages over it." (p. 326).

²⁵ From Convalescent. (1878, August 16). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 3.

²⁶ From Millar, D. & Day, I. (1879, February 6). Dr. Millar Indignant. *Daily Expositor* (Brantford), p. 2. Written by "Dr. Millar" & Ira Day (1828 – 1917). Dr. Millar of Burford was said to be "in a very weak condition" in the Brantford Daily Expositor of February 6, 1882, and almost certainly died before 1950.

spiteful lie to the effect that the late Merritt Day's death²⁷ was hastened by morphia injections administered by myself. Now, this falsehood emanated from the fertile brain of the above drug and whiskey man, and by him has been peddled about from house to house, very industriously, in every direction; the object probably being to injure my practice, and thereby benefit himself.

This is an old trick of his, as very many in the two townships can testify, as he seems to have made malignancy, and the circulation of every foul story he could hear of, or invent, against every medical man in the country who crossed his path, a life's business. For seven years past, or ever since I settled here, the old chap has shown special spite and malignancy towards me, on whom, in every way open to him, he has showered a deluge of invective, hatred, malice, envy and all un-charitableness, and all in a cowardly, tittle-tattle way behind my back. Peddling busily round from house to house his poisonous venom of scandal and slime. All of which, and very much besides, will be sworn to by an hundred witnesses, and more, when the proper time comes.

Now to show to all, and put an end to the above widely circulated lie about the cause of Mr. Day's death, Mr. Ira Day has kindly handed me the following statement of facts for publication.

Yours truly,

D. MILLAR, M. D.

[STATEMENT BY IRA DAY]

I understand that certain parties have circulated a story, which has no foundation in fact, to the effect that my late brother's death was hastened by morphia injections administered by Dr. Millar, of Burford, and I make the following statement:

The last injection (4 in all only were given) was administered some three days before death, and in no way did any injury, but on the contrary resulted in allaying the fearful pain in a very pleasing manner. The injections were highly approved of by Dr. Digby, of Brantford, who attended my brother with Dr. Millar, as also was the entire treatment Dr. Millar had adopted. I am also fully satisfied that all was done which human skill could devise, and attach no blame to any one. I hope this will put an end to all false statements in regard to the affair.

IRA DAY.

Burford, Feb. 6th, 1879.

²⁷ "The sudden death of Mr. Merritt Day, merchant, has cast a gloom over the whole village. Mr. Day and his brother were thrown from a buggy some months since by the breaking of the axle. One of his legs was severely injured. He was just recovering from the injury, when last Saturday he was attacked with inflammatory rheumatism. The pain was very great, and leaving the leg, attacked the region of the heart, resulting in death on Tuesday morning. Mr. Day was respected by all." COM. (1879, January 31). Burford. *Weekly Expositor* (Brantford), p. 2.

“The accidental poisoning of Miss Lillie Duck”²⁸ (Ontario, 1879)

Windsor, Ont., November 19 – The people of this town and vicinity are shocked beyond measure at the accidental poisoning of Miss Lillie Duck, a girl of 16, which occurred the night before last at St. Mary’s Convent Academy here. The facts in the melancholy affair were found to be as follows:-

Miss Duck is the daughter of Abram M. Duck, traveling agent for a Detroit trunk factory, and was sent to the convent about two months ago to be educated. On the night in question, she retired as usual to the dormitory with the other girls at nine o’clock when she complained to one of the nuns of feeling unwell. Sister Immaculate, who had charge of the medicines used in the Academy, was notified, and gave the poor girl a tablespoon of what was supposed to be brandy, to relieve her pain. By some terrible mistake, however, a bottle of laudanum had been substituted in the usual place of the bottle of brandy.

Miss Duck went to bed, and nothing more was thought about the matter until nearly an hour and a half afterwards, when somebody smelled the fumes of the laudanum, and the unhappy girl was found insensible. She had vomited a large quantity of the drug, which was probably the cause of delaying her death several hours.

As soon as her condition was discovered, the nuns administered a strong coffee antidote for poison, and summoned Dr. Casgrain, who sent for Dr. Coventry about 12.30 a.m. In spite of all the physicians could do, however, Miss Duck expired about nine o’clock yesterday morning, without having once recovered consciousness.

Dr. Casgrain, the only coroner in town, was obliged to summon a jury, and is holding an inquest at the Academy now, with Police Magistrate Carlitt as foreman. The doctor would have wished that some one else should hold the inquest, on account of his having been the attending physician, but as there was no other coroner in town, the doctor had to take the necessary steps himself.

“Home evidence in favor of the Pain-Killer”²⁹ (Ontario, 1880)

Perry Davis’s Pain-Killer was a popular “combination of opium, alcohol, and other substances”³⁰ first produced in 1839 and sold over the counter for decades. The Perry Davis company is often credited with originating the term “painkiller”.

Why experiment with unknown mixtures without character or reputation, when this world-renowned PAIN-KILLER which has stood the test of over 40 years, can be had for the same price at any Drug Store in the Dominion?

²⁸ From CONDENSED TELEGRAMS. (1879, November 20). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 3.

²⁹ From Perry Davis & Son & Lawrence. (1880, May 22). Home Evidence in Favor of the Pain-Killer [Advertisement]. *Daily Expositor* (Brantford), p. 5.

³⁰ Sharrah, D. & Bause, G. S. (2017). Perry Davis’ Pain Killer: America’s First Nationally Advertised Drug for Analgesia? *Journal of Anesthesia History*, 3(3), 112-113.

Hint No. 1

If you wish to save yourself, your family, and your friends a world of suffering and pain, which at present they endure needlessly, and also save many dollars in Doctor's bills, go at once to the nearest store, and buy a few bottles of PAIN-KILLER.

Hint No. 2

Ask your Druggist, Grocer or Shopkeeper, for a bottle of PAIN-KILLER. If he passes it down without ceremony, ask him while extracting the quarter dollar from your wallet, if this is the genuine made by PERRY DAVIS & SON, [and] at [the] same time watch the expression on his face. You can easily tell if his conscience is all right; also examine the bottle closely yourself.

Hint No. 3

When you ask for a bottle of PAIN-KILLER, and the gentlemanly store-keeper, without scarcely looking, remarks, "we are just out, but have another article as good or better, which sells for the same price, viz., 25 cents," turn on your heel and say, Good-bye, Sir! That man cares more for the two or three cents extra profit which he gets than he does for your health or happiness.

Hint No. 4

Beware of all the worthless mixtures, and dirty, greasy combinations which are offered you in almost every store you enter, and which some unprincipled shopkeepers try to palm off as a substitute for the PAIN-KILLER. These mixtures are gotten up expressly to sell on the reputation of the PAIN-KILLER, but have nothing in common with it.

Hint No. 5

If you cannot obtain the genuine PAIN-KILLER in your locality (a fact not very likely), you should address the Proprietors, and by sending them the sum of \$3.00, one dozen regular sized bottles, or a half dozen large bottles, will be sent, charges prepaid, to the nearest address by railway to any part of the Dominion.

READ THE FOLLOWING

Ottawa, Ont., March 2, 1880.

The writer has been selling Perry Davis' Pain-Killer now for the last 22 years, and can confidently recommend it to the public as a sure remedy for Cholera, Diarrhea, Sore Throat, Chronic Coughs, Bronchitis, Burns, Scalds, &c. [I] have known it to cure a case of Syphilitic Sore Throat of two years' standing, when all the usual remedies failed. The patient took half a teaspoonful in water three times a day, and gargled the throat three times a day as follows: one teaspoonful in a wine glass of water, and used as a gargle.

Yours, H. F. MacCARTHY³¹

³¹ Henry Francis MacCarthy (1832 – 1907) was an Ottawa druggist. His obituary reads in part: "[T]housands of people in Ottawa will hear with the deepest regret of the death of Mr. H. F. MacCarthy, druggist, of Wellington street. [...] Born in Newfoundland about 75 years ago, Mr. MacCarthy came to Ottawa after a brief stay in Montreal at the age of 19. It was then his intention to become a doctor, and he studied at McGill University. But financial reasons intervened and he was obliged to end his residence there just at the time when his work gave promise of a distinguished career. After this disappointment he settled down in the drug business, first joining Wm. Jennings, in Lower Town, and

Maitland, Ont., February 26, 1880.

I have much pleasure in adding to the number of the numerous testimonials you have already received, as to the value of your renowned Pain Killer. I have sold it in my family for twenty years or more, and have no hesitation in saying that it is the *best* patent medicine I have ever used for the purposes for which it is recommended; and, moreover, *every* person to whom I have ever sold it, has been perfectly satisfied with it, and I know many persons who will not go to bed at night unless they are *sure* there is a bottle of “Perry Davis” in the house. All who have used it once, will use it again; it makes friends and retains them.

Yours truly, JOHN DUMBRILLE³², *Druggist*.

Spencerville, Ont., February 26, 1880.

We have much pleasure in certifying that we have kept Perry Davis’ Pain-Killer constantly in stock for upwards of twenty years, during which time it has taken the lead in sales over all other patent preparations, and has become an old, reliable family medicine. No effort is required now on our part to sell it, as it is as staple an article as flour in our trade.

Yours truly, W. P. IMRIE³³ & CO.

Madoc, Ont., February 16, 1880.

It gives me much pleasure to state that during a drug career of more than a quarter century, I can testify that your justly celebrated Pain-Killer has not only held

then setting up for himself. [...] During his 56 years in the drug business Mr. MacCarthy’s kindly, though retiring, nature made him hundreds of friends among the older Ottawa [...] residents. [...] They would bring him weird and strange weeds for him to judge of their medicinal value, and they were as ready to chat things over with him as he was to listen.” WELL KNOWN CITIZEN DIES. (1907, January 11). *Evening Journal* (Ottawa), p. 1.

³² “John Dumbrille [...] died yesterday at his home in the village of Maitland, [...] aged 86. Coming to Canada from England in 1852, he filled the position of Grand Trunk agent at Maitland for six years, then launched into the mercantile business in the village, where he was general storekeeper, postmaster, and justice of the peace for over thirty years. He was also for fifteen years collector of inland revenue at Prescott. Mr. Dumbrille was an ex-warden of Leeds and Greenville and contested the riding of South Grenville as a Conservative in the general election of 1878, being defeated by a small majority. He was a 32nd degree mason, and a leading member of the Anglican church.” HAD RELATIVES IN OTTAWA. (1907, October 18). *The Citizen* (Ottawa), p. 10.

³³ Possibly the William B. (not P.) Imrie who in 1864 acted as secretary for a public meeting in Spencerville: “Friday Morning, March 25, 1864. PUBLIC MEETING IN SPENCERVILLE. On the 1st instant, according to previous public notice, a numerous and influential meeting of the people of Edwardsburg and the adjoining townships, took place in the Town hall, to take into consideration the question of ‘an enlarged and continuous supply of water in the Petite Nation River,’ over which James Keeler, Esq., Reeve, was called on to preside, and Wm. B. Imrie was requested to act as secretary.” Long Ago Events Again Recalled. (1911, September 14). *Star Chronicle* (Merrickville), p. 1. The *Journals of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada* for September 5, 1854 to May 30, 1855, list William B. Imrie as the postmaster for Spencerville. While I’ve been unable to find a grave, a memorial tablet for William B. Imrie and other Spencerville pioneers was unveiled in 1935 by his grand-daughter, Miss Helena Dey. (Centennial Presbyterian Church, Spencerville, Fittingly Ended Mon. (1935, August 22). *Weekly Advance* (Kemptville), p. 1.)

its own as a family medicine, but still occupies the front rank whenever duty calls it. My customers speak very highly of it, and I could send no end of testimonials showing up its merits and intrinsic worth, were it necessary, which it is not. It should, however, be called "Excelsior Pain-Killer." I pride myself in never being out of it.

Yours very respectfully, JOHN G. DEANS³⁴.

Stoco, Ont., February 17, 1880.

We have great pleasure to state that the Pain-Killer holds its position in this place as the old, reliable family medicine. Although there are a great many other remedies in the market – some bearing nearly the same name – as Pain Relief, Pain Remover, Pain Destroyer, and such like names, we find the people know the difference, and are sure to ask for Perry Davis' Pain-Killer. We have been selling Pain-Killer for the last fourteen years³⁵.

Yours truly, P. & P. MURPHY.

Portland, Ont., March 9, 1880.

I have been using the Pain-Killer for many years with results that justly entitle me to recommend it. As a family medicine, we consider it almost indispensable: being good not only as a pain-killer, but for colds and sore throat, and many other ailments for which it appears specially adapted. I have used it myself, chiefly as a liniment, and find it valuable for rheumatism and pains and stiffness belonging to old age. I pronounce the Pain-Killer a good and cheap medicine, and worthy of all acceptance, and send you this certificate that you may assure the public that it is no humbug.

Yours truly, THOS. GRAHAM.

Escott, Ont., March 4, 1880.

We hereby certify that we have used Perry Davis' Pain-Killer in our families for several years. We consider it a very useful and necessary article to be kept in all households as a resort in case of accidents and exposure occasioned by cold.

³⁴ John G. Deans (1826 – 1886). He is probably the same John G. Deans listed in the Tackabury Brothers' Canadian advertising directory for 1862 as a "chemist and druggist, dealer in drugs and family medicines, dye stuffs, paints, oils, lamps, boots and stationary, medical hall, Kent Street," in Lindsay, Ontario.

³⁵ A few years prior to this, in 1864, Patrick Murphy of Stoco was listed as a "tanner and leather dealer" in Mitchell's Canada Gazetteer and Business Directory. In 1900, "Patrick Murphy, Stoco, left [...] for England, to make arrangements with an English firm for the purchase of cheese." NEWS OF THE DISTRICT. (1900, March 22). *Weekly British Whig* (Kingston), p. 3. In 1905, we find that "Patrick Murphy and family have moved to Toronto". Going to The West. (1905, April 20). *Weekly British Whig* (Kingston), p. 4. Patrick Murphy is listed as postmaster for Stoco and president of the Bogart Cheese Manufacturing Co. in R. L. Polk's *Ontario Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1884-5*.

JEREMIAH CURTIN, J. J. DOWSLEY³⁶, JOSEPH P. REDMOND³⁷, [and]
ARCH. GREER³⁸.

Maitland, Ont., February 25, 1880.

I have used your Pain-Killer for the last twenty years. I carried it with me all through the American War. I believe I would have been dead long ago, if it had not been for your Pain-Killer. I think it is the best remedy in the world for [those ailments for] which it is recommended.

Yours very truly, M. W. LAFONTAINE³⁹.

Portland, Ont., February 26, 1880.

I have sold the Perry Davis' Pain-Killer for over thirty years, and the same has always given my customers entire satisfaction, and I have much pleasure in recommending it as a good and reliable family medicine.

S. S. SCOVIL⁴⁰

Prescott, Ont., February 27, 1880.

I have sold your Pain-Killer for the last nineteen years in this place, and feel safe in recommending it to the public for the diseases given in your circular. I can assure you my customers speak well of it as a general family medicine. It takes the lead of all other preparations.

Yours, &c. GEO. BIRKS⁴¹.

³⁶ Probably Joseph J. Dowsley (1850 – 1885).

³⁷ Major Joseph P. Redmond (1837 – 1910), “a pioneer resident of the township of the Front of Escott [...] [who] had been ill for some time. [...] One of his sons is Dr. Redmond, of Toronto.” NEWS OF THE DISTRICT. (1910, January 19). *The British Daily Whig* (Kingston), p. 3.

³⁸ Probably Archibald Greer (1856 – 1917).

³⁹ Martin W. Lafontaine, of Maitland, is listed as a cabinetmaker in R. L. Polk's *Ontario Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1884-5*. The original ad mistakenly writes his name as “N. W. Lafontaine”. His daughter, Emma A. LaFontaine (b. 1872), died at Maitland in 1943.

⁴⁰ Probably Dr. S. S. Scovil (1854 – 1927). “The doctor was one of the outstanding figures in the early days of the community [of Kenora, Ontario,] rendering medical service to a widely scattered district when transportation facilities were primitive and many long journeys had to be made on foot. Dr. Scovil was born in Portland, Leeds county, Ontario. In the 1870's he attended Queen's university, Kingston, where he was a classmate of Dr. G. Chown and Dr. R. Blanchard, of Winnipeg. After graduating in medicine he settled at North Gower, in the Ottawa valley. Forty-seven years ago he establishd his practice in Kenora, then known as Rat Portage. Soon after the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway through Kenora, he was appointed railway surgeon. In 1895 he entered into partnership with Dr. Gunne, with whom he was associated at the time of his death. Although he was particularly interested in big game, hunting and fishing, he took part in his younger days in many sports in Kenora. He was a Mason and a member of the congregation of St. Alban's cathedral, Kenora.”

⁴¹ George Birks (1838 – 1902). He owned a drug store in Prescott, which was robbed in 1899. “Prescott, July 12 – Mr. George Birks, jr., who is clerk in his father's drug store, and sleeps in the apartment over the shop, was awakened about 1.30 this morning and found standing over him a masked man holding a dark lantern and a revolver, who demanded ‘his money or his life.’ Mr. Birks handed over what money he had on him, \$13, and was then ordered to go down stairs and give up all that was to be found. There was only \$1.50 in the till, which did not seem to satisfy the man, who wanted Mr. Birks to open the safe. [...] [T]he drug clerk made an attempt to reach for a bar of iron, but immediately

Cobourg, Ont., March 3, 1880.

I have been selling Perry Davis' Pain-Killer for the past six years, and have much Pleasure in stating that its sale in that time has been larger than any other patent medicine that I have on my shelves, and in those years I have never heard a customer say aught but words of the highest praise in its favor. It is an article that seems to have combined in it all that goes to make a *first class family medicine*, and as long as I have a house and a store, Perry Davis' Pain-Killer will be found in both.

Yours, &c., J. E. KENNEDY⁴².

Tamworth, Ont., March 4, 1880.

For twenty-three years past I have sold Perry Davis' Pain-Killer, and have always found it to give good satisfaction. I have frequently used it in my family, and received great benefit from the use of it in that way. Although many imitations of it have been put on the market, and are pushed hard, yet the old, reliable Perry Davis' Pain-Killer holds its own, and is a very popular domestic medicine.

Yours respectfully, JAS. AYLSWORTH⁴³.

THE PAIN-KILLER

Is recommended by *Physicians, Ministers, Missionaries, Managers of Factories, Work-shops, Plantations, Nurses in Hospitals* – in short, *everybody everywhere* who has ever given it a trial.

TAKEN INTERNALLY it cures Dysentery, Cholera, Diarrhea, Cramp and Pain in the Stomach, Bowel Complaint, Painter's Colic, Liver Complaint, Dyspepsia or Indigestion, Sudden Colds, Sore Throat, Coughs, &c.

USED EXTERNALLY, it cures Boils, Felons, Cuts, Bruises, Burns, Scalds, Old Sores and Sprains, Swellings of the Joints, Toothache, Pain in the Face, Neuralgia and Rheumatism, Chapped Hands, Frost-bitten Feet, &c.

The PAIN-KILLER is put up in 2 oz. and 5 oz. bottles, retailing at 25 and 50 cents respectively – large bottles are therefore cheapest.

PERRY DAVIS & SON & LAWRENCE,
PROPRIETORS,
MONTREAL AND PROVIDENCE, R. I.

received a shot in the fleshy part of the thigh, and as he fell, a kick in the ribs, before the visitor made his escape by the back door." SHOT BY A BURGLAR. (1899, July 13). *The Citizen* (Ottawa), p. 3. The article is silent on whether George Birks, Jr., used Perry Davis' Pain-Killer to treat his injuries.

⁴² Listed as a druggist with a shop on King Street, Cobourg, in R. L. Polk's *Ontario Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1884-5*.

⁴³ James Aylsworth of Tamworth is listed as a "druggist & bookseller" in R. L. Polk's *Ontario Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1884-5*.

“The late Capt. Sherwood”⁴⁴ (Ontario, 1880)

Whitby, Ont., August 27 – At 8.30 this evening the inquest on the death of the late Capt. Wm. Sherwood was concluded, the jury retiring; at 11.45 the following verdict was presented to the coroner, signed by 12 out of the 14 jurors:-

“On the 14th day of August, 1880, an over-dose of a certain drug called sulphate of morphia, was administered to one William Sherwood by mistake, and instead of a certain other medicine called sulphate of quinine, and from the effects of the said sulphate of morphia the said William Sherwood did die, and the jurors do upon their oath personally say that the administration of the said sulphate of morphia to the said William Sherwood was purely a mistake, and that said mistake was made by one Archibald Denoon⁴⁵, and that no blame can be attached to any other person whatever.”

“Sad case of sudden death”⁴⁶ (Quebec, 1880)

The community generally received a shock on learning of the sudden death of Mr. Thomas Crathern, a prominent retail merchant of long standing in this city [Montreal]. Mr. Crathern, it appears, had lately been in the habit of using sedatives in order to get rid of sleeplessness and nervousness, induced by over-mental exertion and business cares, from which he had suffered for several months past⁴⁷. Being a druggist by profession, though he left that for the grocery⁴⁸ business, he prescribed his own draughts, and when warned by his friends against the danger of using opiates, he would reply that he knew perfectly well what he was about.

On Tuesday night, he left the store about half-past eight and went up stairs [to his living quarters]. His manner was as usual, indicating neither depression of spirits or the reverse. About eleven o'clock, the employees closed the store, and Mr. Crathern's son, a boy 12 years old, who worked in the shop during the holidays, went up to his father's room, where he slept while Mrs. Crathern was away in the country.

⁴⁴ From THE LATE CAPT. SHERWOOD. (1880, August 28). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 3.

⁴⁵ Mr. Denoon left for the United States some time thereafter: “The Erie County Board of Pharmacy yesterday issued licenses to the following:- [...] Archibald A. Denoon”. Licensed to Sell Drugs. (1884, June 24). *Buffalo Evening News*, p. 1. In 1904 he was among a number of New York pharmacists who “had licenses exchanged for all-state licenses,” as “Archibald DeNoon of Ransomville”. GRANTED LICENSES. (1904, March 25). *Buffalo Commercial*, p. 10.

⁴⁶ From SAD CASE OF SUDDEN DEATH. (1880, September 8). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 4.

⁴⁷ “Mr. Thomas Crathern, grocer and provision merchant, of the European Warehouse, St. Catherine street, is endeavoring to obtain an extension of four, eight and twelve months on liabilities of about \$20,000. It is believed he will meet with no difficulty in obtaining from his creditors the extension asked for.” FINANCIAL. (1879, May 19). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 1.

⁴⁸ “European Warehouse, 1363 St. Catherine Street, Cor. McGill College Avenue. Mr. Thomas Crathern calls attention to his present stock of Staple and Fancy Groceries, which has been carefully selected and purchased for CASH. The acknowledged advantage in purchasing at the EUROPEAN WAREHOUSE is that all goods are of the best quality and found to be faithfully represented. N.B. – Families returning from the country and seaside will find it to their interest to give him a call.” European Warehouse [Advertisement]. (1879, September 5). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 2.

The lad heard the sound of heavy breathing as he reached the top of the stairs, and hurried to the room. He found his father in bed breathing heavily, and vainly tried to awaken him.

Terrified, he rushed to Mrs. Noble, Aylmer street, who worked in his father's house, and brought her over with him. She sent him for Mr. Jackson, druggist. Drs. Browne, Baynes and Roddick were also sent for and attended. All means were used to bring the patient to consciousness, including the stomach pump, electric battery and other means, but without effect, and about three o'clock in the morning Mr. Crathern breathed his last.

The evidence led to the supposition that the deceased had taken his usual dose, and finding it powerless had taken an additional one before lying down, the two proving too strong for his constitution.

His wife, who, with her little daughter, was spending the vacation in the country, was immediately telegraphed for.

A Coroner's inquest was held yesterday. The jury was composed of Messrs. David Jamieson Craig, J.P., foreman; Thos. Patton, David Rea, Jr., Jno. W. Hughes, Chas. Dickens Edwards, G. R. Prowse, Jno. M. McKenzie Duff, Alf. Joyce, Wm. A. Dyer, Jos. B. Learmont, Thos. Caverhill, E. Evans, Jas. Ferrier McFarlane, Jno. Kerry and David Tees.

Dr. Baynes was the first witness called, and testified as follows:-

"On the night of the 6th September inst., I was called on a quarter to twelve by Mr. Jackson, druggist, who asked me to come to Mr. Crathern's. When I came here I found the deceased lying in his bed, unconscious and laboring under stertorous breathing. I suspected at once he had been taking something, and made the necessary enquiries. [I] found two glasses lying in the dining room, one containing vinegar, and the other empty.

"Dr. Roddick and Dr. Browne were sent for, and we endeavored to resuscitate the deceased by all the usual means, such as the use of electricity, the stomach pump and other means. Dr. Roddick, with Mr. Isaacson, went down stairs and found a certain powder in a drawer in Mr. Crathern's office, which powder Dr. Roddick gave me. The powder was acetate of morphia. Near the glasses, one of which was a measure glass, were three open papers. Two of them had folding marks, as if used as wrappers of powders. The other appeared to be a memorandum of figures. The three were evidently Mr. Crathern's own stationery, and not a druggist's papers. In two of the papers were a few grains of morphia. It was I who sent for Dr. Roddick in order to get a stomach pump, as I had not one, and in the meantime artificial respiration was tried. Mr. Crathern died about 3 o'clock.

"We retained a portion of the contents of the stomach in the event of analysis being required. The symptoms were those of poisoning, and the poisoning, from what we could judge without a special examination, was from morphine. To decide beyond doubt on the immediate cause of death, I should advise an analysis of the contents of the stomach, and it would be well to have an internal examination of the body. Possibly a chemist could discover what was in the stomach from the contents retained without an internal examination."

A Juror asked what connection had the vinegar with morphine.

Dr. Baynes – “It must have been used as a solvent.”

In reply to further inquiries, [the] witness continued:-

“ am not aware the deceased was in the habit of using opiates. If he had taken a dose of chloral or bromide previously and it had no effect, a dose of morphine soon afterwards might produce a fatal effect; but, of course, that would depend on the strength of the dose and the patient’s constitution. Had he been used to take chloral or bromide for some time, so that it had lost its effect, it is likely he would try another sedative. It would be impossible to ascertain the quantity taken by an analysis of the contents of [his] stomach.”

Fred. Alex. Crathers, 12 years old, son of the deceased, testified:-

“My father left the store at 8.30 last evening, and came up stairs. He left one Mr. Hurley, an accountant, Harry Thibaudeau and John R. Grant in the store. He did not say where he was going. He had no particular hour to leave the store; when there was any urgent work to be done he remained later than usual. We closed the store about 11 o’clock. As I got to the top of the stairs I heard hard breathing, and immediately ran up to the bedroom. There I saw my father as I supposed, asleep on his side. I turned on the gas, which was burning low. His heavy breathing frightened me. I tried to wake him, but he did not move. His eyes were closed.

“I went to the house of the woman who comes here to work every day, Mrs. Logan, Aylmer street. She came back with me. We both went into the room, and the moment she saw my father she sent me for Mr. Jackson, druggist. Mr. Jackson came to the door in his dressing gown and told me to run for Dr. Major. He was not in. I went to Dr. Browne. He came over with me. When I came back Mr. Jackson, Dr. Baynes and Mrs. Noble were here. Dr. Browne gave me a note to bring to Dr. Roddick, who sent me in a cab to the English Hospital with another note. There I got a package which I brought back home.

“My father appeared just as usual when he left the store. My father was accustomed to take something to make him sleep. He told me it was bromide. When he was extra tired and could not sleep he took bromide. He used to buy his bromide at Mr. Jackson’s. He used to keep it in his pocket and take it before going to bed. I have slept with father since mother has been in the country. He often said he could not sleep, and I have heard him also say he was troubled in his mind.”

Mr. G. R. Prowse, one of the jury, was then examined:-

“[I] have known [the] deceased about 35 years. I have been informed by his wife, about fifteen months ago, in order to procure sleep he had been using powders and also liquids; that she had doubts then about the propriety of using these medicines or drugs, and at times retained the papers in which they were contained. I frequently expostulated with him for using those drugs. He told me he knew perfectly what he was about, that he required them to aid him in getting through with his daily work. Although not sure, I believe he has been taking morphine in small doses, when he found chloral or bromide would not give him sleep. The deceased was brought up to the business of druggist. I know he was in the habit, quite freely, of administering those medicines to others as well as to himself. Mr. Crathern was an ardent

temperance worker, always ready to succor the fallen, and these were the remedies he was in the habit of prescribing to those who were struggling against their strong propensity for intoxicating liquor. From the deceased I learned that while living with Dr. Mackintosh, of Vankleek Hill, a personal friend of his, the deceased had the run of Dr. Mackintosh's surgery, obtaining what morphia he required from the bottle without Dr. Mackintosh's knowledge."

This concluded the evidence, the jury declaring there was no necessity to take further evidence – that a post-mortem examination for analysing the stomach was not necessary.

After short consultation they returned the following verdict:-

"The jury, from evidence, find that [the] deceased, Thomas Crathern, had, for some time previous to his death, suffered from sleeplessness; from the evidence it also appears that, to induce sleep, the deceased had been in the habit of using bromide of potassium, chloral and morphia, and the jury unanimously agree and find that the death of the deceased was accidentally caused by the use of a powerful sedative (acetate of morphia) taken to produce sleep."

"Estate of [the] late Thomas Crathern"⁴⁹ (Quebec, 1880)

Sale of the whole of the stock of groceries, fireproof safe, horses, wagons, &c., &c. Will be sold by public auction, at the store, No. 1363 St. Catherine street (known as the European Warehouse), on Monday next, the 11th instant.

The whole of the well-assorted stock of teas, pickles, sauces, preserves, potted meats, canned fruits and vegetables, hams, comb honey, large assortment of glass preserve jars, biscuits, and other shelf goods.

Also – splendid tea and coffee canisters, stock barrels, refrigerators, large Fairbanks' Platform Scales, stoves, three very fine brass counter scales and weights, scoops and measures, &c. &c.; Taylor's Fireproof Safe, pair of horses, harness, two express wagons with covers, two express sleighs and other sundries.

The stock will be found well assorted and all fresh goods.

The horse, wagons and safe will be put up at four o'clock in the afternoon.

Horses can be seen on the premises early on the day of sale.

The Lease of the very centrally situated premises, splendidly fitted up as they are with black walnut office partitions, office desk, signs, awnings, &c., &c., until the 30th April next. Will be sold by auction, immediately before the sale of the stock in trade. And a Lease for a further term can be arranged with the proprietor at once, or any time to the 1st of February next.

Sale to commence at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

W. E. SHAW, Auctioneer.

J. M. M. DUFF, Curator.

Montreal, 5th October, 1880.

⁴⁹ From Estate of Late Thomas Crathern [Advertisement]. (1880, October 8). *Montreal Star*, p. 2.

“An overdose of Dover’s powder”⁵⁰ (Ontario, 1886)

Hamilton, January 4 – An inquest was held before Coroner Wolverton yesterday afternoon on the body of the little son of Mr. A. J. Mills, who died on Thursday night. A verdict was returned to the effect that the child had died from an overdose of Dover’s powder⁵¹ given by Mark Mundy, druggist, in mistake for ipecac. The verdict embraced the opinion that it would be better if druggists would keep all poisons in separate compartments so that there would be no danger of their getting mixed with ordinary drugs.

“Somebody’s mistake”⁵² (Ontario, 1887)

Somebody’s mistake has resulted in three deaths in East Flamboro’. Two young daughters of William Nicholson, of East Flamboro’, had symptoms of malarial fever and Dr. Anderson, of Millgrove, was called to attend them. He prescribed quinine and left three powders for each of the patients. The powders were given on Friday night and the children, twelve and eight years of age, died in a few hours.

An inquest was opened on Sunday at Millgrove, but no evidence was taken. There is no doubt that the powders thought to be quinine were morphine. Dr. Anderson bought the drug at the store of J. A. Zimmerman in Hamilton, a few weeks ago. He asked for quinine, but as the druggist had none the order was filled from the wholesale house of Winer & Co. At the wholesale house it was stated positively that the order was filled with quinine, as asked for. Mrs. Rymal, whose home was near Millgrove, also died suddenly last week after taking one of these powders.

“Pharmaceutical prosecutions”⁵³ (Quebec, 1888)

The cases of the Pharmaceutical Association here against Adelard Payette, druggist, for selling, through his clerk, laudanum and Dover powders without registering the sale, and Dr. Seraphin Leblanc, of 325 Notre Dame street, for selling

⁵⁰ From ONTARIO INTELLIGENCE. (1886, January 5). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 1.

⁵¹ “[Thomas Dover] published his book, *The Ancient Physician’s Legacy to His Country; being what he has Collected Himself in Forty-nine Years of Practice; Designed for the Use of All Private Families* [...] through eight editions, the last apparently being published in 1771. On page 18, on the section on gout, is given the formula of his famous powder: ‘Take opium one ounce, saltpetre and tartar vitriolated each four ounces; ipecacuanha one ounce. Put the saltpetre and tartar into a red-hot mortar, stirring with a spoon until they have done flaming. Then powder them very fine; after that slice in your opium, grind them to a powder, and then mix the other powders with these. Dose, from forty to sixty or seventy grains in a glass of white wine posset going to bed, covering up warm, and drinking a quart or three pints of the posset; drink while sweating.’ The publication of the book made a great noise, and brought Dover into many quarrels with his fellow practitioners, who treated him like a quack. [...] He carried on a bitter war against the apothecaries, too, and died in 1742. His powder is still in the British pharmacopoeia.” DOCTOR DOVER, BUCCANEER. (1896, January 29). *Daily Citizen* (Ottawa), p. 1.

⁵² From NEWS NOTES. (1887, September 27). *Daily Expositor* (Brantford), p. 2.

⁵³ From PHARMACEUTICAL PROSECUTIONS. (1888, September 21). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 4.

in a similar manner laudanum and Dover's powders, selling Dover's powders through an unlicensed clerk; further, for selling Dover's powders to an unknown person, were heard before Judge Dugas this morning. Both the accused plead guilty, and were fined \$20 each or seizure of their furniture for the amount, or in default of that one month's imprisonment.

“The morphine habit”⁵⁴ (Quebec, 1889)

“It is only a few days ago,” said a well known physician in the city [of Montreal], “since I stood at the death bed of a young lady belonging to the West End who had held a high place in the esteem and affection of her relatives. It was the old story,” said the venerable physician. “Morphine! She suffered a sad disappointment about three years ago. We had to give her soporifics to calm her. Finally she took to morphine, stayed away from all society and lived solely for her habit; and there was the result.”

“Are there many morphine and opium *habitués* in Montreal?”

“Oh, yes! Quite a large number, a number rather increasing.”

“How do they get the poison?”

“In drug stores.”

The Government Blue Books show that over 1,000 pounds of opium and over 200 ounces of morphine are brought to Montreal annually, not counting in gums and other preparations in which the two drugs are the active principle, and further not counting what is smuggled in especially by way of the Pacific coast, and what Chinamen bring for their own use.

THE LIST OF POISONS

A tour around the pharmacies discloses how the drug is got. There are druggists and druggists. Some scrupulous even beyond the law, others always ready to turn a dollar. The Pharmacy Act places opium and morphine on the list of poisons which no druggist is allowed to sell except on a physician's prescription, or to well-known or well-introduced persons who are willing to register their names.

“You would be surprised how often the same person returns with the selfsame morphine bottle to have it filled!” said a well-known druggist on St. Catherine street. “Of course there is the physician's prescriptions numbered and signed on the bottle. We know that they are using the stuff habitually, but we also know that they can get it nearly everywhere. Why should we not have the profit of the sale when a customer once is in our store?”

“These people will do anything to get it,” said a Notre Dame street druggist. “They lie and even steal. Talk about liquor and the craving it gives for more. It is nothing compared with opium or morphine. Why, it is only a few days ago I was told by a physician that a lady patient of his, a well-to-do, well-educated person, stole a bottle of morphine pills, as they are used for hypodermic injection, from his *armoire* whilst he left the office for a few minutes. He missed it after she left, and he knew

⁵⁴ From THE MORPHINE HABIT. (1889, December 21). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 11.

that he had filled it just before she came in. As luck would have it, he was called to the lady's house a few hours later and then she confessed to him that she had taken it because she wanted it and was ashamed to ask for it in a drug store, and the physician would not allow her more than two grains a day by way of breaking her off the habit."

JUMP OUT OF HIS HEAD

Another druggist told of an old-looking young man, "now dead and gone, the poor fellow," who used to come in regularly every few days to have his bottle refilled. "We knew his tottering step, as he came into the door. Eagerness? You never saw a man on the verge of *delirium tremens* ask for his 'drop' half as eagerly and wait half as impatiently to be served as he did for his liquor of morphine. His eyes would almost jump out of his head, and he had his hand stretched out to receive the bottle long before the clerk was ready to hand it to him! No wrappers ever for him! And when he held it in his hands a gleam of satisfaction would light up his face, and he would hurry out of the store like a thief with 'one of the finest' at his heels, impatient to lull his unstrung nerves with the content of the bottle. Deadhead and crossbones on the bottle frighten him? No such thing. If he had been sure of death within an hour he would have taken his morphine."

"It is surprising," said a drug clerk, "what means are adopted to secure an introduction where parties, especially ladies, have no physician's prescription, and cannot purloin or get the loan of a labeled and signed prescription bottle. I was introduced to a young man some nights ago, though I saw no special reason for it. The same night he introduced me to another gentleman, who in turn a day later forced an introduction to a lady. And not an hour later that lady came to the drug store, deeply veiled, and almost stealing in. Another clerk escorted her, but she asked for me. In a low tone she told me that she suffered great pains, and that she thought I might let her have a little opium, thus saving a doctor's bill. I told her I could not do so unless she registered her name. She became quite indignant. 'You know who I am; why do you exact these formalities?' I saw the fever of appetite burning in her face, and I understood now why I had been introduced to her. When she found that she could not get opium, she asked for chlorodyne and finally she bought a bottle of paregoric, which is not prohibited, though it contains opium."

A printer of rather scanty means fell into the habit. When he arose from his sick bed, on which he had acquired it, he looked forward to the near future when he should take unto himself a wife. But he abandoned the idea of marriage for two reasons: his idol was no more his former sweetheart, but his morphine; and then he had to spend all his spare money and more on the deadly drug. He died, too, 'the poor fellow,' after increasing his dose one day suddenly from fifteen grains per day to twenty-four.

What is the attraction? The fabled calm of the lotus eater. Sweet forgetfulness. A peculiar dreamy condition. Images floating before the mind by their effortless production and reproduction shorten time. In *habitués* the mental faculties, and especially the imagination, acquire an exalted activity. Then stupor and a practical wiping out of pain, moral, physical, [and] mental. These people live fast; a week to

them seems a day, and after what seems to them a few months, they sink into the more lasting oblivion of the grave. They sleep and crave, and crave and sleep. On awakening after periods of two to four hours, they feel very much depressed and become irritable.

LIFE SEEMS UNBEARABLE

Life seems unbearable. Try to interest them in conversation; you will fail. Read an interesting tale for them; they will not listen. Take them into society; they will feign illness as an excuse for returning to their homes. Nothing attracts them; they live for their passion and solely for it. Of course this is only the case where the passion has obtained full sway. Those who are just beginning may imagine that they cannot sleep during the night unless they take the narcotic; and they need but put themselves to sleep regularly for a short time by such means and they will feel pains at times which yield readily to the drug. But these pains increase in frequency, and so does the administration of the poison, until they reach that stage when life and love and self and business and pleasure and time and eternity dwindle into absolute insignificance, leaving as the only *desideratum* a quid of morphine. Thin, emaciated, yellow and bloodless, excessively nervous, irritable to an incredible extent, their moral force completely annihilated, prematurely aged, looking sixty when only thirty, and forty when perhaps but twenty-five, such are the slaves of the narcotic.

“Morphine and liquor,” said a physician connected with Longue Pointe asylum, “are the two principal levers that dethrone reason, and fill our lunatic asylums.” To put a check on the spread and increase of this baneful habit medical men to-day are fast replacing opium, laudanum, morphine, chloral and chlorodyne with antipyrine, phenacetin, exalgin and sulfonal for sleeplessness, and diminution of sensibility to pain, as these drugs are considered much safer and will not superinduce that terrible habit. Some druggists who see the evil that is being done by the laws as they are, suggest an amendment to the Pharmacy Act, to the effect that no prescription should be filled unless the name of the patient, with date and dose contained, be given. The prescription then would only be filled within a limit of time specified, and could not be used for the purchase of the same medicine a second time. It is also suggested to take away from the physicians their private *armoire* of medicines.

SOME CURIOUS FACTS

Some curious facts are reported from the General Hospital of confirmed cases that have been under treatment there. A middle-aged man who had been in the habit of taking morphine in pellets could not be put to sleep by any ordinary methods. Finally one of the house physicians administered to him sugar of milk pellets, which are quite innocent of any medicinal quality, and he slept immediately, and slept well. Ever after the same means produced the same effect. Another man used to keep the whole hospital awake at night. He was yelling for morphine. As he had used hypodermic injections of the drug, the physician went up to his bed side and told him that for once he would give him an injection. The patient readily stripped his arm and when the simple operation was finished, he reclined on his pillow and slept soundly all night. The syringe had been charged with salt and water.

“The fatal error of a drug clerk”⁵⁵ (New Brunswick, 1890)

St. John, N. B., May 3 – Despatches from Dalhousie last evening announce the death of the wife of Michael Connors, of New Mills, Restigouche, through the fatal error of a drug clerk in T. B. Barker & Son’s employ in this city. The HERALD correspondent saw Mr. Barker this morning and learned the following story:

On Monday last Mr. Peters, head of the firm, received an order from J. P. Windsor, storekeeper at New Mills, for two ounces of powdered Peruvian bark. On the same day he received an order from Dr. Curry, of Fredericton, for six drachms of morphia. These he did up and labeled, marking the morphia ‘poison’. In some unaccountable manner, however, he placed the wrong addresses on the packages with the result, as afterwards learned, that Windsor received morphia, and Curry the bark. Apparently, without examining the package or contents, Windsor gave them to Connors and he, not knowing, mixed some morphia with wine which his wife drank, dying soon after from the effects. Several others tasted the draught and were taken ill. Mr. Peters cannot understand how he made such a fearful mistake. He is an efficient druggist and has been in Barker’s employ seventeen years.

“A home-made hell”⁵⁶ (Manitoba, 1891)

I am 35 years old, wife of a man who is as devoted as husbands go nowadays, [and] mother of two “interesting” children. Men call me handsome. I think I am, though not so much as when I was in my teens.

Born of wealthy parents, I was reared in the lap of luxury and [by] my nurse, for my mother lived in society’s whirl.

Up to my 14th year I was taught by a governess. Then they sent me to a fashionable school for young ladies, where I learned to speak French and to hold my hands, besides many other matters of absolute necessity.

This was the first epoch of my life.

I was a woman, therefore I have headaches. A girl at the seminary, who came from New York, where all things that tend to vice originate, or are imported from France, suggested morphine.

“Anything to get rid of this awful headache,” I said. “It’s simply terrific.”

She brought her hypodermic syringe, cut an eighth [of a] grain of morphine in two, dissolved one of the particles in less than a teaspoonful of water, drew it up into her syringe, and injected the solution under the skin in my arm above the elbow.

The result was magical and almost immediate. The headaches ceased. I became bright and merry. My tongue loosened. The effect was that of champagne.

⁵⁵ From A FATAL ERROR. (1890, May 5). *Morning Herald* (Halifax), p. 1.

⁵⁶ From A HOME-MADE HELL. (1891, April 4). *Winnipeg Daily Tribune*, p. 7. Possibly apocryphal, but note that an autobiographical writer would have had cause to hide their identity.

The seed was sown, and the noxious plant flourished. The remainder of my seminary days may be summed up in a few words: Periods of headaches or depression without morphine, which I relieved by constant injections, though small.

Commencement came. I was the valedictorian of the class, and the most brilliant, all due to six grains a day for a week preceding commencement. The morphine had become a daily diet.

I “came out in society” less than a year after graduation. The minutes of exhilaration caused by the morphine were followed by hours of depression, melancholy and despair, when I loathed myself and distrusted all others. Suicide would be a relief from such hours, and recourse to the drug was had again and again. My realizations were twofold: I could not get along without it, and I could not live long with it.

Well, I met the man of my choice – of my choice because he was older than I and stronger-willed than I ever was. I loved as much as any woman could who had lived my life, and he – well, he loved me with all the strength and blind foolishness of most men.

I believed he might be able to get me to shake off the accursed habit, but he did not know for months what fetters I had forged about me. He saw all was not right, but his simple straight forward mind did not penetrate the mystery. At last I told him that life with or without the drug seemed worthless.

Let me pass over the shock. He did not desert me. He was faithful and kind, though I fancied his respect for me had vanished forever. Then, with his aid, and that of the physician who had urged mildly that I break myself of the habit while giving me prescriptions of opiates, I struggled at intervals as best I could to live without the stimulant.

A more loathsome object than I when deprived of morphine, it would be impossible to find, except in another person similarly situated.

I was the queen of liars. I lied about everything and for no cause, lied, when truth would have resulted in getting just what I wanted. The druggists would not trust me for a penny’s worth of anything.

My craftiness and shrewdness developed as my desire to get the drug, and the difficulty increased. When my husband would give me no money, I would borrow; when I couldn’t borrow, I would have stolen if I had known where to go. As I didn’t have that knowledge, I pawned what jewelry my husband had not locked up – the locket with his picture enclosed, my rings and watch. With the money thus obtained I bought the morphine, which I loved better than earth or heaven.

As months passed I became weaker and had to take to my bed. I grew contrary. Unless I had the injections I would do nothing; [I] would not eat, drink, sleep, [or] lie still. Woman’s natural perversity became superhuman. I shut my teeth and dashed the food on the floor. The doctor forced open my mouth as a hostler opens a horse’s mouth to take in the bits, and put in a stomach tube, and fed me with fluids. I writhed on the floor, and shrieked for the stuff that was my staff of life.

In order to get the morphine I pretended that I had various aches and pains which must be relieved. The doctor was told I had dreadful twinges in my eyes. He

gave me a harmless concoction which I know was not morphine, and which I resisted taking as much as my feebleness would permit.

The injections were not made under the skin, but an inch and a half deep, straight into the flesh. I would not mind the pain if I believed that morphine was being injected, but a quinine solution, or even pure water, would often be used, and if I suspected it, I would scream as if the pain was unbearable.

The strongest characteristic of my morphined mind was the erotic tendency. Without thinking much of women, I gradually got the fixed idea that personal virtue in men was a myth. I descanted and enlarged upon this topic. It was a sweet morsel to be rolled under the tongue. And I wonder if the writers of the erotic literature of the hour are not morphine eaters!

(The most recent of these recollections are not recollections at all. After the attempts to cure me failed, and I resumed the regular use of morphine, I had no remembrance of what I had said or done while I was under treatment. My only knowledge of it is derived from my husband.)

I am now taking 20 grains a day. I succeed in living, and I wait for Death's release from a habit worse than the horrors of hell. I will not need to wait many years.

“A druggist's story”⁵⁷ (B. C., 1892)

I deliberately chose my calling and studied for it, so that I have nothing against the profession to which my life must henceforth be devoted. But, sir, I believe that drug clerks, particularly in the large cities, are the hardest worked, poorest paid, and least appreciated people in the community.

In our keeping, even more than in that of the doctors who prescribe, is the public health. We must keep our brains clear and be ready to fill a prescription when called from our beds at 2 o'clock in the morning as accurately as at high noon.

Some time ago I was myself under the weather. The hard work was telling on me and I was threatened with insomnia and fever. One midnight, while I was in this condition, I was rung up, and with tottering steps and a reeling brain I made my way down to the store.

I found a boy awaiting me, from a house near by, with a prescription calling for a number of half grain morphine powders. The doctor who wrote the prescription was a friend of mine and a very careful man. The powders were for an old gentleman who had been ailing for some time, and I knew they were intended to induce sleep.

I filled the prescription, properly as I thought, and when the boy left I returned to bed. As I could not rest, I was up early and down stairs.

Like a dream I recalled the morphine prescription. I read it over; yes, the powders were to be one-half grain each, taken as directed.

I looked at the scales; they had not been touched since I handled them, but I was frozen with horror when I saw that there was a ten grain weight on one side. I had given the man enough morphine to kill a dozen men, for there were four powders.

⁵⁷ From A Druggist's Story. (1892, June 23). *Victoria Daily Times*, p. 6.

It is impossible to describe the torture that followed. I felt that I had committed an unpremeditated murder. I shrank at the sound of every footstep, and shuddered when any one entered the store.

About 9 o'clock my friend, Dr. Rupert, came in with a very sad face, and in answer to my inquiry as to the health of Mr. Wheeler, the man for whom the medicine had been prescribed, he said:

"The man is dead."

"My God!" I gasped.

"Oh," said the doctor, "I fully expected it. The morphine was simply intended to ease him off."

"But did he take it?"

"No; by the time the boy got back with the medicine the old man was dead."

Language is all too weak to picture my joy on learning this.

I kept my secret to myself and secured the powders as soon as possible. From that day to this I never make up a prescription when my hand is not steady and my brain clear.

"What is said of the tariff"⁵⁸ (Quebec, 1893)

More views are given here regarding tariff reform as it affects the various trades. [...] Mr. H. R. Gray, retail druggist, said the tariff did not interfere with him to any great extent. It did not matter how high prices might be, the profits were put on just the same. "But I would impose a heavy tax on specialties, commonly called patent medicines, and decrease – if possible, give free entry – to those drugs which are useful in regular medicinal practice. If, for instance, a Yankee patent medicine man, or Parisian proprietor of a specialty, wants to sell his medicines in Canada, let him come here and manufacture them. This would result in keeping the money spent on the making of this stuff in the country." [...]

THE DRUG TRADE

Mr. B. Reed, of Evans & Sons, wholesale druggists, said: [...] "Druggist's, not manufactured, opium should also be on the free list. We also think that opium should be standardized, the same as in the States, to contain at least 9 per cent. of morphia, but let them make opium containing, say, 6 per cent. of morphia, pay a very high rate of duty. English patent medicines are all subject to the same duty in England, but they are allowed to manufacture them for export without stamping, and yet we are obliged to pay duty on those goods the same as if they were stamped. We do not think we should be called upon to pay a duty upon a tax. We, in common with all other druggists, are very anxious to have some arrangement made by which we can either manufacture in bond or have the means of using spirits for medicinal purposes or entering into medicinal compounds without having to pay the high rate of duty which

⁵⁸ From WHAT IS SAID OF THE TARIFF. (1893, May 20). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 6. The Wilson Bill would come into effect in 1894, devastating Victoria's opium trade.

we now have to pay. I may mention one article, which is clearly a pharmaceutical preparation, upon which we have to pay three different sets of duties. As [a] pharmaceutical preparation we pay 20 per cent; as a proprietary medicine 50 per cent., and as a preparation containing spirits 30 per cent. and \$1 12½ per gallon. As a rule I do not favor specific duties, but prefer an *ad valorem* one. There are certain lines, however, where a specific duty is better, as it prevents undervaluation in entering the goods. Take, for instance, an article that fluctuates in price. I have in my mind now an article which we used to import for 3s. 6d. and now we have to pay 6s. [for], thus giving a decided chance for undervaluation.”

“Common poisons”⁵⁹ (Canada, 1893)

According to the definition given by the standard works on the subject, a poison is “any substance which, when introduced in small quantities into the animal system, seriously disturbs or destroys the vital functions.” The quantity is a feature of vital importance in the definition, for so numerous are the harmful substances which are included in the daily prescription list of the druggist that the difference between a medicine and a poison is frequently only a matter of dose. [...] The pathway of the druggist is therefore beset with difficulties which are not diminished in number or gravity by the fact that no restriction whatever is placed on the sale of many compounds, like well-known preparations for destroying vermin, known to owe their efficacy to arsenic or other poisons.

As a rule, refined or educated people are the most likely to resort to the use of poison when resolved on suicide, and such persons can, with no great difficulty, evade the questioning of the druggist or invent plausible reasons for desiring to obtain the coveted drug. People who are resolved to leave the world can very easily do so without the aid of the drug store if they choose, and above all, the number of suicides is so small compared with the total number of persons who purchase drugs with which life might be taken that even the most careful pharmacist may sometimes be excused for viewing with a lenient eye the excuses tendered, particularly as he knows perfectly well that if he declines to sell, the person desirous of buying will be able to procure what he wants in a drug store, perhaps in the immediate vicinity, where no troublesome questions will be asked.

POISONS HABITUALLY USED

One of the most unfavorable features of the subject is the habitual use of poisonous drugs by hundreds of persons in every community. In cities like Toronto or Montreal the slaves of poison perhaps number thousands, a considerable proportion of whom manage to conceal the fact from even their nearest friends, for no one is so cunning in obtaining, in using or in concealing the use of a poisonous drug as its habitual consumer. [...]

The use of opium, morphine, arsenic or chloral is never the growth of a day. Begun in infinitesimal doses to relieve uneasiness or pain, it soon becomes necessary

⁵⁹ From COMMON POISONS. (1893, May 25). *Weston Times*, p. 1.

to increase the dose in order to accomplish the desired effect, and there are persons in this city who consume thirty or more grains of morphine. To break off the habit it is necessary to reduce the dose as gradually as it was increased. For a few days only twenty-nine grains, if the dose has been thirty, must be taken, then twenty-eight, and so on, little by little, until the daily allowance has been brought down to its originally minute proportions, when it may safely be discontinued. Any other method, particularly with arsenic and morphine, [...] is likely to prove fatal, since an abrupt discontinuance produces all the symptoms of arsenical or morphine poisoning. [...] Morphine is more popular than opium, probably on account of its speedier and more certain effect. It is the favorite remedy among ladies for many ailments, and it is more than hinted that the number of morphine users among women is on the increase.

It is hard to differentiate, that is, so far as the respective moral qualities of the two vices are concerned, between morphine using and whiskey drinking. We are ever prone to “condone the sins we are inclined to by damning those we have no mind to,” and it is believed that in the large cities of this country there are strenuous advocates of temperance, bitter opponents of what they call the Tyranny of King Alcohol, who do not hesitate to resort to the use of morphine, not only as a panacea for a trifling pain, but as an exhilarant to enable them to undergo social duties.

“An erroneous impression”⁶⁰ (B. C., 1893)

At the anniversary entertainment in Princess Street Methodist Church, [Vancouver,] on Tuesday evening, one of the speakers was W. J. Trythall. His duty it was to reply to the toast: Our City, a Central Terminus. Mr. Trythall is a gentleman who has had considerable experience in public speaking, and he has a fluency of language of a good quality that makes a pleasing vehicle for the conveyance of his ideas. He has seen considerable of the world and the things that are its, and remarks coming from him are calculated to have no inconsiderable weight with an audience.

The most part of his speech, while interesting enough, was not sufficiently out of the ordinary to create special notice. Tea meeting speeches, as a rule, are made for the occasion, and not for reproduction. But there was one remark that, coming from a man of Mr. Trythall’s calibre, sent a *World* reporter’s hand involuntarily in search of his notebook and pencil. He had spoken of the school board episode and passed from that to deal with something that he said was more pressingly in need of the attention of the Christian church. He said: “The use of opium and morphine as a vice is alarmingly on the increase among the white people of this city, which fact can be verified by an enquiry at the drug stores.”

There was present at this meeting Rev. Dr. George, of Seattle. This gentleman admitted that he did some work for at least one of the Seattle newspapers, and when he goes back he will no doubt have something to say of his trip, and it will not be pleasing to read in the American papers in the course of the next week or so that Vancouver, B.C., is a city of morphine and opium fiends.

⁶⁰ From AN ERRONEOUS IMPRESSION. (1893, September 21). *Daily World* (Vancouver), p. 8.

No one present seemed to realize the harm that was liable to be done. A few looked horrified, and some piously sorry. They evidently took it as a fact, and have been speaking of it in lowered tones ever since and eyeing their neighbors for the well-known marks that betoken the habitual use of the cursed drug.

None of the subsequent speakers referred to it and Dr. George went away, doubtless, to pray for the removal of the stain from the city which had given him so cordial a reception.

The seekers for opium fiends in Vancouver will seek in vain. To use a phrase common on the political stump, "someone has been loading Mr. Trythall up." He should have enquired, however, before he publicly repeated such a story.

To get at the facts of the case, the *World* reporter who heard the remark made has done as Mr. Trythall suggested – called on every drug store proprietor in the city, and the only fair deduction from the information so gleaned is that Mr. Trythall's statement is utterly without foundation. But let the druggists speak for themselves:

Atkins & Atkins – We sell less morphine than we know is sold in other cities of the same or less population by stores doing a similar ratio of trade. We very seldom have application to refuse for either opium or morphine, and we are decidedly of the opinion that there are no fiends here that were not here when we came three years ago. A traveler occasionally asks for it. Of cocaine fiends, we know of none in the city at present.

J. R. Seymour – I have only been here a few months, and I must say that I am surprised that there is so little demand for morphine here. It is much smaller than in the east. Even in their practice physicians use it sparingly. If there were fiends, they would likely have tried a new man rather than go where they are known, but I have seen none.

T. R. Morrow – The sale of morphine and opium is so small as to excite comment, and I was speaking of it only a few days ago. Some years ago it was much greater than it is now. The statement that you say was made can hardly be true unless someone is peddling the stuff, and that would soon be got on to. This applies to both my downtown and Mount Pleasant stores.

Charles Nelson – We did sell a quantity some years ago, but our sales lately have been practically nil. There may be someone who is making a big thing out of it, but that would have been noticed and mentioned by some commercial traveler before this. Yes, we do have an application occasionally that we refuse, but they are very much less now than they used to be.

John Reed – I only know of one case in the city. The sale of morphine and opium has decreased rather than increased. I have a call occasionally from travelers, generally from the United States, who want the American morphine. An application for prepared opium is rare indeed. If the thing were common, it would surely be known, as a man who is addicted to it cannot be here long before it is noticed. There was a man who came here on one of the *Empresses* who had contracted the habit in the Orient and who stayed here for a while, but he is not in the city now. Cocaine is seldom asked for.

H. McDowell, of McDowell & Co., who have stores on Cordova Street, Granville Street and Westminster Avenue, may be looked upon as a pioneer in the drug line in this city. He had this to say:

In my seven years' experience as a druggist in Vancouver I have only known one Canadian who was a morphine fiend. He got the habit from having the stuff injected into him while in an American hospital. I saw him the other day, and he is now completely cured and looks as bright as a dollar. He tried a great many things, and was finally relieved of his appetite in a German remedy institution at Portland. Even among the *demi monde*, who are accused of having many vices, I never heard of a Canadian or English girl being a morphine fiend. There have been women on the street addicted to it, but they were Americans who had contracted the habit before they came here, and there is only one now in the city known to be a victim to it, and one man who is of the lowest of the low order and a frequenter, in the vilest meaning of the term, of disreputable resorts. In the respectable community the habit never existed in Vancouver, nor is there any sign of it fastening its fangs at present. Morphine is never asked for in our Granville street store. The fiends will not use any other than the American preparations, and the sales are easily traced. Someone has grossly misinformed Mr. Trythall, and has a libel on the city to answer for.

W. D. Sinclair, Vancouver Drug Company – I cannot say that I have any increase in the demand for morphine, opium or cocaine lately. The sale of it fluctuates. Sometimes we will have a noticeable demand for it, but it does not come from citizens, and most of the travelers are from the other side. There are no confirmed users of these drugs among Vancouver's citizens at present that I know of.

J. A. McAlpine – As far as a person who observes the run of the trade can see, the sale of morphine is far from being on the increase in Vancouver. I think I am safe in asserting that there has been one fiend developed in Vancouver in a year, and as an answer to the statement you quote, that is going back far enough. Why do they prefer the American preparations? Well, it is said to give the desired exhilaration with less resultant heaviness to the head.

Some little trouble has been gone to in connection with this matter, because the imputation cast upon our people, who are as good as can be found anywhere, is one that should not be allowed to go undenied. There is no doubt but that Mr. Trythall – for we believe him to be fair-minded – will take the opportunity at the next public meeting he happens to address to correct the impression he created on Tuesday last.

“Letter from Mr. Trythall”⁶¹ (B. C., 1893)

The extra attention drawn to my five minute speech at the Princess Street church anniversary I trust will do good. My desire was entirely on that side, and not, as misrepresented, to damage this city. Some short time since I had a conversation with a gentleman who knows the condition of things here. He picture, I believe in

⁶¹ From Trythall, W. J. & Ed. (1893, September 22). LETTER FROM MR. TRYTHALL. *Daily World* (Vancouver), p. 4. Written by William John Trythall (1837 – 1921).

true colors, the horrible state of those who indulged in the opium and morphine habits, and stated that, through the introduction of another drug which was supposed to nullify the effects of morphine, that drug intensified the evil; for the supposed antidote was worse than the bane, and could be obtained without any legal restriction. I understand the use of that particular drug is classified under the "morphine habit," of which I spoke. Now, strange as it may appear, in one of your issues this week, or very recently, a paragraph appeared in reference to a poor fellow who indulged in the morphine habit and was supposed to be dying in this city. Besides, I may state that two other cases have been brought to my knowledge. If I remember alright, did not your reporter write an article or two on the opium dens of this city in stronger terms than I spoke?

W. J. TRYTHALL.

Vancouver, Sept. 22, 1893.

(The *World* does not question the sincerity of Mr. Trythall's intentions. He no doubt thought that the use of morphine was becoming alarmingly prevalent, and that the statement could be verified at the drug stores: but unless every such proprietor in the city is a falsifier, the use of the drug is decreasing. The gentleman who spoke to Mr. Trythall spoke truly when he said that the condition of the morphine user was a horrible one. No one will deny that. A lad was arrested here recently who was a victim to it. He came from New Westminster the day before his arrest. His occupation is that of piano player in low resorts, and he is not a white boy, but a Hawaiian. The *World* has written up the Chinese opium dens, but they are not frequented by the white population of this city. -Ed.)

"The wrong medicine"⁶² (Ontario, 1893)

A London, Ont, special says:-

Citizens were startled the other morning to learn of the death of Mr. T. A. Mara, of the well known firm of the T. A. Mara Co. [The] deceased had not enjoyed good health for some weeks past, and had recently sought recuperation in Florida, but with no appreciable result. On Sunday night the family went to Strong's drug store, Dundas street, for some quinine, and about 9 o'clock the same evening Mr. Mara took a dose of the medicine thus obtained. During the night it became apparent that something was seriously wrong, and at an early hour in the morning the family physician was called in.

MORPHINE POISONING

Later other physicians were summoned and a consultation held, and one or more of the doctors held that the symptoms were those of morphine poisoning. Every effort was made to rouse the patient, but without effect, and at 4 o'clock this morning he passed away, having been unconscious for over 24 hours.

It appears that whatever the messenger obtained at Strong's was taken by the attending clerk from the quinine bottle. The morphine bottle cannot be reached

⁶² From THE WRONG MEDICINE. (1893, December 28). *The Leader* (Regina), p. 3.

except by a step ladder, and this was not used. Whether by any mistake the morphine became mixed with the quinine, it is impossible as yet to determine. The bottle has been handed over to Prof. Harrison, public analyst, for the purpose of examination. It is stated that some of the attending physicians do not hold that death was due to morphine poisoning, but to natural causes, and it is hoped that this may prove correct. Meanwhile, Coroner Flock is making enquiries in the matter.

[The] deceased was born in Toronto on March 23, 1844. He spent a number of years in the southern states and was in business for himself at St. Louis. At the time of the Fenian raid he returned to Canada and took an active part in the defence of the country. He then settled in St. Mary's, where he conducted a business for five years. Returning to Toronto he remained for six years and then went to Milton, where he was paymaster on the C. P. R., which was being constructed through there at the time. After spending seven years there he moved to Galt, where he conducted a lucrative business for nine years. Nearly two years ago he came to London, where he has been a prosperous dry goods merchant. He was a member of the Queen's Avenue Methodist Church. He leaves a widow, four sons and a daughter. His father and mother still survive at the advanced age of 86 and 83 respectively, and are residents of Toronto, where one brother and three sisters live.

“In the grasp of a fiend”⁶³ (Ontario, 1894)

It would, no doubt, surprise many NEWS readers, to be told that the city of Kingston, where men compete as keenly for the profits of trade, for advancement, for the “almighty dollar,” as in any other city on the continent, there is a class of persons – men and women – who live apart in a world of their own, who stand upon the banks and gaze with unseeing eyes at the waters of the River of Life, whose whole care is for to-day – taking no thought for to-morrow, or of anyone except themselves – nineteenth century lotus eaters. And yet such is the case, strange though it may seem. They do not live, these latter-day dreamers, they simply exist. Life has not for them the pleasures it affords to others. Its sorrows are not as keen to them as to us. They are slaves – slaves to a habit, a vice, infinitely more degrading, and more terrible in its results to its victim than alcohol. Opium and its various preparations is the drug which enchains so many, and which when once it establishes a firm hold on its victim, slowly but surely drags him down to a miserable death.

On Saturday afternoon a number of the city druggists were interviewed with regard to the extent to which the use of opium prevails in Kingston. Some of them were very reticent and would say little on the subject. All were agreed, however, that the habit claims a great many more devotees than the public is aware. But the vice is a secret one. Those who use the drug are particularly careful to keep the fact from the knowledge of their friends and relatives.

The manner of using it varies. Some use the opium itself. Others use its active principle, morphia, by means of the hypodermic syringe, which is fitted with a very

⁶³ From IN THE GRASP OF A FIEND. (1894, January 15). *Kingston News*, p. 4.

sharp needle. This needle is inserted between the skin and the flesh of the arm or leg, and the solution of the drug is forced into the system. The immediate effect of a hypodermic injection of morphia is a dream, blissful languor – that is, during the initial stage of the habit. Afterwards, larger and larger doses have to be taken to keep the user up to his normal condition.

Not for nothing does beneficent Mother Nature nurse the pale poppy flower in her fruitful soil with outpouring sunshine. Like the Buddhist devil, the opium spirit is dual – an angel of light as well as of darkness. Every pang of physical pain disappears at the soft touch of the hand of the morphia spirit, and the anguished sufferer experiences a sudden transition from the infernal regions to the gardens of Paradise.

From this experience many learn to use the deadly hypodermic syringe. People of refined sensibilities are most given to its use. Women as well as men use it. Many experience their first opium dream in hospital, and thinking that they have discovered a rose without a thorn, provide their own morphia and syringe, and using the drug, at first for the pleasant feeling it produces, find, when it is too late to give up the habit, that the pleasure is evanescent – “fleeting as a vision” – and that it leaves in its place an ever-present devil, who compels his victim to do from necessity what he formerly did for pleasure.

Some claim that the use of morphia produces inspiration – which at the waving wand of the disguised spirit sweeps through the mind like a mighty wind, awakening great thoughts and original ideas, revealing and arousing into activity mental powers far surpassing those exhibited by the common, rugged, unstimulated brain. They tell of poetic fancies aroused so that the soul seems to walk in high and equal fellowship with the shades of Shakespeare and Milton. They speak of great schemes for the advancement of humanity appearing to the reformer’s thought, when he lies wrapped in his morphia ecstasy, making the future of the universe splendid with golden hope and glorious success. They speak too – and how deadly sweet to thousands of aching hearts, and spirits cast down and broken – of the opium witchcraft as having power to lift “the heart bowed down, to heights of calm,” to cure the aching heart, to minister to a mind diseased and to soothe the pain-tossed sufferer whose pains vanish and leave him in a fiery circle ringed with peace. But all too soon these persons discover that the Lotus island of their glorious dreaming is the abode of Circe, and that their dreams will vanish, while beyond the border line of mirage lies the valley of the shadow of death.

When once the morphia or opium habit fixes its fangs securely in its victim, he may bid farewell to peace. He is haunted by the ghosts of time idly dreamed away, opportunities wasted, and the golden glow of life’s promise faded into ignoble inanition. He cannot break the chains that bind him. Escape from the clutch of the habit is next to impossible, and after suffering the unutterable anguish attending the efforts he makes to rid himself of the curse, he falls back, discouraged and with ambition dead, and drags out the remainder of his useless existence – often in a lunatic asylum. The opium or morphia habit in its later stages destroys all desire in its victim to rise in the world, kills his moral perceptions – a morphia-user will resort

to any lying strategy to obtain the drug, or to hide his vice – makes him idle, utterly averse to exertion of any kind and anxious to continually put off all important duties. His family may go unprovided for – may starve – but he will spend his last penny for his drug.

Laudanum, paregoric and other preparations of opium are used by many in place of the morphia or opium. Cocaine is used by many hypodermically, as is morphia, and leaves the arms and body of the user a mass of sores, every insertion of the solution causing an abscess. But the hypodermic use of morphia is practiced by ten persons to every one who habitually uses any of the other preparations.

One city druggist, when asked whether the sale of the drug could not be so regulated as to prevent its habitual use – or abuse – said: “It would be a very difficult matter to prevent the sale of morphia. I always refuse to sell it to anyone who does not present a doctor’s order. I have refused to sell it to persons who have asked for it without the necessary certificate, and they have gone away, to return in a short time with the order. What could I do but sell them the drug then? I knew they should not have it, but if they did not get it from me, some other druggist would sell it to them. The fact of the matter is, it would be a cruelty to deprive those who are thoroughly habituated to the use of the drug, of their ordinary supply. They endure agonies of torment when without it for a long period, and would undoubtedly become insane if it were taken from them altogether. Yes, we have several customers who buy the drug daily. We have one customer who uses as much as twelve grains of morphia every twenty-four hours. One-fourth of a grain is the ordinary dose to relieve pain, and three grains taken at one time will kill an ordinary man. But a person can become so habituated to taking large quantities that he can take as much at once as would kill three or four men.”

In answer to a question as to how many habitual users of morphia there are in the city, he said, “It is impossible to say. But the number is very much larger than is generally believed. More women than men are addicted to its use.”

He said that he always warned those who asked for morphia of the danger of using it, but such warning does not deter them from buying and using it.

Another druggist estimated the number of those who use morphia and its preparations to be between seven and eight hundred in the city of Kingston. They pay out annually a very large sum for the drug and the instruments required for the administration of the solution.

“Opium’s victims”⁶⁴ (Ontario, 1895)

Toronto, March 19 – F. Winslow Adams of Boston, who is in Toronto, and who takes a deep interest in the anti-opium crusade, says that in interviews with druggists in Toronto he found that opium and morphine were in large and constant call. Though a grain of opium or an eighth of a grain of morphine is a dose for a beginner, yet Mr. Adams had learned from one druggist in the city of a customer who

⁶⁴ From OPIUM’S VICTIMS. (1895, March 20). *Evening Journal* (Ottawa), p. 6.

took 30 grains at a single dose, and he had met those who took as high as 120 grains of morphine with 60 grains of cocaine, hypodermically, in a day, enough to kill every person on the platform, while it was declared that enough morphine is consumed by these slaves in Toronto in a single day to kill every member of the audience assembled ten times over. Said Mr. Adams:

“A druggist told me he refused to sell a customer any more morphine, his addictions were getting so large. Within an hour he came back, waving a half-pint bottle, and saying, ‘You see, I can get all I want.’ A Toronto physician told me he knew six cases of morphine habituation among his patients, including a minister and a woman eminent in society. I found afterwards that the doctor was addicted to the drug.”

Many more statements equally startling and of a local character were cited by the speaker. The consolation, he said, in the present day was to be found in the fact that science apparently was providing a remedy for the victims of this terrible habit. It was an evil that temperance reformers might combine to battle against.

“To feast on vile drugs”⁶⁵ (Ontario, 1895)

A Boston man, Fred. Winslow Adams, has for some weeks been investigating the consumption of opium, morphine and similar drugs in this city [Toronto], and the statements he makes of the result of the investigations seem almost incredible. He claims victims to the opium habit are to be found in all stations of life, from the minister in our pulpit to the woman “who walks the street,” and that the evil is as pronounced here as in American cities. Wealthy customers buy the drug through a trusty agent, and the poor pretend they want it for someone else. As revealed by Mr. Adams, the drug habit is a curse within Toronto’s borders alongside of which drunkenness is a mere trifle.

He warns against the use of opium, morphine, laudanum, paregoric, Magendie’s Solution, McMunn’s Elixir, chloral and cocaine. Many mothers use paregoric, or soothing syrup containing paregoric, as if it were harmless, but they are doing their little ones a terrible and life-long injury. A person may become a victim of the drug through a taste aroused in the nursery.

A pathetic thing about this curse is that most of the victims are fairly launched before they realize it. It is not like liquor taken in the beginning of choice, or for self-enjoyment. When once the habit is confirmed, the victim cannot forego his daily dose, and forced abstinence may cause death or insanity.

Mr. Adams found many sad cases here. One of a person who takes thirty grains of opium at a single dose (one grain is a dose for a beginner); another, a young man, taking twenty grains of morphine hypodermically each day, the habit commencing as a so-called cure for alcoholism where must morphine was used in the treatment; another, a physician, who was a victim and had six morphine users among his patients.

⁶⁵ From TO FEAST ON VILE DRUGS. (1895, March 28). *Weekly British Whig* (Kingston), p. 1.

We have known some of the Chinese used opium, and perhaps a few others, and are loathe to believe such a terrible state of affairs exists in our midst. Mr. Adams, in support of his statement, quotes Samuel Clark, superintendent of the asylum for the insane, as stating that there are ten slaves to drugs in this city for one slave to alcohol.

The opium exports from Asia Minor show that 2,000 bales are sent to North America yearly. Taking into consideration the fact that one grain of opium is a dose for one unaccustomed to its use, and that there are one hundred and sixty-five pounds in a bale, it is easy to understand that there is an alarming consumption of opium on this continent.

“Big Cut Rate White Drug Store”⁶⁶ (Ontario, 1895)

Big cut rate White Drug Store. Where? Next door to [the] Commercial Hotel, north side of Market Square, Brantford.

Two or three new things at prices that will suit the times. See them. Genuine turkey feather duster; old price, 35c; our price, 15c; two for 25c. Soap and tooth brush stands, complete, old price, 50c.; our price, 20c. We give every boy or girl at 10 cent conductor’s whistle if they buy 10c worth of anything we sell; that is, just to please the boys and girls, and they can then all be a policeman. It will pay you to buy where the public buys, on account of the price. Just let us put a price on your wants. A good many people have wanted 2 bottles of Carter’s Little Liver Pills for 25c. [We] will say you can have them. It don’t make any difference to us. McGregor only has one drug store, and that is the Big Cut Rate White Drug Store. Have you been in? Perfumes are going as usual.

	OLD PRICE.	OUR PRICE.
Lactated Food		20c
"	25c	35c
"	50c	75c
Nestle's Food	\$1.00	38c
Horlick's Malted Milk	50c	50c
Johnson's Beef	60c	75c
"	\$1.00	45c
"	60c	25c
Pink Pills	35c	29c
Dodd's Pills	50c	28c
Ayer's Pills	50c	15c
Indian Root Pills	25c	15c
Carter's Liver Pills	25c	12½c
Paine's Celery Compound	\$1.00	55c

⁶⁶ From Big Cut Rate White Drug Store [Advertisement]. (1895, October 4). *Brantford Expositor*, p. 4

Hood's Sarsaparilla	\$1.00	65c
Burdock Bitters	\$1.00	65c
Ayer's Salsaparilla	\$1.00	65c
Ayer's Hair Vigor	\$1.00	65c
Scott's Emulsion	\$1.00	65c
"	50c	35c
K. D. C.	\$1.00	75c
Luby's Hair Renewer	50c	40c
Garfield Tea	25c	20c
Castoria	35c	25c
Nestle's Food	50c	40c
Lactated Food	50c	40c
Syr. Red Spruce Gum	25c	20c
Thomas' Electric Oil	25c	15c
Hirst's Pain Exterminator	25c	19c
Winslow's Soothing Syrup	25c	19c
Fowler's Extract Wild Strawberry	35c	23c
Siegle's Syrup	60c	39c
Glycerine	10c oz.	3c oz.
Tr. Opium (Laudanum)	15c oz.	7c oz.
Tr. Iodine	15c oz.	10c oz.
Paregoric	10c oz.	4c oz.
Carbolic Acid	15c oz.	5c oz.
Castor Oil	20c lb.	10c lb.
2 grain quinine capsules	25c doz.	9c doz.
Howard's Quinine, best English	\$1.00 doz.	45c doz.
Stick Fly Paper, sheets	15c	5c
8 oz. prescription in bottle	60c	25c
4 oz. " " "	40c	19c
2 oz. " " "	35c	15c
Diamond and Turkish Dyes	10c, 8c	3 for 23c

White Castile Soap 12c a pound. Whole bar 35c.
And all other medicines at reduced price.
Come and see us.

“Twas an accident”⁶⁷ (Ontario, 1897)

William Travis, 28 years of age, residing at 110 Waterloo Street, died in Dr. Chapin’s office, Market Street, [Brantford,] on Saturday afternoon while under the influence of chloroform.

It seems that the young man injured his hand on a circular saw at Simpson’s Carriage Works about 5 o’clock, and immediately went to Dr. Chapin’s office to have the wound dressed. The physician made a careful examination and decided that as the bones of one finger were badly injured, the member must be amputated. It was necessary to the successful outcome of the operation to administer an anaesthetic, and Dr. Lamont was called in to attend to this.

The chloroform was given in the usual manner and Dr. Chapin was washing the wounds, prior to using the instruments, when Travis expired without a second’s warning. The doctors immediately turned their efforts towards resuscitating the patient, and send a hurried call to Drs. Digby, D. and J. Marquis.

The deceased man’s friends were called in, and it was learned that Travis was in the habit of taking large quantities of laudanum, a fact which doubtless accounts for the peculiar accident.

AN INQUEST

The physicians interested in the matter have demanded an inquest, and the coroner has consented, although the friends of the deceased man are opposed to any action in this direction.

The remains were removed by Undertaker Pattison to the deceased man’s home to await the coroner’s jury.

“He used dope”⁶⁸ (Ontario, 1897)

“We agree that William Travis came to his death from heart failure, under the necessary administration of chloroform for a surgical operation, the heart being weakened by long indulgence in the use of laudanum, and we find no blame attaching to the practitioners in attendance, as all possible means were used to restore life.”

Such was the verdict of the fourteen good men and true who were charged with the public duty of sifting the facts in connection with the unfortunate Travis fatality. It was only what could be looked for, in view of the evidence. It was shown that the deceased man had used laudanum regularly, and in quantities that would kill several ordinary mortals, ever since he was one year old. His vital organs were in a deplorable condition, and one physician advanced the theory that he was under the influence of the drug when he entered Dr. Chapin’s office. A post-mortem examination was conducted by Drs. Pearson and Cole during the day, and they went on the stand to give expert evidence. The verdict, as quoted, should be a source of considerable

⁶⁷ From ‘Twas an ACCIDENT. (1897, February 22). *Brantford Expositor*, p. 3.

⁶⁸ From HE USED DOPE. (1897, February 23). *Brantford Expositor*, p. 7.

satisfaction to the medical men directly interested, relieving them, as it does, of the least breath of suspicion of incompetence or carelessness.

The jury was empaneled as follows: Frank W. Merrill, foreman; E. J. Grace, W. Philips, T. Woods, G. W. Fowler, W. E. Lemon, P. McIntosh, E. Wheeler, G. Sharp, R. Chave, J. T. Wallace, S. Overend, and J. Carson. Under the direction of Coroner Heath and Constable Wallace, the jurymen viewed the remains of the deceased man at his home, 110 Waterloo street, and then adjourned to the police station, where the inquiry proper opened. Mr. A. J. Wilkes, Q. C., conducted the cross-examination.

The first witness called was I. Simpson, manager of the Simpson Carriage Works, who deposed that the late William Travis was employed at the factory in the capacity of a laborer, at \$3.50 per week. Travis was not employed about the machines at all.

TRAVIS CUT HIS HAND

Frank Wilcox, an employee of the Carriage Works, was sworn, and testified that Travis injured his hand on a rip saw at the works. The flesh of the little finger of the left hand was lacerated. [The] witness never saw Travis anything but sober.

J. W. Aitkin, another employee of the Carriage Works, corroborated Wilcox's testimony as to the accident.

A LAUDANUM DRINKER

Courtland Travis, the aged father of the deceased lad, then took the stand. He testified that his deceased son was 28 years of age. The boy had taken laudanum ever since he was a boy, and could take as much as would kill three men. His drug cost him \$1 per week. Sometimes he had a little on his person, and [he] had taken a dose at noon on Saturday.

When asked if his son drank liquor, Mr. Travis replied that he did at one time, but no more than the "rest of us," this last with a significant up-raising of the eyebrows and a general facial contortion.

THE WIFE'S STORY

Julia Travis, the dead man's wife, testified to purchasing four-ounce bottles of laudanum at 50 cents per bottle. Her husband used the drug regularly and usually took the same amount. She went to Dr. Chapin's office shortly after 6 o'clock, but at that time her husband was dead. [The] witness could not sign her name to the deposition.

WHERE⁶⁹ HE BOUGHT THE DRUG

Dr. Pearson swore that Travis' purchases of laudanum averaged three to four ounces per day. An ordinary man would be killed by one of his doses.

DOCTOR TOOK EVERY PRECAUTION

Dr. Chapin, in whose surgery Travis died, was called. He detailed the facts of the deceased man coming to his office, and asking to have an injury dressed. The

⁶⁹ Though this sub-title is in the original, the short paragraph below does not explain where the drug was bought. Nothing has been omitted in this transcription. It's possible that an earlier draft of the article included this information, only to have it removed for space concerns, or to prevent offence to the druggist in question.

wound was caused by a saw which had cut through the bone. [The] witness told the deceased that amputation was necessary. Dr. Lamont was called in to administer an anaesthetic. The chloroform was used, and the patient took it well for a minute, and then the pulse became weaker. Without stopping to discover whether the heart had stopped beating, they resorted to injections of strychnine, applications of ice [and ether], and [they] kept the body in artificial respiration for eighty minutes, when they gave it up. Dr. Marquis used an electrical battery, but to no effect.

Previous to administering chloroform Dr. Lamont examined his heart very carefully, and asked the usual questions.

DR. LAMONT

Dr. Lamont followed, [his testimony being] in corroboration of Dr. Chapin's testimony. He had given considerably less than a drachm, which is much less than the quantity required to produce complete anaesthesia. He noticed a slight pallor, and promptly stopped the chloroform and applied the agents for restoration. Had he known that laudanum was used in any quantity, he would not have given the chloroform.

DR. DIGBY

Dr. Digby testified that when he arrived at Dr. Chapin's office the deceased man was lying in the proper position, and every precaution taken to restore him. His theory was that Travis, being in pain, took a big dose of laudanum and then went to the medical gentleman, who could not possibly know his condition. Under the influence of the drug, chloroform was dangerous, but the same thing might happen to any practitioner under similar circumstances. He was positive that everything possible was done to restore consciousness, and nothing known to medical science was omitted.

Juryman Lemon – "Would the effect have been different had he taken a glass of whiskey?"

Dr. Digby – "No; it would have been much better for him, but I do not, of course, advise you gentlemen to take whiskey."

Mr. Wilkes – "Not unless it was good, doctor."

THE POST-MORTEM

Dr. Cole gave the details of the post-mortem examination. Their opinion was that death resulted from shock. The heart was in a very faulty condition, the brain soft, and all the organs more or less diseased. This condition was undoubtedly the result of the use of laudanum.

Dr. Pearson was recalled, and corroborated the testimony regarding the post-mortem examination.

George Travis, a brother of [the] deceased, testified to his brother's drug habits, and also stated that he "liked his jag pretty well."

“A mistake suspected”⁷⁰ (Ontario, 1897)

The infant son, named Joseph Ovila, of Mr. Joseph Tremblay, died Thursday afternoon under distressing circumstances. The indications are that a mistake has been made by some one in the matter of medicine applied to an ulcer from which the child was suffering, and which probably brought on blood poisoning, causing [his] death a few hours later.

Dr. Routhier was called in on Wednesday afternoon to prescribe for the child, [who] was suffering from a running sore. A prescription was given which called for a powder of equal parts of morphine and bismuth. The powder was prepared by J. L. Rochester, druggist, of Wellington Street, [Ottawa,] and was to be applied externally. An application was made at once, but the child was almost immediately thrown into convulsions, and continued in that condition until death ensued on Thursday afternoon.

Shortly after the prescription was put up and applied Dr. Routhier is said to have telephoned to the druggist to substitute iodol for morphine in the prescription. Mr. Rochester then sent for the bottle, saying that he wished to add a powder to it. The messenger who went for the bottle was also directed to tell Mrs. Tremblay to wash the first powder off the wound. The second powder was returned, and though several applications were made it had no effect in relieving the child's sufferings.

The change in the prescription caused the child's parents to suspect that everything was not right, and they asked for an enquiry into the cause of the infant's death.

“Natural causes”⁷¹ (Ontario, 1897)

The jury in the Tremblay inquest decided that Joseph Tremblay's infant child died from natural causes. [He] had been suffering from a sore upon the stomach and Dr. Routhier prescribed for it. Shortly afterwards the child died in convulsions, and the friends [of the family] requested Coroner Freeland to hold an inquest.

Dr. Routhier last night testified that he prescribed nosaphen and bismuth for the sore. The prescription was sent to Mr. J. L. Rochester's to be put up, and after Dr. Routhier had gone home he said he was asked over the 'phone whether morphine was what was called for. He told Mr. Rochester that it was nosaphen.

Mr. J. L. Rochester stated that during the nine or ten years he had been in the business he had not heard of nosaphen being used in a prescription. He read the word as “morphine,” and considering the quantity large he showed the prescription to Dr. Foster and then called up Dr. Routhier. He did not get Dr. Routhier then, but made up the prescription and sent it. Ten minutes later he called up Dr. Routhier and was told that it was nosaphen. Mr. Rochester said he then changed the prescription and

⁷⁰ From A MISTAKE SUSPECTED. (1897, September 25). *The Citizen* (Ottawa), p. 8.

⁷¹ From NATURAL CAUSES. (1897, September 28). *Ottawa Journal*, p. 5.

sent it to the child's home. The word "nosaphen" closely resembled the word "morphine" in the prescription.

NATURAL CAUSES

Dr. Paptie and Dr. Wright performed an autopsy upon the child and stated that death was due to natural causes. Dr. Baptie stated that the surface of the sore was so small that not sufficient morphine could be absorbed to cause poisoning. He found no indications of morphine poisoning.

Mrs. Craigie, Mrs. Johnston and Mrs. Laflamme, neighbors of Mr. Tremblay's, were all present when the child died and stated that it died in convulsions.

Margaret Johnston, the little girl who bought the medicine, was called, but her evidence was not considered necessary.

Mr. P. J. Nolan, drug clerk in Mr. Rochester's store, said that he had been ordered to get back the first prescription sent out and substitute the second one for the first. He carried the second prescription to the house and instructed Mrs. Laflamme to take the first powder from the sore and put the second one in its place. This was done, and the first powder was only on ten minutes.

After a short deliberation the jury decided that death resulted from natural causes. The inquest was held in Peterkin's hall.

"Morphine's victim"⁷² (B. C., 1898)

A terrible effect liable to occur as the result of the use of morphine in surgical cases was illustrated in the [Vancouver] police court to-day. J. R. Jackson was arraigned on the charge of issuing bogus cheques. The poor fellow's nervous system was in such a condition that he was utterly unable to keep himself steady, or answer any question intelligently.

It appears that some years ago, at a place called Mona, Ont., he was terribly injured in an accident on a saw mill, and in order that he might go under operation, morphine was administered. He recovered from it but the subsequent pain was such that he was led to follow up the use of morphine, and the result is that he is now what is known in police parlance as a morphine fiend.

When under its influence he is liable to do any erratic thing, and on Friday he wrote a cheque, signing the name Cameron, and had the same cashed. Of course, it was utterly worthless on presentation at the bank. He was arrested and brought up this morning, but, on explanations being given, and his friends making the matter good, he was allowed to go. He is thoroughly penitent, and his acquaintances have decided to put him into an institution with the view of having him cured of the habit.

⁷² From MORPHINE'S VICTIM. (1898, October 1). *Vancouver Daily World*, p. 1.

“Hidden dangers”⁷³ (Quebec, 1898)

One of the gravest dangers to this country is the widespread use of alcohol, morphine, opium, and other deadly poisons in the liquid medicines sold to sick women. Alcohol, whiskey, or some other injurious acid is necessary to keep the medicines from souring. Morphine and opium are used to deaden pain quickly, but the patient is worse off than ever when the effects wear away. Habitual use of these liquid medicines is causing thousands of women to become drunkards and slaves of opium. It is difficult to understand why the law does not step in and stop these dreadful practices.

All women and girls should take warning. There is no reason or no necessity for taking dangerous liquid medicines and paying \$1 a bottle for them. For 50c you can buy a box of the celebrated Dr. Coderre’s Red Pills for Pale and Weak Women. Although the price is only half as much as liquid medicines cost, the Red Pills are vastly better and perfectly safe. There is no alcohol in them. Neither morphine nor opium is used in compounding them. There is not a single ingredient that can possibly injure the most delicate woman or girl.

Dr. Coderre’s Red Pills do not set up false stimulation. They do not deaden pain temporarily. What they do is cure. They are a distinctly French medicine. They reach deep and overcome all the disagreeable, torturing diseases called “female troubles.” They help the girl through the dangerous time of puberty, and as she blossoms into full womanhood she is not beset by the diseases so common to her sex. Dr. Coderre’s Red Pills fit the girl to become a bride, and the bride to become the mother of vigorous, strong children without suffering during the time of pregnancy. They rob childbirth of its dangers and pains. They MAKE women well when young, and KEEP them well till they die. They are a safe, reliable, almost infallible cure for leucorrhoea, falling or ulceration of the womb, nervousness, the blues, paleness, weakness, thin blood, poor appetite, headache, backache and palpitation of the heart. They establish regularity of the menses, and permanently correct scanty, profuse or irregular periods.

The reader may doubt these things, but they are true just the same. Over half a million French women have proved them true. Nearly as many American women are to-day enjoying vigorous womanly health because of these remarkable pills.

Dr. Coderre’s Red Pills, beside being such a safe, reliable and low-priced medicine, are of the greatest convenience to girls and women. The pills can be carried anywhere – to work or on visits to friends, or when traveling. They can be swallowed in the public street if necessary, without any one knowing it. You cannot do this with liquid medicines, even though they were good, which is not the case, as the alcohol and morphine makes them dangerous.

⁷³ From HIDDEN DANGERS [Advertisement]. (1898, December 3). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 8.

“Beware of narcotics”⁷⁴ (Nova Scotia, 1899)

We seem to be rapidly becoming a nation of narcotic fiends, at least the feminine portion of us. Every pain or ache instantly suggests the remedy – or, more properly speaking, the oblivion – to be found in the dose of morphine, opium, or the deadliest drug of all, cocaine. If the number of those addicted to these dreadful drugs continues to increase at the present rate, the matter will become immeasurably serious.

“The trial at Brandon”⁷⁵ (Manitoba, 1900)

Brandon, Jan. 19 – Mrs. Emma Jane Stripp appeared before Judge Cumberland at 2 o’clock to-day on a charge of attempting to facilitate the escape from jail of Hilda Blake, charged with the murder of Mrs. Robt. Lane, of this city. She elected to be tried speedily. R. M. Matheson appeared for the crown; A. D. Cameron for Mrs. Stripp, who pled not guilty.

Jailer Noxon was the first witness called. He stated that Mrs. Stripp had been employed as guard over Hilda Blake. She had been discharged because she had not performed her duties properly. He had found the bars of Hilda Blake’s cell filed. He had subsequently guarded the window on the outside for 13 or 14 nights, thinking the filing had been done from the outside. Mrs. Stripp had told him, after her arrest, that she had taken the file in to Hilda Blake. The witness was subjected to a lengthy cross-examination, during which he said Mrs. Stripp had said she knew that Hilda Blake could not escape even with the files in her possession.

Chief Kirkcaldy was the second witness called. He stated that Hilda Blake had given him two files and a bottle of laudanum. Hilda Blake had told him she had a file, and had given it to him afterwards. The jailor had told him the bar had been filed. On the last Wednesday in October Hilda Blake told him she had a bottle of laudanum, and she gave it to him three days later.

He had seen Mrs. Stripp in her house while she was still in the employ of the jailor, and the jailor had asked Mrs. Stripp if she had carried any messages to or from Hilda Blake, and she said “No.” Mrs. Stripp was apparently not acting in collusion with Jailer Noxon, and certainly not with himself.

Later on, [the] witness had had conversation with Mrs. Stripp in his office. He was working on the Lane murder case. He had thought someone else implicated in that murder besides Hilda Blake, and thought Mrs. Stripp might be of use to him, as he had a letter from Blake to Mrs. Stripp, in which Mrs. Stripp was told that everything was all right; she had these things in a safe place, and that there was no necessity of telling her (Mrs. Stripp) to be silent. Mrs. Stripp said she didn’t know what the letter meant. She said she had taken nothing to Hilda Blake, and no letters from Hilda Blake to parties outside. He then asked her if it referred to a file, and she

⁷⁴ From BEWARE OF NARCOTICS. (1899, January 16). *Halifax Herald*, p. 2.

⁷⁵ From THE TRIAL AT BRANDON. (1900, January 20). *Manitoba Morning Free Press*, p. 8.

said no. She made the same answer when the bottle of laudanum was produced, but immediately broke down and said: "Chief, I will tell you the truth. I did take those things into the jail." She said the files were taken in inside a book. She further said that she was satisfied that he (the chief) knew at all about it at the time, and begged that he would destroy the laudanum. She said she had taken the laudanum in because Hilda Blake had been suffering, and had needed it medicinally. Finally, Mrs. Stripp had said that she had taken the things in to pacify Hilda Blake.

Cross-examined by Mr. Cameron, [he] said: Hilda Blake had led her to believe that he (the chief) knew all about the files. Mrs. Stripp had told him she knew he had laudanum, but he thought she was guessing. The note had not been written at [the] witness' request. He thought he was justified in carrying messages from Hilda Blake in his capacity as constable. Mrs. Stripp had told him that the laudanum had been diluted with water and that she wanted to assist him all she could. Hilda Blake had given him the first file voluntarily, but he had to command her to give him the second one. Mrs. Stripp was only in charge of Hilda Blake at night. He had never heard that Mrs. Stripp had made a great row one night trying to get away from the prisoner, who had gotten unruly and caused her (Mrs. Stripp) to be afraid of her. He had notified the attorney general's department of the finding of the file, and suggested a woman to replace Mrs. Stripp, and a woman was sent. The cuts in the window bars had been filled up with some blackened substance so that they would not be noticed with anything less than a careful examination of the bars. He had the laudanum examined by a chemist.

Jailor Noxon was recalled. [The] prisoner and Hilda Blake were locked in a large room. Outside a male guard slept. Mrs. Stripp did at one time make a complaint that Hilda Blake had been somewhat hysterical during the night.

The case was adjourned⁷⁶ at 6 o'clock until Tuesday next.

"A thorough investigation demanded"⁷⁷ (Quebec, 1904)

Among the many mysteries which have from time to time agitated the public of Montreal, probably the Lalonde-Cote case, which has been brought to light during the past week, will rank as one possessing elements the most touching and tragic.

A young girl, of eighteen years of age, is detected in an irregular way at one of the city's great department stores; an investigation is ordered and goods belonging to the proprietor are found at the girl's residence.

This is a matter of probably frequent occurrence in a great city like Montreal.

A young girl comes to the city and upon a small salary tries to make both ends meet. Presently she becomes involved in financial difficulty; she thinks her position irretrievable and takes money or goods which do not belong to her.

⁷⁶ "Mrs. Stripp, the unfortunate woman who was found guilty of taking files and laudanum in to Hilda Blake while she was confined in the jail here, was sentenced to two months in jail for the offence." BRANDON BURSARSHIP. (1900, January 29). *Manitoba Morning Free Press*, p. 3.

⁷⁷ From A Thorough Investigation Demanded. (1904, September 5). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 6.

In the Lalonde-Cote case, however, a new and most startling feature is introduced.

Miss Lalonde was detected in irregularities, which resulted in an investigation. A detective was summoned, and accompanied by the proprietor of the store, the girl was taken to her boarding house, where according to the report filed by the Detective with Chief Carpenter, goods and merchandise amounting to a considerable sum were found, which did not belong to her.

With the discovery of the goods and their return the proprietor expressed the wish not to prosecute.

This incident was apparently closed.

The sensational elements of the case, however, follow.

The detective takes the girl from the boarding house, from which the landlady, according to her own statement, had no intention of dismissing her, and where the girl had always been well thought of and seemed a most respectable young woman, quiet in her demeanour and heart broken at the result of her indiscretion, and accompanied her to a restaurant first, on St. Lawrence Street, and subsequently to the Jacques Cartier Hotel.

Here a room is obtained for the girl. She is assisted to obtain writing material to pen four or more letters. Afterwards, she endeavours to obtain laudanum and collodion, but fails. The services of the detective are enlisted and she is accompanied by him to a drug store where, through his offices, the drugs are obtained.

Next morning the young girl is found in a dying condition in her room, [and] is removed to Notre Dame Hospital, where she expires, as was given out, as a result of having taken poison.

Surely a case so sad in its every detail, possessing such elements of mystery, should, on the face of it, demand a most searching investigation.

The coroner, a painstaking and careful official, was convinced in his own mind that the girl had committed suicide and announced that no inquest would be necessary.

Chief Carpenter was convinced of the integrity of Detective Cote and held that except for, perhaps, an error in judgment, he was entirely innocent of any wrongdoing in the matter.

At Notre Dame, not a crumb of information could be obtained as to who brought the girl thither. An inspection of the remains even for means of identification was refused and no information was to whether or not an autopsy would be made was available.

The situation changed, however, with the passage of a few hours.

An investigation was held; an inquest was held; an autopsy was made and Detective Cote was suspended, as it was shown that he had taken the girl to the Jacques Cartier Hotel and had remained on the premises until two o'clock next morning, and had assisted her to procure collodion and laudanum, actions in the opinion of the chairman of police calculated to show very poor judgment.

The jury found a verdict of suicide: the girl had died of poisoning by taking Paris Green, and as Detective Cote had only been concerned in the buying of the

laudanum and collodion, he was found free of any responsibility as to the girl's death, as it had occurred, according to medical testimony, [due] to Paris Green poisoning.

The popular mind to-day is far from clear on the case, owing to the mystery which still envelops the Lalonde-Cote case.

The purchase of the Paris Green, which, the physicians say, caused death, has still to be probed. Where did the victim purchase it? Was it mixed with the laudanum and collodion?

The action of the drug clerk in selling the laudanum and collodion, which is prohibited, even as a sale to a detective, has not seemed to interest the jury. It is contended that the amount of laudanum purchased by the girl, according to experts, might itself cause death to a person in a normal state.

An incidental feature tending to confusion is the statement of Mr. Scroggie denying the accuracy of the report on the case made by Detective Cote to Chief Carpenter respecting the cash which was alleged to be found in Miss Lalonde's room. The detective's report states that a sum of over \$20 in cash was found in the girl's room and returned to the firm. This is denied by Mr. Scroggie.

Moreover, what of the return of Cote to the hotel for the girl in the morning?

Mr. Scroggie had announced his intention of not prosecuting the case and the detective had lodged his final report on the case with his chief at nine o'clock that morning.

The incident seemed closed on both sides.

Moreover, Detective Cote's treatment at the hands of his superiors is rather unusual. Chairman St. Denis, of the Police Committee, announces one day the detective's suspension; the next day, however, Cote is busy on an assignment as if nothing had happened, while, later, the chairman confirms his original announcement.

The mutilated letter addressed by the girl to parties unknown, of which the first page is missing, and which was placed in the hands of Dr. Fleury by Detective Cote, is also an instrument which might unravel a good deal of the mystery.

The whole sad affair, however it may end, would seem to show the great care which should be exercised in dealing with investigations of this character, and to reveal to parents the terrible dangers which beset young girls in their efforts to battle, alone and unprotected, with life as found in great cities.

Detective Cote Upon the Stand Gives Evidence in the Lalonde Case Before Court Room Packed with Spectators. (1904, September 14). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 5.

The scene in the Recorder's Court at 11.30 this morning was one which only the pen of a Dickens could do full justice to. It was the closing moments of the investigation into the conduct of Detective Cote in connection with the death of Mamie Lalonde in the Jacques Cartier Hotel on the morning of August 30. [...]

TELLS OF THE PURCHASE OF THE LAUDANUM

Treffe Vandeboncoeur, druggist, of the city of Montreal, was examined by Mr. [Honore] Gervais, [M.P., acting for Cote]. [...]

“Do you know Detective Cote?”

“Yes, sir.”

“Do you remember Mamie Lalonde’s visit to your pharmacy?”

“Yes, sir.”

“Whilst Mr. Cote was in the drug store with Mamie Lalonde, did he speak one word to you?”

“No, sir.”

“Did he make any sign to you?”

“No, sir.”

“Did he hear what Mamie Lalonde said to you?”

“As to that, I have not his ears.”

“Did Mr. Cote interfere or endeavor in any way to obtain the remedies for which Mamie Lalonde asked?”

“No, sir.”

EXAMINED BY MR. MARECHAL

“Were you unaware, Mr. Vandebonacoer, that Miss Lalonde had previously sent for these remedies?”

“Yes, sir.”

“Had you refused them?”

“I do not know that it was Miss Lalonde. I suppose it was she who was at the Jacques Cartier Hotel, and who had probably sent over.”

“And did you refuse the remedies to her?”

“Yes, sir.”

“Was it you, yourself, who refused the remedies?”

“It was I who refused them.”

“When Miss Lalonde returned with Mr. Cote, if she had been alone would you have given the remedies to her?”

“Yes, sir.”

“The same remedies?”

“Yes, sir.”

“Had Mr. Cote’s presence no influence on your decision?”

“I can not say if Cote’s presence did, but the presence of a man; if a little boy is sent it makes difficulty.”

“Mr. Vandebonacoer, I ask you if you would have given the drugs to the young girl if she had been alone.”

“Yes, sir.”

“You would have given them.”

“Yes, sir.”

“You are quite positive that you would have given these remedies to a young girl if she had not been accompanied by a man?”

“Yes, sir.”

“Do you always do so?”

“It is done very often.”

“Not always?”

“It is very often done; it is the rule.”

“Do you know Mr. Cote well?”

“I did not know Mr. Cote well. I knew him by reputation, as I had occasion to meet him sometimes. I had known him about two years.”

“Did you know that he was the detective Cote?”

“No, sir.”

“You did not know that he was a detective?”

“No, sir.”

“Did he go often to your store?”

“No, sir; he came to my knowledge, however, sometime since I have had that business.”

“Did you always know that he was Detective Cote?”

“I knew that he was Detective Cote when he came and I gave the bottle of remedy. He is a man whom I have seen a couple of times in this affair which occurred in my store, but necessarily I can not say that I knew him. I have been mixed in this affair with him, and I have seen him three or four times. Now, it was rather a long time since I had seen him; however, I can say that I knew him, because I had already seen him previously.”

“You mean to say, Mr. Vandebonacoeur, that you know him by sight?”

“Yes, sir, because I have met him sometime.”

“Why did you refuse the remedies the first time?”

“Because it was a young man who came, and a young man who presented a paper like that. Poison is always refused on a written order which is not presented by a responsible person.”

By the chairman – “Haven’t you already said that you would refuse poison to a young girl?”

“That would depend, Mr. St. Denis.”

“Well, I want to know if you would refuse it?”

“That would depend on the poison which one had to give.”

“I speak of similar remedies to the ones demanded by Miss Lalonde. Is what she asked for not known as poison?”

“With laudanum, that depends upon the quantity.”

“I understand that this is included amongst the poisons?”

“In a certain sense, yes; in another sense, it is not.”

“Good. Now, I have asked you if it is dangerous. If it is not dangerous, why have you refused to deliver the remedies to the young man – if they were not poison?”

“The paper which he brought read to give ten cents’ worth of laudanum. Ten cents’ worth of laudanum might mean a grain or a tenth of a grain.”

“Laudanum is a poison, is it not?”

“If you take a certain dose, yes, sir.”

“If I take an ounce of laudanum?”

“If you takt that you will die.”

“And you say that for ten cents you could give an ounce of laudanum?”

“Yes, sir.”

“Why did you give the remedy, since it was poison?”

“I gave it to the young girl.”

By Mr. Gervais – “From the information you had, it was the remedy for the illness?”

“That is because the person herself came for it.”

By Mr. Lariviere – “In that case it was because she was accompanied by someone when she bought the laudanum?”

“Yes, sir.”

“The young boy was not accompanied by any one?”

“No, sir, he was not.”

“And the young girl was accompanied by a gentleman?”

“Yes, sir.”

“And it is for that reason that you gave the poison?”

“Yes, sir.”

(By the chairman):

“What dose did you give?”

“A quarter of a gramme.”

“Is it sufficient to cause death?”

“No, sir.”

By Mr. Marechal:

“Since it is not poison, why do you not give that remedy to any one who asks for it?”

“That depends on the people who come for it. If a child is sent with a paper, as I have already said, it is not given. It is not prudent.”

By Mr. Larriviere:

“Mr. Vandebonacoer, as I understand it, if one sends a boy with a piece of paper asking for poison you will not give it, but if one comes accompanied by a man, be it Mr. Cote the Detective, or any one else, you give the remedy?”

“Yes, sir.” [...]

“Mr. Vandebonacoer, will you swear that the dose which you have given to that young lady on that prescription which she gave to you, was laudanum, and that there were two grammes of it?”

“No, sir.”

“You will not swear that?”

“No, sir.”

“What dose of laudanum will kill a person not accustomed to it?”

“That is difficult to say. It depends upon the strength of the laudanum. I know that it contains poison, but it is not stated which exact dose would cause death.”

“Tell us how much morphine there is in two grammes.”

“Four-fifths of a grain.”

“It took but a few minutes”⁷⁸ (Quebec, 1904)

The Police Committee met for a short time yesterday afternoon and it took but a few minutes to come to a decision to reduce Detective Cote to the rank of a first-class police officer. [...] The chairman announced that the evidence he had heard the night before had confirmed him in his belief that Cote’s action warranted some punishment. He had never thought that he had been guilty of immoral conduct, but what he had done merited some action as a warning to others.

“On patent medicines”⁷⁹ (B. C., 1906)

The following is a copy of the report of the Provincial Health Officer, submitted to the Government, in regard to patent medicines:

Provincial Board of Health

Victoria, B.C., Feb. 5th, 1906

The Honorable the Attorney-General.

Sir: In pursuance of instruction received from the Honorable Mr. Fulton, I have made, in so far as the time at my disposal will permit, an inquiry into the sale, use and abuse of patent and proprietary medicines in British Columbia.

SALE

The sale of patent medicines is general throughout the Province. Every drugstore, as well as many general stores in cities, and all stores in country places, keep and sell most of the patent medicines. It is impossible, except by instituting a costly system of collection of statistics, to ascertain the money value of the annual sales. But I have read accounts of calculations obtained from the United States official returns, in which it is stated that over a hundred million dollars are paid out every year in the purchase of patent medicines. Conditions in British Columbia are practically similar to those in the United States, and it would not be unfair to assume that the amount of sales is in about the same proportion, which means that British Columbia contributes over two hundred and sixty thousand dollars a year for patent medicines.

USE

There is no doubt but that many of the patent and proprietary medicines at present on the market are very beneficial, if used at the right time and in the proper doses; pain, sleeplessness, nervousness, and ailments generally, are often relieved by them, indicating the presence of potent drugs in their composition. Mixtures, ointments, and pills are sold as being useful for certain maladies, and are found so under certain conditions. Again, mixtures such as Lydia Pinkham or Peruna are no doubt good stimulants and probably often justify the claims made in some of the

⁷⁸ From COTE-LALONDE INVESTIGATION CONCLUDES WITH POLICE COMMITTEE REDUCING DETECTIVE IN RANK. (1904, September 15). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 14.

⁷⁹ From ON PATENT MEDICINES. (1906, March 16). *Daily News Advertiser* (Vancouver), p. 1.

advertisements. In one of her advertisements, before me as I write, I see that Lydia Pinkham claims that, on taking her medicine, it makes “your eyes sparkle, your complexion to resume its brilliancy and your whole body to thrill with the glow of renewed vitality.” No doubt this is true, but as this particular mixture contains about 28 per cent of absolute alcohol, and as whiskey up to proof contains 49 per cent, and ordinary champagne and port wine contain respectively about 12 per cent and 16 per cent alcohol, it is not surprising that the “whole body thrills with the glow of renewed vitality.” Doubtless many of us will recognize the sensation.

ABUSES

Rational therapeutics means the use of remedies for reasons based on a knowledge of pathological conditions present in the subject and the physiological action of the agent employed. This definition simply means that, to treat and prescribe for sickness reasonably and intelligently, it is necessary to know what are the conditions within the body which are causing certain symptoms, such as pain, cough, nervousness, etc., etc.; and further, to know the immediate or remote effect of the medicine administered, not only the symptoms, but on either a part or the entire human organism. The need of applying this definition is so impressed on all students of medicine that I am satisfied no well-trained, conscientious physician ever lets it from before his mind.

Yet there are sold extensively in this Province powerful medicines and poisonous drugs, for which claim is made to cure almost all forms of disease, although the claimants are ignorant of the actual conditions relative to present or past diseases, which might contra-indicate the use of certain drugs and possibly make the use of otherwise simple doses actively fatal.

One of the most active, powerful, but dangerous drugs is opium, or its alkaloid, morphine. Patent medicine manufacturers, recognizing its potency, use it freely, often with the most disastrous results, especially to children.

I have before me Potters’s “Materia Medica.” This book is regarded as one of the authorities on medicines and their administration. Treating of opium, it says:

“Probably no drug in the materia medica is so useful as opium or has so wide a range of application. At the same time, no other drug requires such careful handling, by reason of the many influences which may modify its action and uses. As before pointed out, children are extremely susceptible to its narcotic action, and women are more easily affected by it than men.”

This, I think, should convince any reasonable mind that opium or its preparations should not be prescribed unless the condition of the patient is well understood.

I have heard it advanced that, after all, patent medicines containing opiums have now been used for a long time without any startling results. Personally, I believe the results have always been with us, but that it is only lately we have begun to get startled.

In the authority above quoted, referring to opium, occurs the following:

“Common Sources of Danger – Overdosing with cough mixtures or paregoric, or the soothing syrups so much used for quieting children, all of which contain opium.

The American 'Journal of Pharmacy' estimates the loss of life from the latter cause at 150,000 yearly."

This certainly is a startling statement, and, while I am not absolutely in a position to confirm or deny it, yet the fact remains that the statement, so far as I know, is uncontradicted. [...]

Another injustice imposed upon the public in the sale of patent medicine is the exorbitant prices charged. The advertisements in the press, we know, must represent the expenditure of huge sums of money. Who pays this? Of course, the buyer. I have seen it stated that 50 per cent of the profits are paid out in advertising, and it is well known that most of the successful patent medicine manufacturers are wealthy men. Then again, as the salesman must make a profit, the first cost of the article to the manufacturer is easily computed, and is evidently very small. [...]

Another evil is the subject matter of the patent advertisements as they appear in the newspapers. The evil is three-fold. First, claims are made which are impossible to be carried out, and thus ignorant persons are deceived and their money taken without the possibility of any return. Second, many lives are sacrificed because "Sure Cures" naturally appeal to ignorant minds, and thus persons in the incipient stages of certain malignant diseases are prevented from obtaining rational and scientific treatment. In the third place, advertisements appear from time to time which are not fit for young persons of either sex to read. They are often indecent and treat of subjects not usually spoken of publicly. They should not be permitted in a morally healthy community, and it is a matter of astonishment that otherwise respectable newspapers publish them. [...]

RECOMMENDATIONS

From what I have said above, I trust I have been able to show that these patent medicines, as they are used in British Columbia, are not only a menace, but are positively injurious to public health. I therefore beg to recommend that the Government adopt some means to regulate their sale. In the first place, I would recommend that all patent or proprietary medicines containing drugs such as opium, morphine, cocaine, strychnine, or indeed, any actively poisonous drug, should be conspicuously labeled as containing such drug, together with its quantity. Further, I would have the sale of patent medicines containing a poisonous drug, to be deemed to be that drug, and so be brought under Section 16 of the "Pharmacy Act." [...]

Papers sold in British Columbia must, on receipt of notice from the Provincial Board of Health, cease to publish patent medicine advertisements making impossible or unreasonable claims or containing statements of an indecent character. [...]

I beg to append [a] copy of a resolution passed by the Vancouver Medical Association. [...] I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

C. J. FAGAN.

Secretary.

VANCOUVER'S ACTION

Vancouver, B. C., Jan. 22nd, 1906

C. J. Fagan, Esq., M. D., Victoria.

Dear Sir: We understand that you are bringing to the attention of the Attorney-General the advisability of introducing a Bill to the local Legislature, governing the sale of patent medicines. We would, therefore, like to bring to your notice the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted by a largely attended meeting of the Vancouver Medical Society on January 15th instant:

“Whereas, through many patent medicines on the market, the poisonous and dangerous drugs, opium, morphine, cocaine, acetanilide and alcohol are sold, without restriction, to the innocent public. Be it resolved, that this Society is of the opinion that laws should be enacted to compel patent medicine vendors whose preparations contain opium, morphine, cocaine, acetanilide, or alcohol, to indicate such on the labels on their bottles, boxes or packages.”

A Committee composed of Dr. R. E. McKechnie, Dr. Tunstall and Dr. Brydone-Jack were appointed to approach our local members and point out to them the advisability of such enactments.

I am, yours truly,

(Signed) F. C. McTAVISH.

“Get dope habit in prison cell”⁸⁰ (Quebec, 1906)

Bryson, Que., Oct. 26 – An extraordinary turn has been given to the Laderoute murder case, now awaiting trial at the assizes here, by the prisoner demanding a constant supply of morphine. He has been constantly visited by the jail surgeon, and on each occasion asked for morphine, saying that without it he could not sleep. Finally Dr. Gaboury asked the prisoner why he was so constantly needing the drug, when Laderoute said that he had acquired the habit from the Chinese while in the Montreal jail. He declared that Chinese prisoners in that institution managed to keep supplied with either opium or morphine and give it to other prisoners, and that in this way he had fallen a victim to the habit. Governor Vallee, of the Montreal jail, denies that such a thing is possible.

“Druggist sent wrong medicine”⁸¹ (Quebec, 1906)

“That we, the undersigned jury, after having heard the evidence, declare that Lillian Wener died at the Royal Victoria Hospital, [Montreal,] on October 9, 1906, having been poisoned by morphine, given contrary to the medical prescription through an error of a drug clerk, Emele Bourbonais, who, under the circumstances, is to be excused.”

The above verdict was returned to-day in the case of Lillian Wener, the 9-months-old child who was given morphine by mistake for calomel, and died as a result.

⁸⁰ From GET DOPE HABIT IN PRISON CELL. (1906, October 26). *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 1.

⁸¹ From DRUGGIST SENT WRONG MEDICINE. (1906, November 7). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 8.

Two of the jurymen, who thought that Bourbonais should be sent before the criminal courts, refused to sign the verdict, but as there were twelve in favor of excusing the drug clerk a verdict of excusable homicide was recorded.

The family of the deceased was represented by Mr. A. H. Vineberg, advocate, whilst Mr. L. T. Marechal appeared on behalf of Mr. Rosano Martineau, the druggist.

The evidence of Messrs. Martineau and Bourbonais showed that by an error a box of morphine intended for Mrs. Prouix, a patient of Dr. Labelle, was given to the Weners instead of a box of calomel, which had been prescribed by Dr. Booth.

“The sale of morphia”⁸² (Nova Scotia, 1907)

The medical men of Halifax and Dartmouth have received the following letter from the secretary of the Retail Drug Association:

Dear Doctor – At a meeting of the above named association held recently reference was made to the sale of morphia. As far as could be ascertained, all the trouble arising from the local sale of this drug has been where it has been procured by nurses. In order to protect druggists from blame, the following resolution was passed: “That this association urge the druggists of Halifax and Dartmouth not to sell morphia or cocaine to nurses or other persons except on the order of a known physician; that physicians be requested to use the words ‘non rep.’ on all prescriptions which are not to be repeated.”

G. A. BURBIDGE,
Secretary.

“Locked wife in his room”⁸³ (B. C., 1908)

That a man should lock his wife up in a room for days is an almost unbelievable cruelty which John Roy Gates, in the [Vancouver] police court this morning, justified on the ground that his wife is a “dope fiend,” and that he was trying to cure her. The wife is the unfortunate young woman who in September, 1906, was found in the restricted district here and sent back to Seattle to her parents.

It appears that the pair came here some months since and put up at a rooming house in the city. According to the evidence of the police and the proprietor of the rooming house, the husband was in the habit of padlocking the door of the room every time he went out. Detective Scott, in his evidence, said the accused described himself as an inventor, a maker of gambling outfits, and expected to be a beneficiary under the will of a relative. Both were “the worst kind of morphine fiends.” The woman was in the hospital at present. Medical evidence also showed that the woman was very much addicted to morphine. She was weak and emaciated, said Dr. McTavish, and could scarcely walk. Her body was completely covered with marks such as are

⁸² From THE SALE OF MORPHIA. (1907, August 12). *Evening Mail* (Halifax), p. 10.

⁸³ From LOCKED WIFE IN HIS ROOM. (1908, June 1). *The World* (Vancouver), p. 1.

produced by injections of morphine. The pair were married here, and had been ordered to leave town.

Indulgence in some debilitating drug was written on the man's appearance. Dr. McTavish also stated that the man admitted to him that he was addicted to morphine and asked to be supplied with some.

“To prevent wholesale dispensing of poisons”⁸⁴ (Ontario, 1908)

Ottawa, July 17 – The new Patent Medicines Bill comes back from the Senate with an amendment tacked on at the suggestion of Senator Roy, which forbids sale of medicines containing opium or morphine except on prescription of a doctor. The amendment reads:

“No proprietary or patent medicine containing opium or any preparation or derivative thereof, or morphine or any preparation thereof shall be sold by any retail dealer or by any druggist except on the prescription of a lawfully qualified physician, nor unless the exact proportion of opium or any proportion thereof is specified on the label.”

Giving notice of moving the amendment, Senator Roy spoke as follows:

Hon. Mr. Roy – This proposed law is a step in the right direction, and the government is to be congratulated for introducing this bill. I do not believe that a more important question could be dealt with than the manufacture and sale of patent medicines. The use of patent medicines in many cases is a question of life and death for the people of Canada. We cannot, I suppose, discuss and amend this bill considerably at this stage of the session, but I cannot allow it to become law without offering an amendment when we are in committee.

I propose to move that clause 7 be amended by inserting after paragraph (c) of sub-clause 1 a clause providing that no proprietary or patent medicine containing opium or morphine or any of the ingredients thereof, shall be sold by any druggist without a prescription from a lawfully qualified physician.

I feel in offering this amendment that I am fulfilling an important duty. For the last few years, from my experience as a physician, I have contended that patent medicines containing opium should not be allowed to be sold carelessly and blindly throughout Canada. I have no hesitation in declaring that patent medicines containing drugs are killing more of our children than any one of the known diseases. It is a pity to see mothers feeding their little babies with drugs, which will eventually have the effect of making the man or woman become addicted to the worst habit possible. I can in all sincerity draw a sad picture of the lives of those who have been ruined and made objectionable to their families, to their country and to themselves, by the use of patent medicines containing opium.

I observe that the government has on the order paper for today an act to prohibit the importation, manufacture and sale of opium for other than medicinal

⁸⁴ From TO PREVENT WHOLESAL DISPENSING OF POISONS. (1908, July 25). *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 3.

purposes. You propose to pass a law prohibiting the importation, manufacture and sale of opium, and at the same time you pass another law authorizing druggists to sell opium and morphine as a patent medicine. You know very well that without a prescription from a doctor or physician, anybody can go to a drug store and buy two or three quart bottles of a patent medicine containing morphine and opium. If that individual is addicted to the opium habit, he will continue all his life buying patent medicines containing opium, and the object of the law prohibiting the manufacture of opium is defeated.

By my amendment, a great deal of good will be done to the people of Canada. A few days ago the senate was very much concerned about young men at the age of 16 using tobacco. What about infants being given opium and morphine in food? I think it is a good deal more serious with infants who cannot defend themselves against their parents, and their parents should not be in a position to give them morphine and opium and ruin them forever. I know from my experience that hundreds of thousands of people have been ruined by morphine and opium contained in patent medicines.

“What druggists have done to check drug habit”⁸⁵ (Quebec, 1908)

The alarming growth of the use of habit-forming drugs among the young people of this city, within the past two or three years, has not escaped the cognizance of the Pharmaceutical Association of Montreal. It was under instructions from the city members of the council that the recent prosecutions were instituted, and other meetings will be held immediately to decide on further proceedings. The Provincial Legislature has given almost exclusive powers to this association in the control of the sale of drugs, and the executive consider it their duty to take action. It is probable that the Legislature of the Province will be asked to revise the statutes covering the sale of certain poisonous drugs, especially cocaine, morphine and bichloride of mercury. In the opinion of Mr. John E. Tremble, president of the Pharmaceutical Association, special legislation is necessary to govern the sale of cocaine and morphine. Sale on registration is not sufficient to ensure the check of the dope habit; absolute prohibition of the sale of these drugs, except on the written order of a physician, forbidding the repetition of an order or its issuance by telephone, will have to be secured.

Another lack in the present law pointed out is that the manufacturers and wholesale dealers in drugs are under absolutely no control whatever. They may, if they wish, sell cocaine by [the] ton to anyone. There is no check, [and] no registration demanded, either on the manufacture or the sale of the drugs. And it is quite possible that through these people a large number of dope fiends have been procuring the poison, as well as those who have been selling it without the authority given by membership in the Pharmaceutical Association.

⁸⁵ From WHAT DRUGGISTS HAVE DONE TO CHECK DRUG HABIT. (1908, November 5). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 6.

PRESIDENT TREMBLAY'S VIEWS

In conversation with a Star representative last evening, Mr. Tremblay discussed the spread of the dope habit in Montreal, and told what steps the association of which he is president had taken to check it.

Speaking of the druggists who had been found guilty of the infraction of the law and fined, he said:

“There is no excuse for them. The Pharmacy Act is clear and easily understood, and every applicant for license as a druggist has its terms thoroughly ground into him during four years of probation. Further, every druggist in this city has been specially warned. About a year ago it was noticed that habit-forming drugs were being sold in greater quantities than legitimate custom demanded, and a special circular was sent out by the council to every member of the association, warning them especially against the indiscriminate sale of morphine, cocaine, heroin, strychnine, bichloride of mercury and arsenic. Further, at the last annual meeting held some six months ago, I made reference to it in my address to the association as president and intimated that if the practice continued, prosecution would result. These men who have been punished had been given sufficient warning. [...]

“I am now convinced, and I think that the other members of the council are of the same opinion, that sale by registration is not a sufficient safeguard. The use of dope has become a curse in New York and Chicago, and unless we are to have a similar situation here, the pharmacists must act decisively to nip in the bud this pernicious habit. This can only be done by making the conditions of sale prohibitive except for medicinal purposes, and by punishing severely any infractions of the law.”

“Do you not think,” Mr. Tremblay was asked, “that the sale of habit-forming drugs has assumed such proportions that it must have been practiced by more than five druggists?”

“It might be so,” was the reply. “In fact I am puzzled at the large quantities which have evidently been distributed. We might have only got to the fringe of the practice. I have been informed that as much as ten thousand morphine tablets have been sold by wholesale dealers to certain druggists within a year. Now, there can be no legitimate demand for any such quantity as that. One hundred a year would be a sufficient number. It indicates that a great number must be sold for non-medicinal purposes. We must continue our investigations and stop this illegal traffic entirely. [...] The new Federal Act which governs proprietary medicines will [...] compel the labeling of all bottles and cases with a statement showing the amount of poison in each. [...] This should be some check on the sale of injurious proprietary medicines, such as [...] soothing syrups which are much too largely used by indolent mothers and which have had the effect of dopping the children whom they wish to quiet.”

OFFICIAL WARNING GIVEN

The notice issued by the Pharmaceutical Association about a year ago to each and every member warned the druggists about the danger of allowing drug clerks to dispense physicians' prescriptions or sell poison unless under the supervision of the proprietor or a certified clerk and continues with the following two warnings: “It is unlawful for any person keeping a drug store to sell poisons without making

registration of such a sale in the Poisons' Sales Register Book. The Council would caution druggists, clerks or apprentices against the indiscriminate sale of such poisons as morphine, cocaine, heroin, strychnine, bichloride of mercury, arsenic, etc." The druggists were asked to post this circular in a conspicuous place in their store.

President Tremblay issued a further warning at the annual meeting of the association in April last, when early in the course of his address, he said:

"For one thing, your council has been very lenient, too much so, and the result has been a more general evasion of the provisions of the Pharmacy Act than there should be. I refer to the growing evil of the sale of habit-forming drugs and other poisons without conforming to the regulations provided. More energetic measures will have to be taken against some of our members, however unpalatable the duty may be."

"Morphine and its victims"⁸⁶ (Ontario, 1910)

In a recent address before the Ottawa Association of Graduate Nurses, Dr. McKelvey Bell strongly scored the prevalence and emphasized the evil caused by morphinism. In part, Dr. Bell stated:

The custom of taking stimulants in one form or another has become such a time-worn and honored one, justly or unjustly – heaven forbid that I should be the one to raise my hand in protest! – from the dainty maid in the five o'clock tea room all the way down to the debauched absinthe drinker of the Parisian Latin Quarter, that at the present time we have come to look upon many of these habits not only with tolerance, but with avowed approval.

Tea, coffee and cocoa we have come to regard, if I may be pardoned for a contradiction of terms, as luxurious necessities of life and even alcohol, administered to use in the form of various confusing but delectable beverages, is not lacking in enthusiastic advocates. But it is not of these harmless or harmful stimulants that I wish to speak to-day, but of a vicious habit which is becoming so alarmingly prevalent even in our own fair city that a few words upon the subject may not seem out of place. I refer to morphinism and morphinomania – two varieties of the same affection.

We may describe morphinism as the habit of taking morphine in small doses for the relief of pain and without any appreciable increase in dosage, except as necessity demands. Morphinomania, on the other hand, is a condition in which morphine is taken for pleasure or as a stimulant and in ever increasing doses.

DANGEROUS MASTER

Morphine contains all the potentialities for good and evil. We have no more obedient or useful servant and no more tyrannical or dangerous master. It is the octopus of medicine, winding its great arms softly, subtly, soothingly about its victim; its horrible fascination overcomes him and he falls limp until at last the cruel tentacles contract with a firm, unyielding grasp and slowly but relentlessly crush him to death.

⁸⁶ From MORPHINE AND ITS VICTIMS. (1910, February 15). *Ottawa Evening Journal*, p. 2.

It is startling to think that in this city of less than one hundred thousand inhabitants there are probably several hundred morphine habitués – poor, unfortunate creatures, egotistic and unreasoning, who stalk about the city streets, sepulchral images of their dead selves, human in outward semblance only – in reality lost to the common instincts and impulses of humanity.

Morphine not only robs its victim of his physical vitality, but leads finally to his mental and moral degradation. As a rule the drug is first used to combat pain, real or fancied, or as a remedy for insomnia, although many cases have occurred where it was first used from curiosity or from the example or advice of a habitue. Unfortunately, there is a considerable number of individuals in whom it produces even from the first a species of delirious pleasure akin to drunkenness, and to this type it is particularly dangerous.

Morphinomaniacs almost invariably use the hypodermic method. There are several reasons for this. There is a certain morbid fascination about the needle: the transitory self-induced pain, followed so quickly by transcendent pleasure, the more rapid effect and its greater certainty than where other means are used. The hypodermic method is less subject to variations in results, and a much smaller quantity will produce the desired effect than when the drug is administered orally.

The morphinomaniac feverishly pursues an elusive myth which appears before his distorted imagination. He seeks mental strength, exaltation, relief from ennui, the drowning of sorrow, of the sense of failure and hopeless despair. He seeks to annihilate the present and the future. To approach this results he must constantly increase his dose and even then the best he can hope for is a temporary forgetfulness, a fleeting happiness soon followed by a corresponding depression – he succeeds only in obliterating his better self.

THE RESULTS

After about six months' use of the drug some of the characteristic symptoms develop. The memory becomes treacherous; the patient may be able to recall events which have occurred years before and yet the immediate or quite recent past remains a blank. During a conversation words fail to come and embarrassment and confusion ensue. Insomnia gradually becomes more pronounced, for, contrary to what we might expect, the morphine habitue does not sleep well; the nights are spent in restless tossing about, or for want of a better occupation, in reading. Or, if by chance he should fall asleep he is obsessed by the most frightful nightmare; grotesque and hideous objects flit before his harassed imagination, he hears gruesome sounds and starts from his clammy pillow into wakefulness, only a degree less terrible than these phantoms of his dreams.

A feeling of despondency oppresses him and this sensation predominates throughout the day, or is replaced at times by flashes of unwonted animation superinduced by the drug – a fleeting and transitory brilliance in which the ideas are exaggerated and unnatural – a lightning-like illumination of the mind, followed by impenetrable darkness.

The will power is enfeebled, whole days are often spent in bed, the patient lacking the initiative necessary to arise and attend to pressing duties. The sense of responsibility is obtunded and is replaced by indifference and perfect egotism.

An inability for consecutive mental work develops, and added to this we find a moral inertia; he becomes untruthful, unreliable and unethical. Criticism of all kinds is resented, for although he may feel in his better moments that he is doing wrong, he will not acknowledge it and in his self-sufficiency recognize no other authority. He shuns society and acts in a strange, incomprehensible manner when in company.

An almost incredible indifference to the opinions and feelings of others is characteristic of the disease, and the morphine habitue is bound sooner or later to become a social outcast.

“Wrecked by morphine”⁸⁷ (Ontario, 1910)

A physician in Ottawa laments the fact that an increasing number of persons are sufferers from the morphine habit. How they get the drug is the puzzle of the profession. They must have doctors’ prescriptions, but the victims get the morphine somehow, and the inference is that they revive an old prescription and use it again and again.

“The patient probably needed the morphine when he was ill and was given a prescription for it,” said the medical man, and it revives that which a certain practitioner said in Kingston not so long ago, namely, that morphine should not be prescribed, and that no one should be encouraged to buy and handle it.

Nor is there very much excuse for the misapplication of an old prescription. Each order from a physician should be dated, and should be taken by the druggist and filed. A duplicate or copy should be easily detected.

Seeing that the morphine habit is so destructive of one’s usefulness, it should be guarded against in every way, and it is for the doctors of the city to protect their patients from the injury of the drug. There are some people who should not be allowed to use it under any circumstances.

“Opium habit in Edmonton”⁸⁸ (Alberta, 1911)

Is there much opium traffic in Edmonton?

The police say they haven’t made any raids on dens for a long time and, of course, are glad of it. “But don’t run away with the idea that this town is free from the disease,” said an authority this morning. “I think ‘disease’ is a good word. A man addicted to dope is certainly a sore affliction. In Edmonton I think there is comparatively little opium,” he said. “There may be some dens, but we have been unable to track them down. On many occasions prisoners appear before us who ‘blow the snow.’ Most opium, if there is any, will be found in Chinese laundries. But it seems

⁸⁷ From WRECKED BY MORPHINE. (1910, February 15). *Daily British Whig* (Kingston), p. 4.

⁸⁸ From OPIUM HABIT IN EDMONTON. (1911, February 7). *Edmonton Journal*, p. 1.

that those fond of drugs take more to morphia than opium. It is pretty hard work to smuggle opium in this country at present, the laws being so stringent at Vancouver.”

Just then the blue-coated stalwart became reminiscent. He referred to a case where a criminal was in the last stage of the terrible habit.

A SAD CASE

“Do you know that I can forward an opinion to the doctors as to the best method of curing a man addicted to the dope?” said the policeman. “It is: send the opium or morphia fiend to the penitentiary for a few years, where there is no chance of him taking a hypodermic or a sniff. Here is my reason: About three years ago, three men were arrested on charges of highway robbery. One of them was a fiend in the last stage. He was remanded for sentence for four days in the cells below. We refused to give him the drug, naturally, but that poor fellow just howled and rolled about the floor, the craving for it was so intense. So eventually we had to quiet him down a little. Then he would be all right. His arms above the elbows, where he took injections, were black and covered with lumps showing the spots where the needle had been injected. He was a pitiable sight. The charge against him was serious, but just a few months in jail would have been sufficient to expiate the crime. The magistrate thought that the only remedy for the fiend was a time in the pen. He was sentenced to two years. During that time he never had a touch of the drug. The penitentiary made a man of him. He is a clever, bright fellow today holding down a good position, and has fully overcome the habit of taking dope. So it seems that the cure was a good one. It ought to be prescribed often.”

“Bill in the legislature”⁸⁹ (Quebec, 1911)

Quebec, February 9 – (Special) – In the House this afternoon Premier Gouin presented a bill which was read the first time, regulating the sale of cocaine, morphine and their allied compounds. The Premier briefly announced that the regulation would be effective and that he regarded it as being an important measure for the whole province. [...]

The bill begins by defining what is the wholesale and what is the retail sale of such drugs. It then proceeds to prohibit the sale of cocaine, morphine and other compounds by wholesale to any but druggists, dentists and veterinary surgeons, and then only on a written prescription, which must be filed for reference.

The act then prohibits the sale of the drugs mentioned and their compounds by retail to any persons other than druggists, and then only on a written prescription, which is non-renewable. In other words, the prescription can be used but once.

The act also declares that these drugs, whether kept by wholesale or retail, must be properly labeled.

The act does not take away the right of a physician to dispense the drugs to patients, the idea being to enable those physicians who make up their own

⁸⁹ From COCAINE BILL IN THE LEGISLATURE. (1911, February 10). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 1.

prescriptions, especially the country practitioner, to use the drug when they consider it necessary. Ordinary use of the drug by prescription is provided for.

One of the most important provisions of the act concerns the right of search. Upon an affidavit being made with a complaint before a magistrate, stating that cocaine, morphine or other such drugs are illegally in the possession of persons other than druggists, a search warrant may be issued.

When cocaine and the allied drugs are thus found they will be seized and confiscated.

The fine will be made more stringent than it is now, and for the second offence it will be increased by the court.

Such are the outlines of the bill, which is based on the law in effect in Ontario and in several American states. It is made so as to be easily put into effect. [...]

The law will be so worded that the judge may impose a fine or both fine and imprisonment, as he may see fit, for an infringement of the law.

“Objections raised by the wholesale druggists”⁹⁰ (Quebec, 1911)

Quebec, February 24 – (Special) – It was announced this afternoon that the objections raised by the wholesale druggists as to the effect of the quantity of morphine which can be used in patent medicines have been met in such a way that the cocaine bill in which the clause is inserted will be amended. In other words, the bill will not prevent the sale of patent medicines containing small doses of morphine. [...] As the [druggists’] delegation objected to the clause in the bill by which not more than one-fortieth of a grain of morphine or of heroin could be used in a dose, it will be amended in such a way that anything over one-third of a grain of morphine to an ounce of medicine would be prohibited in patent medicines. The change was acceptable to the delegation, as it will remove what they regarded as a serious obstacle to their trade. Some exception was taken to the clause on labeling, as it was claimed it would cost much to carry it out in every case. This matter was taken into consideration. [...]

The delegation consisted of J. Mattinson, president of the Canada Wholesale Druggists’ Association; D. Watson, president of the Proprietary Trade Association; C. W. Tinling, general manager of the Nation Drug and Chemical Association; [and] A. Lyman, vice-president of the Lymans, Ltd. [company]. The Pharmaceutical Association was represented by Messrs. H. Willis, A. Jolicoeur, J. E. Tremble, W. P. Laroche, and Thos. Tansey, solicitor; the Leeming Miles Company was represented by Henry Miles, president.

⁹⁰ From AMENDMENT TO COCAINE BILL. (1911, February 25). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 20.

“Affects hospitals”⁹¹ (Quebec, 1911)

While the members of the wholesale drug dealers’ association have returned from Quebec well pleased with their conference with the Government authorities, they are not altogether satisfied on one point, which Mr. Henry Miles declared last night would have a serious effect on hospitals, convents, and other institutions having their own dispensaries. They would not, in fact, be able to keep morphia in their possession, if the new cocaine bill passes as it is now drafted, and would on the contrary have to rely on the ordinary prescriptions sent to a retail druggist. [...]

“When this act is passed,” [said Mr. Miles,] “it will be found that these institutions cannot buy morphia, nor can they have it in their possession. They don’t employ ‘practising licensed druggists,’ and their prescriptions will have to be sent to a retail drug store to be filled. There will be cost and vexation in this that will be found serious in carrying on charitable work, and where cost is a serious consideration. [...] Morphia should not be considered only upon its use by morphine fiends. It is a drug giving a wide and valuable service to humanity throughout the world.”

“No more cocaine, drug fiends take to old morphine”⁹² (Quebec, 1911)

Now that the cocaine peddlers have been chased off the streets by the police, a new evil, or rather the return of an old one, has made its appearance in the shape of morphine fiends.

It is claimed by the police that since the conviction of men high up in the cocaine business in Montreal, that it has become extremely difficult for the peddlers to receive their supplies and, as a result, there is a distinct shortage in the market. Unable to secure cocaine, however, many of the “snow birds” have provided themselves morphine outfits, and are now well launched on this evil, which reappeared so suddenly that the police have been unable to trace its origin.

While half a dozen or more men have been arrested with outfits in their possession during the past week, the first on whom any of the drug was found was located last night, when Charles Anderson, an actor, residing at 442 Aqueduct Street, was arrested by Constables Dagenais and Desgardins on a charge of begging on St. Lawrence Street. On arrival at the station a large quantity of morphine was found in his possession. He pleaded guilty to the morphine charge, but denied begging when arraigned this morning, and was remanded until Friday for sentence.

⁹¹ From AFFECTS HOSPITALS. (1911, February 27). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 3.

⁹² From NO MORE COCAINE, DRUG FIENDS TAKE TO OLD MORPHINE. (1911, December 20). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 21.

“Ignorance is main reason”⁹³ (Ontario, 1912)

“A high infant mortality is a sign of the need of education and of raising our standard of civilization, especially in sanitary matters.”

This is one of the many forceful statements by Dr. Helen MacMurchy in the third annual report on the terrific infant mortality. [...]

DANGEROUS DRUGS

A particular warning is given against almost all of the so-called soothing medicines for infants. These are said to contain opium, morphine or some other dangerous drug and should never be given to any baby. The list⁹⁴ published in the report follows:

Children's Comfort	(morphine sulphate)
Dr. Fahey's Pepsin Anodyne Compound	(morphine sulphate)
Dr. Fahrney's Teething Syrup	(morphine and chloroform)
Dr. Fowler's Strawberry & Peppermint Mixture	(morphine)
Dr. Grove's Anodyne for Infants	(morphine sulphate)
Dr. James' Soothing Syrup	(heroin)
Dr. Miller's Anodyne for Babies	(morphine sulphate & chloral hydrate)
Dr. Moffett's Teethina Teething Powders	(powdered opium)
Hooper's Anodyne, the Infant's Friend	(morphine hydrochloride)
Jadway's Elixir for Infants	(codeine)
Koepp's Baby's Friend	(morphine sulphate)
Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup	(morphine sulphate)
Victor Infant Relief	(chloroform and cannabis indica)

“The couple have been addicted”⁹⁵ (Nova Scotia, 1912)

A non-commissioned officer of the Army Medical Corp. is at the military hospital, while his wife is at the Victoria General Hospital, both of them seriously ill as a result of being habitual users of morphine. For some time the couple have been addicted to the use of the drug, but to what extent was not known until a few days ago. Of late they must have been using morphine to such an excess that on Tuesday it was necessary to have a physician attend them. The woman was found to be in a very precarious condition and was removed to the Victoria General Hospital, and both are now said to be improving. An examination of their quarters later in the day brought to light a considerable quantity of morphine, as well as a number of syringes.

⁹³ From IGNORANCE IS MAIN REASON. (1912, May 8). *Ottawa Citizen*, p. 14.

⁹⁴ I've alphabetized the list and replaced two instances of 'and' with '&' for formatting reasons.

⁹⁵ From Used Too Much Morphine. (1912, August 3). *Evening Mail* (Halifax), p. 16.

“Dope King lands in police toils”⁹⁶ (Quebec, 1912)

Lying on a bed in St. Joseph’s Ward of the Notre Dame Hospital, [Montreal,] with a policeman sitting on either side of him, under instructions to keep a close watch, Frank Bailey, alias the “Dope King,” was a prisoner last night.

Bailey, who is 23 years of age, is said to be the leader of a gang of thieves and dope fiends arrested ten days ago in the two raids made by Lieut. Savard, when George Lamoureux, John Murphy, Arthur Robert and John McEwen, with four women, were arrested.

In the two raids the police recovered a valuable oil painting and a large quantity of goods that had been stolen from a store in Victoriaville, Que., together with a quantity of opium and morphine. The greater part of the goods have been identified and claimed, but no owner has yet been found for the oil painting.

Bailey, the alleged leader of the gang, who was said to have engineered the robbery at Victoriaville, was not caught in either of the raids made by Lieut. Savard, Sergeant Gagnon, and Constable Lapointe. He remained in the city two days after his pals were arrested, but when the chase became too hot for him he took a trip to Boston. It was not thought, however, that he would remain away very long, and his return to Montreal was daily expected. He returned here yesterday morning with a goodly supply of “dope,” purchased at St. Albans, Vt., and when early last evening he went to visit a friend residing on Wolfe Street, whose house Savard was having shadowed, he fell into the hands of the police.

Bailey was first taken to the Beaudry Street station, where he was searched and a quantity of opium and morphine found on him. From a receipt found in his pocket, it was learned he had purchased the drug in St. Albans, Vt. Bailey was in a bad way when taken down to police headquarters, and when Dr. Picotte, the police surgeon, was called by Lieut. Savard to examine the prisoner, he advised that he be taken to the Notre Dame Hospital and kept there over night.

KNOWN AS WILY CUSTOMER

Bailey has served terms in both the jail and penitentiary, and is known to the police as a slippery customer. Savard was averse to taking any chances with leaving him unguarded in the hospital, so after a talk with Chief Campeau, two policemen were sent to the hospital to keep a close watch on him, and the constables took up their stations, one sitting on either side of the patient’s bed. It is expected that after the effects of the dope have worn off, Bailey will be able to appear in the Arraignment Court this morning.

Chief Campeau said last night that the discovery of the receipt found on Bailey led him to believe that most of the opium and morphine being peddled around the red light district was purchased across the line and not in the city. Several men and women have been arrested recently by the police for selling opium and morphine. But with the exception that one would say they bought it from another, the source of the supply could not be traced. It is thought now that most of the dope has been brought

⁹⁶ From DOPE KING LANDS IN POLICE TOILS. (1912, August 28). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 4.

in from the towns across the line. St. Albans is only a short distance from Montreal, and it would not cost much to run over there and make a purchase.

“Six months for having morphine”⁹⁷ (Quebec, 1912)

Bernard Foley, for having morphine in his possession, was sentenced to six months in prison. Constable Marsolais testified to the arrest of the accused when three bottles of morphine had been found in his room. The accused said that they were not his property, but later admitted that they were. He admitted to having been sent to jail for three months in a previous occasion for selling cocaine, and Mr. Recorder Weir, remarking that he had apparently not taken a lesson from the former punishment, sent him down for six months.

Mortimer Gleason, for having morphine in his possession, was sent to jail for three months. Constable Robinson stated that when he arrested the accused he found a syringe in his pocket and also a small bottle containing cotton wool, which on analysis proved to contain morphine. There was also a small powder containing the same drug.

Questioned as to the past record of the accused, the constable said that Gleason had been arrested on suspicion of theft, but released owing to insufficient proof. Later he had appeared on a charge of assaulting a constable, and had served six months in jail for robbery. Mr. Crankshaw, for the defence, pleaded that his client had turned over a new leaf since his jail term, and that in view of the fact that the quantity of the drug was very small and only intended for his own use, the prisoner should be discharged. He had the prisoner’s mother testify to her son’s behaviour. Mrs. Gleason said that he had been assisting her about the house, but had secured no work outside.

The prisoner’s counsel pointed out that it was not an easy thing for a convicted man to get work outside, and the fact that he was aiding his mother in doing odd jobs about the house should be taken in his favor. It was better for him to do this than to be loafing about in the streets. Mr. Recorder Weir, however, was not disposed to view the case in the same light, and imposed a sentence of three months in jail.

“Morphine tablets as a big game weapon”⁹⁸ (Ontario, 1912)

George Hanrahan, 15 Glengarry Avenue, [Windsor,] son of Patrick Hanrahan, chief landing waiter for the Canadian customs in this city, is prepared to back a bottle of morphine tablets against the most modern high power rifle in existence. He advises his friends, however, to exercise discretion in eating the flesh of their quarry.

Mr. Hanrahan’s faith in the efficiency of morphine tablets as a big game weapon is born of an experience he had in a face to face encounter with a big bear during an outing at Georgian Bay, [Ontario,] from which he has just returned.

⁹⁷ From SIX MONTHS FOR HAVING MORPHINE. (1912, August 29). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 3.

⁹⁸ From Tread By Pet Bear, George Hanrahan Feeds It Morphine Tablets and Then “Hikes” It. (1912, September 11). *Evening Record* (Windsor), p. 1.

WENT FOR HIS HEALTH

The trip was undertaken by the Windsor boy principally for the benefit of his health. He had been suffering from a combination of hay fever and asthma for some time. His condition on one or two occasions became so serious that he was compelled to take morphine in order to get his breath, and the northern Ontario climate was prescribed by his physician. He accompanied a party of seven friends on a fishing excursion to the shores of Georgian Bay, taking with him a box of 100 morphine tablets.

On the first day in camp George went out for a walk. Following a blazed trail he strolled several miles from camp and then turned to retrace his steps, when he saw a bear coming towards him.

ONE THEORY EXPLODED

He has been told that bears were seen once in a while in the neighborhood, but that they were harmless – so harmless that they ran at the sight of a human being – and so he walked toward bruin, waiting to see it catch sight of him and run. But bruin kept right on coming and showed not the least disposition to run. He tried a shout, but the effect was not apparent.

Finally, he climbed the nearest tree.

From his perch in the branches he watched the bear approach and stop beneath him. Then his heart went into his mouth as the animal, after sniffing around for a moment or two, started to climb up after him. As high as he dared go, George climbed and looked down to see the mouth of the bear a few feet below him.

HORROR, THE BRANCH BREAKS

In an effort to gain a still higher position he placed his weight on a branch that broke beneath him, and he fell to a larger branch on a level with the bear. In the fall his foot came down on the animal's nose, causing it to emit a growl. In the fall, too, he felt the branch pressing against something in his hip pocket, and remembered the bottle of morphine tablets.

Scrambling hastily to a higher branch he drew the stopper from the bottle, shook out one or two of the tablets, and leaning over dropped them directly into the gaping mouth of the bear.

Bruin swallowed them, licked his lips and looked for more, which were immediately forthcoming.

It was like throwing scraps of meat to the family dog, but the man in the tree did not see the funny side of the experience. He kept on dropping tablets until [from] the bottle of a hundred only about 15 were left.

MORPHEUS IS KING

Then the drug had its effect. The bear loosened its hold on the tree, slipped a foot or two down, slipped lower, and kept on slipping until it reached the ground and rolled over in profound slumber.

Waiting only to make sure that the animal was helpless, George slipped down the tree and covered the distance to the camp in record time.

“There’s a bear on the trail,” he gasped to the members of the party, and sank down on his bunk, exhausted. The others started out on a hunt. He remained lying on the bunk and before they returned fell asleep.

COMPANIONS ARE DRUGGED

Several hours later he awoke and sat up with a start at the sight that met his eyes. All seven of his companions, including the camp cook, [were] lying on the floor in varying states of helplessness.

Taking a hurried look around the place, he found the remains of bear steak on their platters and the liver of the bear in the frying pan. Then it was that the doctor’s dissertation about the effect of morphine on the liver flashed on his mind, and in the same flash he remembered the antidote. To one after the other he administered strong coffee, and [he] soon saw them all revive.

Next day, when there was nothing left of bruin around the camp but memory, the owner of the ground on which the camp was located paid a visit to ask whether the party had seen anything of his pet bear.

None of them had.

“Came from the Notre Dame hospital”⁹⁹ (Quebec, 1912)

It was brought to light yesterday that much of the cocaine and morphine that has been peddled around [Montreal’s] Chinatown and the “Red Light” district has not come from across the line, or been sold by local druggists on “fake” prescriptions, but came from the Notre Dame Hospital.

Alexis Demeules, 28 years of age, employed as an orderly in the Notre Dame Hospital, was taken into custody last night by Lieut. Savard. It is alleged that Demeules has been stealing the cocaine and morphine from the hospital. He assisted in the pharmacy of the institution, where he obtained the cocaine and morphine, disposing of it outside. When he was arrested last night by Lieut. Savard and taken to police headquarters, it was stated that seventy-five packages of cocaine and two bottles of morphine had been found in his possession.

Chief Campeau was informed a couple of days ago that cocaine and morphine [were] disappearing from the Notre Dame Hospital. The authorities of the hospital were at a loss to find where it was going, or who was taking it. Lieut. Savard was put to work on the case yesterday morning, and with the assistance of Sergeant Gagnon and Constable Lapointed secured enough evidence during the day to warrant him in taking Demeules into custody last night while going about his work in the hospital. Demeules had a room at 233 East Lagauchetiere Street, and it was there that most of the cocaine and morphine which he is alleged to have stolen from the hospital was found. Demeules spent the night in a cell at headquarters and this morning will be brought up in the Arraignment Court on charges of having cocaine in his possession, stealing it and selling it.

⁹⁹ From CITY AND DISTRICT. (1912, November 19). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 3.

“Largest ever captured locally”¹⁰⁰ (Alberta, 1913)

Confronted with \$600 worth of cocaine and morphine, which had been recovered from their home, Morris and Arthur King this morning pleaded guilty before Magistrate Sanders to charges of selling drugs for other than medicinal or scientific purposes. The supply of cocaine and morphine taken by the police was the largest ever captured locally, and it is doubtful if any equally large stock could be found in any retail drug store in western Canada. To afford the opportunity to hear some medical evidence bearing on the case, the men were remanded, without bail, until tomorrow for sentence.

Arthur King gave evidence on behalf of himself and his brother. He stated that they had both been victims of the drug habit for fifteen years, and that their very existence depended upon frequent recourse to drugs. The big supply had been purchased cheaply from some man by his brother during the witness's absence from the city. The witness took about sixteen grains daily in three doses.

MADE NO NEW VICTIMS

“How many people have you started on the road to perdition?” asked Magistrate Sanders. “How many unfortunate women have you supplied with the drug?”

“None at all,” replied King. “I have never given or sold drugs to any person who was not already a confirmed victim of the habit.”

“I would sooner see a man go around and murder people outright,” said the magistrate, “than have him peddling this sort of thing. It is apparently the greatest danger and menace against which we must contend. Once addicted to the habit, a man is never cured and is no longer a human being, but a beast.”

Frank E. Eaton, counsel for the defendants, undertook that both men would leave Calgary and would go to some sanitarium to undergo treatment for the habit, if they were permitted to do so.

BROTHERS ARE FIENDS

Evidence was introduced to show that the brothers had to have drugs themselves. Arthur King gave the name of a local practitioner who, according to the witness, had prescribed cocaine for him.

Colonel Sanders said he would like to hear the evidence of the doctor, and the case was set over until tomorrow.

Detective Richardson related the facts leading to the arrest of the men. Two officers had been at a house when one of the Kings entered and sold a man named Martin a one ounce tin of morphine and an ounce bottle of cocaine. For the two they charged \$37.50. Later Richardson and Detective McDonald apprehended the brothers and took them to police headquarters. One of them was then carrying a bag which contained two tins of morphine and a bottle of cocaine.

¹⁰⁰ From TWO COCAINE VENDORS BEFORE MAGISTRATE; HAD LARGE SUPPLY. (1913, January 15). *Calgary Daily Herald*, p. 13.

“A year in jail”¹⁰¹ (Alberta, 1913)

The maximum penalty prescribed by law for trafficking in drugs was imposed this morning on Arthur and Morris King by Magistrate Sanders. The brothers will spend the next year in jail and will, in addition, pay fines of \$500 each.

Colonel Sanders, in imposing sentence, said:

“You have pleaded guilty to charges of selling cocaine and morphine, and I find you guilty of having these drugs in your possession without lawful excuse. From the quantity of these drugs which you had in your possession I have no doubt but that you were supplying them to others whenever you had the chance. You are the most miserable specimens of manhood on the face of the earth, and you do a greater harm than a murderer. It has been said that you are anxious to take treatment for the habit, and I am convinced that you would never voluntarily go into an institution where the cure might be attempted. I sentence you each to one year’s imprisonment and in addition to pay a fine of \$500.”

PRISONERS DEEPLY MOVED

The Kings received the announcement without emotion, and half an hour later Arthur King was permitted to say his farewells to his wife, before being removed to commence his term.

Before sentence was imposed today Dr. Shipley gave the court the benefit of his study of the ravages of drugs upon their victims. He believed that the only proper treatment could be administered under supervision in an institution, and even then he thought the chances of the cure being permanent were very remote. He did not think that the King brothers were fit to be at large.

“Any drug,” said the doctor, “spoils the moral sense after a certain time, and the victim degenerates until he is not responsible for his actions at certain periods.”

Colonel Sanders ordered the destruction of the \$600 worth of drugs found on the Kings.

“Curtail or abolish drugs”¹⁰² (Alberta, 1913)

Strict national enforcement of the legislation directed against the excessive use and vending of morphine, cocaine, opium and similar drugs is an urgent necessity if the traffic in Canada is even to be checked. Colonel Sanders, police magistrate, went on record yesterday as being resolutely opposed to such vending when he sentenced two confessed purveyors of cocaine and morphine to the maximum penalties prescribed for the offence. Chief Cuddy has also been unremitting in his efforts to curtail the traffic, but a local campaign can be of little benefit to the country at large. Every police constable in the Dominion should be instructed to watch vigilantly for infringements of the drug act.

¹⁰¹ From A YEAR IN JAIL IS SENTENCE IMPOSED ON DRUG VENDORS. (1913, January 16). *Calgary Herald*, p. 1.

¹⁰² From CURTAIL OR ABOLISH DRUGS. (1913, January 17). *Calgary Daily Herald*, p. 6.

According to the latest evidence of men of learning, there is no longer any necessity for the importation of either cocaine or morphine. Other drugs have been found that serve the requirements of medical science without introducing the same dangers. The time has arrived when these two agents of demoralization can be entirely dispensed with, and it is to be hoped that they will be barred from Canada. If the drugs were outlawed the “fiends” would soon leave for other parts, where their cravings could be satiated.

Until such a time as cocaine and morphine are excluded from the country, eternal vigilance is the price of averting untold calamity.

“Six months and fine for having morphine”¹⁰³ (Alberta, 1913)

Six months in jail and a two hundred [dollar] fine was the sentence imposed on Fred J. Tindle in the [Edmonton] city police court this morning, after two magistrates had decided he was guilty of possessing morphine. Apart from this he also faces two charges of theft. The first is the theft of a watch from the office of Dr. Garner, and the second the theft of a watch from Dr. Stanley Gordon Mills.

The theft of the watch from Dr. Garner’s office led to the other charges being laid against the prisoner. On being searched, the second watch was discovered, which turned out to be [the] property of Dr. Mills, while a quantity of morphine was also found on his person. On the two theft charges the accused was committed for trial.

“Jailed for having drug”¹⁰⁴ (Quebec, 1913)

The law concerning the use of cocaine and morphine was applied in all its rigor by Recorder Geoffrion in the case of Lea Laperle, [of Montreal, on] Saturday morning. Laperle, who is but 19 years of age, has already been convicted three times before for carrying morphine, and though he pleaded hard for an opportunity to reform, Recorder Geoffrion said that a term in jail would be more availing against the drug than the accused’s will power. Laperle was condemned to six months in jail and to a fine of \$500, which means more, if the fine is not paid.

¹⁰³ From SIX MONTHS AND FINE FOR HAVING MORPHINE. (1913, June 16). *Edmonton Journal*, p. 12.

¹⁰⁴ From JAILED FOR HAVING DRUG. (1913, September 29). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 3.

Cures and Treatments

“The Ste. Anne de Bellevue Gold Cure Institute”¹⁰⁵ (Quebec, 1892)

The successful treatment of the diseased conditions known as drunkenness, opium and morphine habits, tobacco habit and neurasthenia, by means of the Double Chloride of Gold remedies, is rapidly becoming well known throughout Canada. The action of gold as medicine is primarily upon the higher cerebral nerve centres, the very seat of diseased will and of the mania for strong drink. It acts directly upon these portions of the nervous system which, when diseased, cause lunacy, epilepsy and the drinking habit. Its specific effect as a remedy is against the mania for drunkenness.

The wonderful success, so far, of the Gold Cure, is no hearsay statement. It is the evidence of living men, to all intents and purposes cured of the liquor, morphine and tobacco habits. These men had faith, and seized the opportunity laid at their very doors to test the efficacy of this wonderful cure, this priceless boon to suffering, habit-controlled humanity. “*Veni! Vidi! Vici!*” is the exultant exclamation of those who determined to bury their pride, take the course of treatment, and escape the moral degradation, the physical, mental and financial prostration that the drinking, morphine or opium habits lead to invariably.

In the past few years 56,000 people, male and female, from the ranks of society have been treated and successfully cured. At the Gold Cure Branch Institute, St. Anne de Bellevue, P.Q., in the very same manner as at the sister institute, [at] Grimsby, Ont., each patient receives individual treatment, carefully graded to meet the varying constitutional and symptomatic conditions of the case, under the personal supervision of the Company’s medical staff. The time required for a treatment is three weeks, and in that period the Gold Cure will do more for a liquor habitue than can be done for him by another treatment on the face of the globe in three years – it will give him a cure. The Institute’s physicians do not hesitate to give every liquor habitue coming there all the liquor necessary until he drops it of his own free will, which is usually in from thirty-six to forty-eight hours after commencing treatment. He drops it for ever. As long as he draws a conscious breath it ceases to have any temptation for him. The experience of the liquor and morphine habitues is emphasized by those who have been cured of the tobacco habit and neurasthenia.

There are no physical nor moral restraints – no behind “stone walls nor iron bars” – nor pain during the progress of the Gold Cure. The remedy fights its way insidiously. The release from degrading habits is painless and sure. The Gold Cure is a radical remedy for the habits, or, more properly, diseases mentioned above. The hearty support not only of all unfortunates, but of those classes who devote themselves in any way to the elevation of the race, ought to be yielded to this truly scientific institution.

¹⁰⁵ From THE STE. ANNE DE BELLEVUE GOLD CURE INSTITUTE [Advertisement]. (1892, June 10). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 4.

The company has published a large amount of interesting literature. Any person wishing fuller information may obtain the same in plain sealed envelopes by dropping a post-card to the Gold Cure Institute, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, P.Q., or Grimsby, Ontario.

“A terrible experience”¹⁰⁶ (Quebec, 1892)

Mr. Dan McLaren¹⁰⁷, of Kincardine, [Ontario,] has had an experience which falls to the lot of few young men, and yet lives to narrate the events. He does not tell of what he has gone through in a spirit of boasting, but for the sole purpose of letting others know that there is a cure, and at the same time his desire is to warn others of the danger which lurks in the hypodermic syringe and morphine.

Two years ago last Mr. McLaren was braking on the Duluth and Iron Range railway. At Messaba station he was accidentally jammed between the locomotive tender and a saw log projecting over the end of a flat car. His body when so squeezed occupied a space variously estimated at between two and four inches.

The reader can very easily imagine what a terrible squeeze his bowels received. He dropped as though shot on being relieved by the engine pulling forward, and was picked up for dead by his mate. There was life left, however, and he was removed to St. Mary’s hospital in Duluth. Here he remained for eleven months under expert medical treatment. During these long months of suffering, the agony from cramps being at times intense, the hospital physician relieved him by administering morphine.

On being able to leave the hospital, Mr. McLaren informed us that he procured a hypodermic syringe for the purpose of administering the poison himself. The cramps continued to afflict him, and from time to time he increased the doses of morphine, until he was injecting two grains and a quarter every two or three hours – enough to kill half a dozen strong men.

A number of physicians were consulted before reaching his home in Kincardine, and finally he put himself under the care of Dr. McCrimmon¹⁰⁸. From this physician’s treatment he says that he received great relief so long as he followed his instructions, but the morphine habit had become so completely his master that he deceived his medical adviser, neglected taking his medicine, and relied almost exclusively upon morphine. He carried the syringe in his pocket, and used it so persistently that he began to wish and hope for death. It was death, in Mr. McLaren’s opinion, if he gave up morphine, and if he continued as he had been doing, it was death – and the sooner that came the better he would be pleased.

Hearing of the bichloride of gold treatment, and of the institute that had been established at Grimsby, Ontario, and at Ste. Anne’s de Bellevue, he consulted with his physician, intimating that he had a desire to go to Grimsby and see what

¹⁰⁶ From A TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE [Advertisement]. (1892, August 12). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 1. Though the article is clearly an advertisement, it is formatted like a regular news article.

¹⁰⁷ Possibly the Daniel McLaren (b. 1869) listed as living in Bruce county, Ontario, in the 1891 census.

¹⁰⁸ Probably Dr. D. A. McCrimmon, listed as 54 years old in the 1891 census.

prospects there [were] for freedom from the morphine habit. On the 17th June he reached the Double Chloride of Gold Co.'s institute. Dr. McBride was seen and consulted. He was found to be a kind-hearted gentleman and his skill as a physician is great and undoubted by those who are competent to judge. Mr. McLaren's case was admitted to be a very bad one, but Dr. McBride had every hope of effecting a cure. The patient was at once put under treatment and the desire for morphine gradually began to leave him, and at the end of about four weeks all desire for morphine had been removed. In fact, if any person had suggested to Dan McLaren that he would take a dose of morphine, he would have felt strong enough to fight, or at all events he would have had a desire to knock some person down with a club.

Mr. McLaren is now at home, and the above has been written at his request. He says that he has a new lease of life. The chloride of gold treatment for those who use morphine, alcoholic liquors or any narcotic poison, is all that is claimed for it.

While at Grimsby he saw driveling drunkards who were cured of their accursed taste for drink. He saw opium and morphine fiends brought back to manhood and freedom. He recommends it to all slaves such as he had become, and thinks it is a blessing vouchsafed him by the Almighty that his steps were turned there for treatment. He not only speaks highly of the institute, but he says that the citizens of Grimsby treated himself and the other patients with untold kindness and consideration while he was resident in that pretty village for about a month.

Those who remember how badly Mr. McLaren looked before he went to Grimsby, and have noticed the change in his personal appearance since his return, will agree with him when he says that almost a miracle has been performed in his case.

The Institute at St. Anne's is fully equipped with a staff of competent physicians and is under the immediate supervision of Dr. Foster, who has had long experience with the gold treatment, and patients with either the morphine or whiskey habits can rely upon getting the very best care and attention.

The company have a large supply of interesting literature, which will be forwarded free by mail by addressing St. Anne's de Bellevue or Grimsby, Ont.

“Toronto Bi-Chloride of Gold Cure Institute”¹⁰⁹ (Ontario, 1892)

Every great discovery, every new movement intended for the benefit of humanity, has been met with a storm of opposition and calumny. Every great and successful discovery has its swarm of imitators. Scores of instructions for the cure of the liquor, morphia and tobacco habits now exist. Many institutes are imitations of ours, even as the toad-stool is fashioned after the mushroom.

The proprietors of these places guarantee to cure the whiskey, morphia and tobacco habits. Some of them do succeed in “straightening up” their victims for a few weeks; then the craving returns fifty-fold intensified. We to-day are treating men who

¹⁰⁹ From Toronto Bi-Chloride of Gold Cure Institute vs. Fake Institutions [Advertisement]. (1892, September 24). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 7. Although the article is formatted like a regular news article, it is clearly an advertisement.

have been duped by so-called liquor and morphia cures, and to each we give a permanent and complete cure.

That our treatment is both efficacious and lasting has been proved time and again, and Mayor Fleming, than whom a more ardent and sincere temperance advocate does not live, has recognized in our Gold Cure the most potent ally of the temperance cause, and will use all his influence in favor of the Gold Cure treatment.

Some persons are timid in the matter of beginning the treatment. To these we would say that they run no risk in any way. The treatment leaves no ill effects; on the contrary, it renews a man's life. Patients can be treated privately if they so desire. Those who are still doubtful or unbelieving as to the thoroughness and permanence of the care, we refer to the following letters from graduates and we ask: what object can these men have in voluntarily sending us such letters, if they are not absolutely true?

Toronto, September 12, 1892

Toronto Bi-Chloride of Gold Cure Co.:

With the most profound sense of gratitude to you for my complete cure from the demoralizing curse, the whiskey habit, I add my testimony to that of my fellow-graduates. [...] To-day I can walk upright and unashamed, feeling myself a man once more. [...] You may publish this if you desire, and I send you my card so you can direct anyone who wishes further information on my case to see me personally. Beldon Bros., Bay street, city, may also be referred to for confirmation of this letter.

J. R.

Toronto, September 16, 1892

Toronto Bi-Chloride of Gold Cure Co.:

Gentlemen – Seven years ago I was severely wounded in the charge on the rifle pits at Batoche. While under treatment for my wound in the General Hospital here, I was given daily hypodermic injections of morphia to allay the pain. Soon I discovered that the charms of the deadly morphia habit had wound about me, and I was a slave to the drug. Realizing my position, I made a determined effort to break off, but in vain. That was the first battle of many. I was constantly under the dread of taking an overdose, yet my nerves cried out, “Give, give,” and I had to give. Many a time have I broken my hypodermic syringe and thrown my morphia away, and vowed to use them no more, only to go and buy both morphia and syringe after hours of agony. The question was ever present with me, “What will my end be?” I tried twelve doctors in this city and spent hundreds of dollars in buying advertised specifics for the habit. But all was in vain. I went to the General Hospital here, where Dr. O'Reilly told me that “It is only a mechanical habit and nothing more.” After three days of their brutal treatment I was forced to leave at 3.30 a.m. At that time I was entirely out of my head, the effect of withdrawing the morphia at once. I then tried by gradually and persistently decreasing the daily dose of morphia to break off. This also failed, and in despair I put myself in your hands. I was then using as high as twenty grains a day. I have suffered the most horrible agony – none but those who have suffered it can understand how terrible it is – in trying to quit the drug. I have stood out till nature gave way and my mind became unhinged.

Ten days of your treatment uprooted the awful craving for the drug, and that without the slightest suffering or inconvenience.

You gave me all the morphia I wanted till your Gold Cure turned me against it, and now my system would not tolerate it, even had I any desire for it, which I have not. I have not felt so well in seven years as I do to-day, knowing that I can use the faculties God has given me and feel myself the peer of my fellows. To all in bondage, whether to morphia, drink or tobacco, I say, "Try the Gold Cure." It will cure you without fail. Three weeks' treatment will lift a man from the gutter and set him on the highway to success. Fuller details may be had by calling at the Institute, 19 Moss Park Place, corner of Sherbourne street, or at 358 Wellesley Street, Toronto.

Gratefully yours,
S. M.

The Bi-chloride of Gold Cure management contemplate establishing an institute in Montreal and hope to be ready for patients at an early date.

"Wonderful success of the gold cure"¹¹⁰ (Quebec, 1893)

Rev. Father Murphy, Gold Cure Institute, 26 Cathcart Street, Montreal:

Dear Father – I owe it as a duty to humanity and to your marvelous Gold Cure treatment to inform the public of the miraculous cure you effected in my case. I have been using morphine for three years, until the morphine failed to produce the required sensations. Then I began to consume over three pints of the best brandy each day, and twenty grains of that deadly poison, cocaine.

When I went to your famous and glorious institute I had given up all hopes of recovery, and a swift and appalling death stared me in the face, for Drs. Verge and DeBlois, the ablest professors of Laval university, gave me only nine days to live. My temperature was 102, and my pulse was 138, and at times running up to 180, when I entered your institute. My body was emaciated and tortured beyond description; my soul was a hell. The most hideous visions haunted me day and night. There was no respite from suffering; no peace for my anguished soul. The most eminent medical skill was powerless in the presence of my disease, and I looked for the grave as a merciful exit from a torture infinitely worse than the most weird descriptions of hell.

To-day, after a four weeks' course in your redeeming institution, I am as free from morphine, cocaine and whiskey as the child unborn, the pains in my heart and limbs have entirely disappeared, and I am now enjoying perfect physical health, my mind is clear and vigorous, my soul assured and radiant; everything is now changed to me by the supernatural agency of your wonderful Gold Cure treatment. The clouds have passed away from my mind, the weight of sorrow from my heart, and the vision of hell that confronted every joyous aspiration of my soul has been transformed into the radiant and grateful vision of health, happiness and hope.

¹¹⁰ From WONDERFUL SUCCESS OF THE GOLD CURE [Advertisement]. (1893, March 22). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 1. The original article, though clearly an advertisement and probably fictional, is formatted as a regular 'Special Notice'.

In a word, I am a new and saved man. I would not now go back to my former indulgence in whiskey, morphine and cocaine for all the money in the city of Quebec. On the contrary, I loathe these agents as the released prisoner loathes the thought that carries him back to the prison cell that deprived him of his liberty.

May God bless you, Father Murphy, and your great merciful ministrations to a suffering humanity.

Any one desiring further particulars in my case, or verification of the foregoing statements, can apply to Dr. DeBlois, professor, Laval University, Quebec.

Quebec, 17th March, 1893.

“Agents that destroy body and soul”¹¹¹ (Alberta, 1893)

The use of narcotics has made terrible headway in our midst; the victims of these body-and-soul-destroying drugs, are to-day found in all classes of society. Morphine heads the list of the narcotics now in use; then we have opium, chloral, bromide of sodium, hydrate of amyl, urethan, sulfonal, hypnon and a long list of other new-born destructive agents.

These narcotics, in the majority of cases, are first used by nervous, sleepless, neuralgic and rheumatic people to secure rest and freedom from pain. Oh, the folly and madness of such a course that leads to destruction and death. An eminent medical professor acknowledges that physicians generally give too much encouragement to the use of narcotics. This noted savant says: “Many physicians lend their hand too willingly, and are ready to die with the injecting needle to check a pain that could easily be borne, not reflecting that it is immoral to encourage a dangerous practice; that of planting the morphine habit, a terrible poison that leads to physical and spiritual debility and death.”

Within the last few years Paine’s Celery Compound has saved the lives of thousands of men and women. This grand disease destroyer has saved from the opium, morphine and chloral habit a host of valuable lives. The nervous, debilitated, neuralgic and rheumatic find all their pains and woes removed by a pure and life-saving agent. No agent known to the sciences has conferred such great benefits on the human race as Paine’s Celery Compound. From day to day the work of this wonderful preparation commands admiration and respect; it is elevating and far-reaching in its mighty work, and cures as surely as day follows night.

“Father Murphy in town”¹¹² (Quebec, 1893)

Rev. Father L. W. Murphy, of the Montreal Gold Cure Institute, returned to the city yesterday from the Belmont Retreat, Quebec, where he has been for the last

¹¹¹ From AGENTS THAT DESTROY BODY AND SOUL [Advertisement]. (1893, March 22). *Calgary Weekly Herald*, p. 8. The original article, though clearly an advertisement and probably fictional, is formatted as a regular news article.

¹¹² From FATHER MURPHY IN TOWN. (1893, April 1). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 3. The original article, though clearly an advertisement, is formatted as a regular news article.

three weeks. The opening of the Belmont Retreat as a Murphy Gold Cure Institute has been a magnificent success, and many marvelous cures of the morphia habit and drunkenness have been effected by Father Murphy in having restored to health no less than forty-two victims of these diseases during his stay at the Ancient Capital. On leaving for Montreal he was presented with a beautiful bouquet of choicest flowers by those who had enjoyed the inestimable advantage of his ministrations. Next Monday morning he leaves for Ottawa, where he will open another institute, on April 5, at 219 Maria Street in that city, one of the most beautifully located, excellently-appointed mansions in Canada.

Unlike establishments that pretend to cure the morphia habit, drunkenness and kindred diseases, Father Murphy's institutes treat the poor without charge, and thus extend the blessing of scientific treatment to all who apply. They are not mere money-making concerns, controlled by men whose only object is to fill their pockets at the expense of the unfortunate and unhappy. It is because of his generosity in thus helping the poor that an attempt has been made to establish rival institutes in this city. But the best proof of the failure of the attempt is found in the fact that he is now treating men at his institute on Cathcart Street and at [the] Belmont Retreat who left the Keeley Institutes to go to him. In fact, during the last twelve months he has cured over one hundred relapsed Keeley graduates.

On the first of May the institute in this city will be removed to more extensive premises in order to accommodate the constantly increasing number of applicants for treatment.

“Cocaine is of great value”¹¹³ (B. C., 1895)

In some way the erroneous notion has come to prevail that, in treating the morphine habit, cocaine is of great value, counteracting the effects of the morphine. Proceeding on this principle, numberless quacks have claimed [the] ability to cure the morphine habit. The unfortunates whom they have succeeded in deluding are perhaps cured of the morphine habit, but in its stead they become cursed with a vice far more ruinous than all their former ills. Cocaine may counteract the effects of morphine, but when the action of the cocaine is exhausted the system demands greatly increased quantities of morphine, and this in turn produces a desire for more and more cocaine. To use cocaine for curing the morphine habit is like jumping from the frying pan into the fire.

¹¹³ From THE COCAINE HABIT. (1895, May 13). *Victoria Daily Times*, p. 6.

“The Father Murphy Gold Cure Institute”¹¹⁴ (Nova Scotia, 1896)

THE MORPHIA HABIT

The scientific name for this disease is “morphinism” or “morphiomania”. It is a disease most terrible in its ultimate effects. It is generated by the constant use of morphia – taken at first, as a rule, in this country at least, for the purpose of allaying pain. It is most prevalent among women and physicians who use the hypodermic syringe for the alleviation of pain, as in rheumatism, neuralgia, or sciatica.

The symptoms are at first generally slight, but gradually increase in severity as the disease progresses. As the effects of each dose of the drug wear off, the patient experiences great lassitude and mental depression, and perhaps nausea and pain in the stomach. These symptoms are always relieved by a fresh dose of the drug.

At a later stage the general appearance of the patient is very characteristic. He becomes emaciated and anemic, presenting a strange sallowness of the complexion which is peculiar to chronic morphinism. Sometimes the hair turns gray and the patient becomes prematurely aged. He is irritable and restless, being unable to remain quiet for any length of time. The sleep is disturbed, the appetite and digestion deranged, and except when under the influence of the drug, the mental condition is one of marked depression.

The disease may continue for an indefinite length of time, the patient usually requiring a gradual increase in the dose, until at last enormous quantities are taken. Finally, all the vital powers give out and gradually wane, the victim takes little or no food, and dies from the extreme debility.

PATHOLOGY OF MORPHINISM

Nearly all the symptoms of the disease are due to changes produced in the nervous system by the pernicious action of the drug. The changes are akin to those nervous conditions occurring in the disease of Alcoholism, and a similar treatment is demanded.

A SURE AND PERMANENT CURE

As the pathological conditions, as far as the nervous system is concerned, are very much alike in both alcoholism and morphinism, and as the gold salts in all cases have an especial selective affinity for nerve structures, it occurred to Father Murphy that some modification of his gold treatment for alcoholism might prove serviceable in the treatment of morphinism; and this, after a long chain of complicated experiments, he found to be so.

Father Murphy’s treatment of morphinism, which consists of the systematic administration of a certain modification of his gold preparation, together with the subjection of the patient to certain strict regulations regarding hygiene, diet, the withdrawal of the drug, and general tonic treatment, has, after a large number of most crucial tests, proved itself no less successful than his treatment of alcoholism.

¹¹⁴ From The Father Murphy Gold Cure Institute. (1896). [Cover and Title Missing]. Nova Scotia: The Father Murphy Gold Cure Institute.

The results of treatment of this disease have been really marvelous. Weakness and disease of the nerve centres have, in the majority of cases treated, been of such duration that the patients had entirely forgotten what was really meant by manhood and womanhood, and yet all, without one exception, have been fully restored to the vigor of normal health, and permanently freed from even the slightest desire for morphia or drugs of any kind.

“Opening of the mails”¹¹⁵ (Quebec, 1898)

Opening of the mails is generally more or less interesting to all classes of business men and private individuals. Newspaper editors are treated to a great variety of letters, some pompous and dry, others racy and humorous, a few fault finding, and many, which are valued very highly, of genuine praise. A reporter, however, was entirely unaware of the pleasant surprise which was in store for him when he accepted an invitation from the Dixon Cure Co. to be present at the opening of their mails a few days ago at their offices, at No. 40 Park Avenue, this city [Montreal]. Of course, as all of their business is strictly confidential, the reporter was not allowed to see the names of the writers.

Letters of praise and thankfulness were opened by the score from many parts of Canada and the United States, and even from Great Britain and far off Australia, from parties who had used the Dixon Medicine for the liquor and drug habits, and each letter was proof in itself that this new treatment is all that is claimed for it. For the benefit of all readers who may be victims of the liquor or drug habits, or who may have friends who are in that predicament, will be published shortly some extracts from a few of the letters which the reporter saw.

The Dixon Cure Co. [will] send full particulars of their new treatment, free on application. Their address is given above and their telephone number is 3085.

“The Dixon Cure Co.’s mails”¹¹⁶ (Quebec, 1898)

True to the promise given in the columns of the Star of March 8th, a reporter proceeds to give a few extracts from letters which he perused when present at the opening of The Dixon Cure Co.’s mails. The reporter, not being allowed to see the names of the writers, extracts from several of the letters are all that can be given. All of the letters (excepting those which were simply orders for treatments) were in the same strain of those quoted, showing clearly that The Dixon Cure Co. are doing all they claim. [...]

A prominent physician writes:-

“For years I had been in the habit of taking from 15 to 20 grains of morphia and from 2 to 3 bottles of whiskey every 24 hours. You ask how I am now after taking your cure in August, 1897. I am delighted to say that from a few hours after

¹¹⁵ From Opening of the Mails [Advertisement]. (1898, March 8). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 8.

¹¹⁶ From OPENING OF THE MAILS [Advertisement]. (1898, March 21). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 7.

commencing your cure I had no desire for liquor, and by the tenth day I had ceased using the drug and had no desire for either. Life is a pleasure to me now, and my wife is proud of me. My practice, which was totally ruined through my liquor and drug habits, is gradually and steadily coming back, and I can see far greater possibilities in my profession now than I ever did before. I will be glad to be of use to you in any way; in fact, I feel, and my wife joins in saying it, that I can never repay you for what you have done for me." [...]

A man from Ottawa writes:

"Answering your enquiry, I am more than pleased to say that I have had no return of the desire for either morphine or whisky, and feel sure that I never will, as it is now ten months since you cured me. The lady with whom I board says that I eat as much as any two of her boarders. I am enjoying better health now than for the past twelve years, thanks to your cure. If I can be of any use to you, command me."

Hundreds of similar letters could be quoted, many of them from clergymen, business men and over a score of them from physicians, scattered throughout Canada and the United States.

A prominent physician of Montreal who has been written to by a patron, who is a victim of the liquor and morphine habit, asking him if he knows of any reliable method of treatment or cure of these habits, answers as follows:-

"My dear Mr. —, in reply to yours of the 15th inst., I have to say: there is probably no disease with which mankind is afflicted, which has brought out so many shams and fraud as the liquor and drug habits have. Of all human ills these troubles seem to have been ordained specially to exercise the ingenuity of quacks in the production of nostrums as manifold as they are worthless. It is therefore actually refreshing to come across a remedy which affords positive assurances of actual cure to the victim. I refer to the Dixon Cure for the Liquor and Drug Habits, a treatment in which the objectionable hypodermic injections are entirely done away with – it being a very simple vegetable medicine, taken by the victim at home, and one which is perfectly harmless, and can only produce good after effects. I treated a gentleman who had been a hard drinker and opium user for over twenty years with this new cure. In three days he had no desire for liquor, and in a little over two weeks he discontinued the use of morphine entirely, although he averaged 25 grains every 24 hours. The immediate effects of this medicine were normal appetite for food, sound sleep and clear brain, all of which were absent before he commenced treatment. I certainly advise all those who are addicted to liquor or drugs to write to the Dixon Cure Company, 40 Park Avenue, Montreal, and get their circular, which is sent free to all applicants. Their telephone number is 3085."

“Liquor and morphine habits”¹¹⁷ (Ontario, 1900)

Toronto City Register’s Office
Peter Ryan, Registrar¹¹⁸
Toronto, Sept. 29, 1899.

A. Hutton Dixon:

Sir – You ask me regarding the results of your treatment in the case of my friend, M—. I have only to say that the effects of your medicine are simply wonderful. From the very first day of my friend taking your treatment his health generally improved with a rapidity astounding, not only to himself and me, but also to his regular physician who, by the way, was averse to his taking your medicine, and I assure you that we highly enjoyed his surprise on his learning the results of your treatment. I did not intend writing a testimonial, although you richly deserve the strongest, and you can assure yourself of my readiness to gladly add my testimony at any time.

I believe that my friend M— was one of the hardest cases you will ever meet – he had taken morphine for over 20 years, and for a number of years had averaged over 20 grains of morphine and from one to two bottles of whisky every twenty-four hours. He had repeatedly and earnestly tried to conquer the habit and had gone under several treatments without avail. It is now over a year since you cured him and he told me only yesterday that all desire for morphine or alcoholic liquor had left him, and that he never touches either, and that he is better in every way physically and mentally, and he added gratefully that “if you never did anything else but cure him of his horrible habits you have not lived in vain.”

You will be pleased to know that you have been the means of making a happy home for his wife and family, which I know was the contrary before you took hold of him. I feel gratified that it was due to my insistent advice that he took your cure. He was extremely unwilling to take it, being thoroughly discouraged at the results of other treatments which he had tried. I assured him of a cure because I knew personally other victims of both alcohol and morphine which you treated successfully, so he finally consented to give you a trial, and you know the result.

Wishing you every success, I am, yours very truly,

PETER RYAN.

P. S. – If I can serve any poor wretch, or the family of any victims by writing direct to them, don’t think it any trouble to call on me. – P. R.

Full particulars sent sealed on application, Mr. Dixon, 81 Willocks St., Toronto, Ont.

¹¹⁷ From LIQUOR AND MORPHINE HABITS [Advertisement]. (1900, March 21). *Evening Mail* (Halifax), p. 10.

¹¹⁸ The Might Company’s Toronto City Directory for 1900 contains the following entry on p. 770: “RYAN PETER, Registrar (Eastern Division) City Registry Office Municipal Bldg, h 51 Grosvernor”.

Overdoses, Intentional and Otherwise

“Horrid circumstance”¹¹⁹ (Ontario, 1823)

On Saturday morning (the 3d inst.) this town [Bury, Ont.] was thrown into a state of alarm and agitation, from a report that a murder and suicide had been committed in the night, at a house in the School-hall-lane. We found, on inquiry, that a man named Sohn Spring, who had for some months been cohabiting with a girl of the town, one Mary Gooch, had procured poison for their mutual destruction; that they had taken it at the same time; but that only the girl had fallen a victim, as, from having swallowed too large a portion, his stomach had ejected the draught, and he had subsequently cut his throat, but was still alive. The proper authorities having received notice of this dreadful occurrence, the body of the deceased was moved to the Bridewell in the market, and a Coroner’s Inquest immediately summoned. In the absence of the Coroner, the Chief Magistrate, J. P. Case, Esquire, presided, and the Jury having been sworn, proceeded to view the body, after which they returned to the Guild-hall, and received the following evidence:-

Mr. Dalton, surgeon, had been for some time attending Gooch, the deceased, who was subject to fits. [He] Was employed to do so by John Spring. [He] was called in by the brother of the deceased about half-past ten on Friday night. [He] saw Spring lying on the bed, and observed the body of [the] deceased on the other side of the bed, partly dressed, and quite dead and stiff.

After the examination of several other witnesses, whose testimony was not material, the evidence of Spring being deemed admissible, the Jury went to his house, where he still lies, and he deposed as follows:-

John Spring said that he knew Mary Gooch, the deceased; that he was present with her in bed when she died; that she died about seven o’clock on Friday morning; that she did not die in agony; that on the Wednesday evening the deceased and [the] witness came to an agreement to buy some laudanum to take together, that they might both be found dead together in the same bed; that on the Thursday morning he (the witness) went to the chemist’s and bought some laudanum; he thinks four ounces; he purchased it at Mr. Ealdwin’s; that after he bought the poison, he went with Mr. Mountain in his break to the Tollgate and then to Fornham and back; and Mountain sat him down at his gate; that he gave Mountain his stick; that when he came in, Mary Gooch said, “your heart has failed you; you have not bought it for me;” that she got up and felt the witness’s pocket.

The deceased said, “you have got something here.”

[The] witness replied, “Oh, that will soon do our business, if we take it.”

She said, “Have you any money left of what I gave you to buy it with?”

[The] witness said, “Yes, there are some halfpence.”

¹¹⁹ From HORRID CIRCUMSTANCE. (1823, July 5). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 2.

[The] deceased said she would “purchase some oranges with them, to take after it,” and would send for them. [The witness testified] that she sent a boy of Webb’s, who returned with two oranges; that she took two wine glasses off the shelf and placed hers on the box, and said, “Now, let us take it.”

She poured half into one glass, and half into another. One glass she kept to herself, and the other she gave to [the] witness.

The deceased said, “Let us take hold of each other’s hands.”

[The] witness said, “No, my dear, if we do, we shall not take it; let us turn back to back and take it.” [The] deceased and [the] witness turned their backs to one another, and drank the contents of the glasses.

After they had drunk the laudanum the deceased said, “What shall we do with the bottle?”

[The] witness said, he would “go and throw it away”.

She said she would “in the mean time wipe up the glasses”.

[The witness testified] that he threw the bottle into the privy, and that the deceased had wiped the glasses by the time he came back from the privy.

The deceased said, “Let us go to bed,” [and] they both went to bed together. The deceased afterwards got out of bed and placed a chair against the door to fasten it, and drew the window blinds. The deceased then said, “Now, we shall die happy together.” This was between two and three o’clock.

He asked the deceased how she came by the money she had given him. The deceased said, “That is of no consequence and does not signify.” [...]

The deceased and the witness conversed together about different things till about eight o’clock. She said she had sent her gown to her aunt’s, and that the money came from her.

The laudanum did not take any effect till about two, then she began to sleep. The witness was sick about four, and the deceased was awake at that time. The deceased was not sick at all, and fell into a sound sleep at 6. The witness awoke her between 6 and 7. The deceased then said, “How large your eyes look.”

[The] witness said to her, “Mary, I am afraid my laudanum will take no effect.”

The deceased said, “Oh, dear, if I die without you, and you are taken before a Court of Justice, I shall not die easy.”

[The] witness told her she might be quite happy, for if it did not take effect he would get up and buy some that would, as he would die with her.

The deceased said, “My dear, pray give me that blue muslin handkerchief, that I may have it in my hand when I die. Pray don’t you take any thing, but let me die, and you will get over it.” She then laid her head on the shoulder of the witness and died almost immediately. The body began to grow cold by the time she came in from the town, about half-past 8.

[The witness testified] that the deceased had been in a bad state of mind ever since he has known her; that she always appeared to wish to die, and had attempted to destroy herself before, when the witness was at a fair. The deceased had told him that she had in his absence attempted to hang herself on the bedstead; that the second time was a month ago, when the deceased came in from the town in so unhappy a

state of mind, that about 12 at night she got up, and took a linen line, pinned her cap over her head, and went out of the house, taking a small chair with her, and left the door open. The witness followed her; [the] deceased had one end of a rope around her neck. [He] did not see her tie the rope about her neck, but confessed tying it on in the room; the deceased was about to throw the rope over the arm of an apple-tree, when he overtook her and brought her in, and took the rope from her.

The deceased all Wednesday evening was very anxious to die, and wished [the] witness to die with her, and on Thursday she expressed the same wish: the deceased had expressed a desire that they should both die together.

The witness has known the deceased ever since the Michaelmas Bury Fair. The deceased had been very anxious about the payment of the half-year's rent. The witness said he would go to his friends and get it. [The] deceased said, "If you go away, I shall be afraid that you will not come back again." [...] It was not for want that they committed the act; it had been in contemplation some time.

Just as the Jury were retiring, Mr. Dalton said he wished to observe that it is possible for a person to be sound in mind in every respect but one, and cited Hatfield's case as an instance.

The Jury retired somewhat more than half an hour, and on their return, delivered the verdict that – "Mary Gooch, being of sound mind, took laudanum to cause her death, procured at her request by John Spring, and that she died – *Felo de se*.¹²⁰"

About midnight the remains of the unfortunate woman were interred in the cross-road at the end of Risbygate-street. Two holes had previously been dug at Stomford-bridge, but a great flow of water prevented the body being interred there.

"The suicide of Mr. Thompson"¹²¹ (Ontario, 1830)

In reference to the suicide of Mr. Thompson, of St. Catherine's, by swallowing laudanum, we find several paragraphs¹²² in different Journals, and have given the principal particulars from each:-

On Friday last, says the *Niagara Herald* of July 1, an inquest was held by S. Wood, Esquire, Coroner, upon the body of Robert Thompson at Port Dalhousie, and upon evidence adduced, the Jury returned a verdict of insanity. The Jury, we understand, were persons of the first respectability in and [in the] neighbourhood of St. Catherine's.

¹²⁰ A legal term for suicide, meaning 'felon of oneself'.

¹²¹ From UPPER CANADA. (1830, July 8). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 2.

¹²² "Yesterday, at Port Dalhousie, Mr. Robert Thompson, one of the firm of R. Thompson & Co. formerly merchants in the city of N. York, put an end to his life by taking a quantity of opium. The deceased has for the last two years conducted the extensive hard-ware establishment at the same place; no reason can be assigned for this tragic end, as it was very apparent that he was moderately successful in his mercantile pursuits. Those individuals of his acquaintance, state that they have observed for some time past, that Mr. T. showed evident symptoms of a mind not at ease." Melancholy Suicide. (1830, July 12). *New-York Evening Post*, p. 2.

On Sunday, the body was attended from Port Dalhousie to the Churchyard at St. Catherine's by Mr. Wood, the Coroner, and three others. A Funeral discourse was preached on the occasion, in which the verdict of the Jury was condemned, in language that has created a feeling, which probably the Rev. gentleman did not expect, but it would be well if at all interments, the service should or should not be read, according to the past life of the person about to be interred, and not from an isolated act, though the most prominent. This was done, we are informed, in the present case, although we do not know, that it is at the option of a Minister, to omit any part of the burial service – but questioning the propriety of the verdict, given by the Jury, who are sworn to find according to evidence, appears to us an act of supererogation uncalled for.

It is only within the last two months that we became acquainted with the late Mr. Thompson. During that period he had frequently been in town to procure a building to remove his goods into, having seen that all his hopes of the Welland Canal providing a modern Pactolus had vanished. Disappointed in his expectations, his mind apparently became unsettled, and a short time previous to taking the dose of opium which terminated his earthly career, he was heard to declare that he felt the blighting of his hopes so poignantly, that he could blow his brains out. At the different times he came to town, he consulted with every person as to the eligibility of the different buildings he thought of renting, and at one time came so near closing for one of them as to get the agreement committed to writing, but then thought he would see a little further, and in this unsettled way he continued until the day he took the fatal dose.

In his house, we have been told, he had a small sum of money (nearly \$700); in the Montreal bank, he has a deposit; in a bank in Philadelphia, where he for several years did business as a merchant, we have heard there is another deposit – but we do not know any thing certain, relating to these deposits.

The *York Advocate* notices this occurrence in the following terms:-

Last week, at Port Dalhousie, Mr. Robert Thompson, the proprietor of an extensive hardware store, poisoned himself with laudanum. The Editor of this paper met Mr. Thompson in a house in Niagara some weeks ago, and remembers that he complained much of the want of business encouragement at Port Dalhousie.

He was a good looking man in the prime of life, and as it is understood, free from embarrassment. He had been in Fort George the day before he destroyed himself, and appeared to be as cheerful and contented as usual.

A gentleman lately from Port Dalhousie informs us that a verdict of Temporary Insanity was returned by a very respectable jury, of which Mr. Black was foreman. The body was then taken to St. Catherine's for interment, and the Rev. Mr. Clark of the Episcopal Church preached a sermon from the extraordinary text in the 27th chapter of Matthew, where it is said that Judas threw down the thirty pieces of silver and went and hanged himself. How the Rev. gentleman contrived to institute a comparison between the amiable, respectable, but too sensitive and desponding subject of this notice with the betrayer of our Lord, we know not. The body was buried

in the Churchyard, but although the preacher had the Coroner's warrant, he refused to perform the funeral rites over the deceased's remains.

“Melancholy suicide”¹²³ (Quebec, 1833)

On Thursday last, a man by the name of Watson Louthorp, a native of England, aged about forty three years, put an end to his existence by taking laudanum. He was engaged in the service of Mr. Austin Adams, *Place d'Armes*, and was observed by his master, probably a few minutes after he had swallowed the potion, to be in a stupid state, which was mistaken for intoxication, and he was accordingly put to his bed. A few hours afterwards, the difficulty and irregularity of his breathing excited alarm, and a physician was called in, who pronounced him to be at the point of death, in consequence of having taken laudanum. He expired in a few minutes. A letter was found under his pillow, by which it was discovered that jealousy was the exciting cause of his committing the rash act. He was a man of good character, and much esteemed by his master for honesty and integrity. A Coroner's inquest was held on the body, which returned a verdict [of], “died in consequence of having taken a large quantity of laudanum.” An ounce phial, which had lately contained laudanum, was found in one of his pockets.

“Destroyed himself by taking laudanum”¹²⁴ (Ontario, 1834)

Yesterday [at Kingston] an inquest was held by Samuel Shaw, Esq., Coroner of this District, on the body of Stephen Watson, a painter and glazier, who destroyed himself by taking laudanum. The unfortunate deceased was an Englishman of intemperate habits, which lately had produced in him great depression of mind. He was discovered before he was quite dead, and a medical gentleman extracted the contents of the stomach by the stomach pump, and ascertained that he had taken a large quantity of laudanum, but all attempts to resuscitate the unhappy man failed. Verdict – “died by taking a large quantity of laudanum, whilst laboring under a temporary fit of insanity produced by drinking ardent spirits to excess.”

“Love, desperation and suicide”¹²⁵ (Ontario, 1834)

The inhabitants of Crediton were much alarmed on Thursday night, in consequence of the discovery that two young persons had committed suicide, by poisoning themselves, at the Royal Oak Inn, in that town.

It appears that two respectable-looking young persons, a man and a woman each about the age of 22, came to the above inn as lodgers on Monday week last. On Thursday the landlady of the inn, not finding them down stairs at their usual hour,

¹²³ From MELANCHOLY SUICIDE. (1833, January 5). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 2.

¹²⁴ From Upper Canada. (1834, February 6). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 2.

¹²⁵ From LOVE, DESPERATION AND SUICIDE. (1834, October 14). *British Whig* (Kingston), p. 2.

knocked at their bed-room door, and was answered by the female, “that they should be down presently,” but on their not appearing by two o’clock in the afternoon, the landlady sent her son to the bed-room door to remind them of the hour, and he was then answered by one of them; which it was, he did not distinctly hear.

Nothing further was thought of them until the evening, when the landlady became alarmed at their non-appearance, and again knocked at their bed-room door. Receiving no reply, she burst it open, when hearing a deep moan, she immediately ran down stairs for assistance. On her return with two other persons, they discovered the man quite dead, and the female in a dying state, locked in each other’s arms. Medical aid was promptly procured and the stomach-pump applied, but without success. On the table was found a pint bottle, with the remains of laudanum in it, and there is no doubt that each of them had voluntarily taken a considerable portion of this deadly drug.

A Coroner’s Inquest was held on their bodies, when it appeared that they were recently married; that the match was disapproved of by the father of the young man, and was clandestinely made; that they were destitute of money; and that the husband had purchased a pint of laudanum some days before at a druggist’s shop in Exeter, and had premeditated self-destruction. It was also proved on the Inquest that the man’s name was Samuel Margerie; that he was a clock and watchmaker, at Heavitree, near Exeter; and that his wife was a respectable young woman from Woodbury, and lately filled the situation of lady’s-maid with a respectable family resident at Dawlish.

The Jury, in each case, brought in a verdict of *felo de se*, and the Coroner ordered their bodies to be interred at midnight (pursuant to the Act of Parliament), without the usual funeral rites.

“An over dose of paregoric”¹²⁶ (New Brunswick, 1841)

On the 5th instant, inquests were held upon the bodies of George and James Hannon, twin infants, five months old, whose deaths were caused by an over dose of paregoric mixed with laudanum, which the mother had obtained from an apothecary, and which she, ignorant of the strength of it, had given in the night to her children to produce sleep.

Verdict: “Accidental death, from an overdose of laudanum and paregoric, ignorantly administered.”

“Dreadful accident”¹²⁷ (Ontario, 1841)

A Coroner’s inquest was held at the Infantry Barracks, Windsor, on Wednesday, on the body of Lieut. Ellis, of the 60th Rifles, who was found by his servant, with his throat cut, in bed, on Tuesday morning. When the servant knocked

¹²⁶ From INQUESTS. (1841, March 9). *Weekly Observer* (St. John), p. 3.

¹²⁷ From DREADFUL ACCIDENT. (1841, April 22). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 2.

at the door, Lieutenant Ellis told him to come in, and not to be afraid. There were two wounds in his throat, one of which had divided the jugular vein. His hands and feet were quite cold, and he was nearly lifeless. He continued to live, however, till Wednesday morning. The surgeon of the Regiment said the deceased had been for a long time unwell, and was in the habit of taking laudanum. He thought he had committed suicide, when in a state of delirium caused by a quantity of laudanum taken on Monday.

“A family failing”¹²⁸ (Ontario, 1844)

John Harris Simons, a man aged 44, poisoned himself at Limehouse last week. Near a laudanum bottle which the deceased had used, was found (in [the] deceased’s hand-writing) a letter (anticipatory of the inquest) addressed to Mr. Baker, coroner, East Middlesex, containing the following singular declaration:-

“Your trouble will be short, for suicide is a family complaint. My grandfather destroyed himself in 1804, my uncle destroyed himself in 1814, and my father destroyed himself in 1824, all through drunkenness.”

“Case of poisoning by Tr. of Opium”¹²⁹ (Canada, 1845)

At half-past eight o’clock, P.M., on the 21st of April last, I was hastily summoned to see S— J—, ætat 40, a cabinet-maker, who had inadvertently swallowed laudanum for Tr. Of Rhubarb. He had taken it at half-past three o’clock, P.M., about five hours before my arrival.

When seen by me he was in bed awake, and quite conscious. The pupils were contracted to the size of a pin’s point, and immovable; the temporal arteries pulsed with great violence; speech was uttered with difficulty; skin dry; pulse 100, and jerking. On examining the phial of poison, I found that he must have taken 10 drachms, which I afterwards verified by measurement.

Being near the General Hospital, I went over to request the assistance of Dr. Scott, the house surgeon; he returned with me, and brought with him a stomach pump. The patient, by my direction, had risen and was beginning to feel the influence of the poison very much, by increasing drowsiness and weakness of the legs; he now also complained of nausea. We gave him a drachm of sulphate of zinc, which brought on vomiting, the matter ejected being coloured with the laudanum. He had taken nothing during the day but a cup of tea. After an interval of half an hour, we gave him another similar emetic, and encouraged the vomiting, until the water swallowed came up clear, when he was directed to take two ounces of vinegar every half hour.

¹²⁸ From A FAMILY FAILING. (1844, August 2). *British Whig* (Kingston), p. 3.

¹²⁹ From Sewell, S. C. (1845). CASE OF POISONING BY TR. OF OPIUM. *The British American Journal of Medical and Physical Science*, 1(3), 61-62.

Soon after the vomiting commenced, a profuse sweat broke out, and the pulse rapidly lost its jerking character, becoming soft, full, and less frequent. During this time his speech became more and more impeded, and the drowsiness augmented. He was now placed between two men, and was walked about during the night.

At half-past eleven o'clock we took our leave, Dr. Scott promising to come in between one and two, and I leaving directions to be sent for if sleep should overpower him. At half-past five o'clock, A.M., I saw him; all symptoms had disappeared, except the contraction of the pupil and difficulty of speech, which did not completely wear off till the following day. For about three hours in the night, it was only by the most assiduous attention that he was prevented from falling asleep.

It appears that he had been suffering for two or three days with colic, which on that day was peculiarly severe; a friend advised the Tr. of Rhubarb. Unfortunately, laudanum had been put into a phial labeled Tr. of Rhubarb, and he swallowed the quantity I have mentioned. We know that severe colic is one of the cases in which there is great tolerance of opium; and, moreover, in this case there was probably some irritation of the mucous membrane of the stomach, which diminished its power of absorption, because a large portion of the laudanum swallowed was thrown up, as we easily ascertained from the circumstance of his having taken only a little tea during the day. The fluid evacuated contained much gastric juice, so that the slow effect of the poison was partly to be referred to digestion of the opium having commenced, a fact supposed to explain the tolerance of opium in delirium tremens.

“On a case of Poisoning by Tincture of Opium”¹³⁰ (Canada, 1845)

Sir – The third number of your Journal contains a “Case of Poisoning by the Tincture of Opium, by S. C. Sewell, M.D.” With your permission I will make a few remarks on it.

There are three questions which may be asked:-

1st. Is recovery after taking ten drachms of laudanum an extraordinary occurrence? 2nd. What degree of tolerance of opium was in reality shown by Dr. Sewell's patient? 3rd. Was the treatment pursued such as is recommended by the best authorities?

With regard to large doses of opium, I believe that when remedial treatment has been timely applied, recovery has taken place in a majority of cases in which ten drachms of laudanum have been taken by adults. Two, three, and even four ounces of laudanum have been swallowed, without fatal effects, by persons not habituated to its use. Dr. Christison relates a successful case, in which eight ounces of crude opium were taken. Mr. Taschereau, M.P.P., took, by mistake, when in Kingston during the last parliament held here, nineteen and a half grains of the acetate of morphia (equal to 2½ times as much as Dr. Sewell's patient swallowed), and recovered, although it was some time before the mistake was discovered, and remedial treatment had

¹³⁰ From Stewart, J. S. (1845). OBSERVATIONS ON A CASE OF “POISONING BY TINCTURE OF OPIUM”. *The British American Journal of Medical and Physical Science*, 1(5), 115-116.

recourse to. To my mind, therefore, there is nothing extraordinary in recovery from ten drachms of laudanum.

With reference to the tolerance of opium displayed by Dr. Sewell's patient, let us judge by what the Dr. himself says:-

"I was hastily summoned," says he, "to see S— J—, ætat 40, a cabinet-maker, who had inadvertently swallowed laudanum for tincture of rhubarb. He had taken it about five hours before my arrival. When seen by me he was in bed awake, and quite conscious. The pupils were contracted to the size of a pin's point, and immovable; the temporal arteries pulsated with great violence; speech was uttered with difficulty; skin dry; pulse 100, and jerking."

His being in bed *awake*, and *quite* conscious, combined with some of the other symptoms is, I must admit, somewhat anomalous, as in general patients require [to be] roused to show their consciousness. Notwithstanding this anomaly (which is not unprecedented; [see] Mr. Semple's case, for instance, reported in 1841), there are a sufficient number of symptoms enumerated by Dr. Sewell, to prove that his patient was laboring strongly under the influence of the narcotic when first seen by him. As Dr. Sewell has not informed us how long a time the man had been under its influence before being seen by him, we are in a great measure left in the dark as to the degree of tolerance exhibited by his patient. This perhaps unavoidable omission in the history of the case is much to be regretted, as we are thereby rendered unable to judge correctly of that part of the case which might otherwise have been interesting, namely, the protraction of the commencement of the symptoms beyond the usual time, probably half-an-hour or an hour from the time of swallowing the opium.

As proof of the tolerance of the opium, Dr. Sewell advances the fact, that "a large portion of the laudanum swallowed up was thrown up, as easily ascertained from the circumstance of his having taken only a little tea during the day." Reasoning on false premises, and jumping to rash conclusions, should be avoided where medical facts are to be ascertained. Experience has shown that persons may vomit what may appear the entire quantity of the laudanum taken, and yet have suffered from its toxicological effects. That a patient may take an opium pill on going to bed at night, and vomit it the next morning, after the narcotic effects have been produced, is a fact resting on observations made as far back even as the time of Van Swieten. And the remark by Tortosa, that opium may act mortally with a very slight deficiency of weight, although questioned by high authority, has never been disproved. I maintain, therefore, that the circumstance of the "matter ejected being *coloured* with laudanum," is no proof that the laudanum had not acted.

Keeping in view, then, the varieties of idiosyncrasy which exist, and the circumstance that Dr. Sewell's patient had taken the laudanum instead of the tincture of rhubarb, for the relief of a "peculiarly severe" colic; reflecting on the possibility of deception, with reference to the *quantity* and *quality* of the contents of the phial, and taking into account that no description is given of the state of the patient between the time he swallowed the contents of the phial, and his being seen by Dr. Sewell, I can see no necessity for referring the tolerance of the poison to two of

the supposed causes, namely, "irritation of the mucous membrane of the stomach," and "digestion of the opium having commenced."

That the tolerance of opium in *delirium cum tremore* had been explained by the fact (?) that digestion is more than ordinarily strong in that disease, had escaped my notice up to the time of Dr. Sewell's observation to that effect. I have no doubt, however, that Dr. Sewell has good authority for making the statement, and I will, therefore, have much pleasure in being further informed regarding it. An extract from the author who has advanced this fact will perchance enlighten many of your readers who are as ignorant as myself on this subject, and may point out an analogy, hitherto unknown to us, between the process of digestion in the human subject in this disease, and the ordinary process of digestion of certain of the herbivora.

Respecting the treatment of Dr. Sewell's patient I may ask, why were emetics given and continued to the exclusion of the use of the stomach pump? What symptoms were there after vomiting to contra-indicate stimulants? And whether if coffee, tea, ammonia, or stimulants of a like name had been given instead of two ounces of vinegar every half hour, there would have been as high a degree of that increased speechlessness and augmented drowsiness, which Dr. Sewell reports as having existed under the vinegar plan of treatment.

"Vinegar," says Dr. Christison, "is undoubtedly one of the best remedies that can be employed as an antidote, for the alkalies and alkaline carbonates, because it converts them into comparatively inactive salts. But in poisoning with metallic compounds, vegetable narcotics, and very many vegetable irritants, where it was once almost invariably used, it does harm for the most part instead of good, because it aids the solution of the active parts of the poisons."

The United States Dispensatory, by Wood and Bache, says, "vinegar has been supposed to be a powerful antidote to the narcotic poisons, but this is a mistake. In the case of opium the best authorities unite in considering it worse than useless; it rather gives activity to the poison than neutralizes it."

If, then, vinegar be repudiated as an antidote for opium, while the opium remains in the stomach, because it aids the solution of the active part of the poison, what is its *modus operandi* as an anti-narcotic after the opium has been rejected from the stomach? And, moreover, supposing it to be an anti-narcotic, are two-ounce doses of undiluted vinegar, as prescribed by Dr. Sewell, preferable to *weak* vinegar and water combined with coffee, as recommended by Orfila? Again, if it be admitted that vinegar will increase the action of opium, if it should meet with it in the stomach or *bowels*, is it not necessary that the opium be evacuated from the *primæ viæ* before the vinegar be prescribed? And was the circumstance that "the water swallowed come up, clear," a certain indication of this in the case of Dr. Sewell's patient? Farther, will it not be better to discard vinegar altogether from practice, in poisoning with opium, if its remedial action be doubtful, and give place to therapeutical agents more powerful, and with whose physiological actions in narcotic poisoning we are better acquainted?

In asking this last question I am quite prepared to answer that Orfila, Paris, Pereira, and others of the greatest celebrity, although they denounce vinegar as an

antidote to opium have nevertheless recommended it as an antinarcotic. I ask, however, if it is not the sheer anchor as an antidote in British Hospitals? In reading the recent reported cases of the British Hospitals, of poisoning with opium, I do not recollect of seeing vinegar mentioned. Taylor, a late and extremely good authority, does not even notice it. What do the late editions of Orfila and Christison say with regard to it?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN S. STEWART,

Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh

Kingston, July, 1845.

“Death from laudanum”¹³¹ (Quebec, 1846)

An inquest was held in the Montreal General Hospital on view of the body of a man named Alexander Campbell, who had been an inmate of the hospital for some time, under treatment for an affliction of the knee joint. It appears from the evidence brought forward at the inquest, that Campbell had been ordered by the attending physician to take 25 drops of laudanum every night, and also – in consequence of his bodily weakness – to take a glass of port wine whenever he chose. The bottle containing the laudanum – a six ounce phial – the one containing the wine – of exactly the same size, and another containing a mixture of quinine, were placed on a table beside the patient’s bed.

The wine bottle was labeled, but the others were not, and on the day preceding Campbell’s death, he awoke and desired a convalescent patient in the same ward to give him some wine; but instead of wine he received and swallowed the whole contents of the laudanum bottle. Medical aid was called in immediately, and every exertion used to counteract the influence of the poison, but it was useless; he expired in about ten hours after he had swallowed the fatal mixture.

The following is the verdict of the jury, and we hope it will be the means of causing a little more caution to be used administering medicine in the Hospital in future:-

“That the deceased died from the effects of laudanum, improperly and through ignorance of its nature, administered to him, by William Halloran, in the belief that the bottle contained port wine. In rendering the verdict, the Jury feel it their duty to remark upon the great want of caution evinced, in leaving so large a quantity as half an ounce of laudanum within reach of a patient. And as it appears from the evidence, that no regulation exists in the Hospital, on the method of dispensing medicines, they conceive themselves bound to recommend the adoption of such wholesome rules for the proper labeling of bottles containing poisonous fluid, and otherwise, as may prevent such fatal mistakes in the future.”

¹³¹ From DEATH FROM LAUDANUM. (1846, December 23). *Hamilton Spectator and Journal of Commerce*, p. 3.

“On poisoning by opium”¹³² (Ontario, 1847)

Two instances of poisoning by opium have occurred in my practice, within the last few months. The first had its origin in pecuniary losses, and presented no features of an interesting nature, except that on recovery extreme vigilance was present, and a long period elapsed before sleep could be procured. The second took place within the last few days, the attempt at suicide being induced by the previous commission of a crime, the painful details of which it would be unnecessary to lay before you.

The patient was a young man, eight and twenty or thirty years of age, naturally very intelligent, but inclined to habits of dissipation, and occasionally indulging in the free use of ardent spirits. His guilt having been discovered and exposed, he resolved upon self-destruction, and for this purpose he procured from a druggist one ounce, by measurement, of tincture of opium. On retiring to his bed room, at a late hour, he swallowed the contents of the phial, but shortly afterwards, being seized with remorse, he gave an alarm, by knocking repeatedly against the partition wall. Pointing, with some excitement of manner, to the hearth on which the phial had been thrown, he observed, “I have done the deed.” It was soon discovered that he had poisoned himself, but from ill-judged and unfounded apprehension, a messenger was despatched in the first instance to the police station, a considerable distance from the spot. Two of the constables on duty promptly arrived, and a second message was *then* sent, requesting my attendance.

I reached the house shortly after midnight, and as near as could be ascertained, about three quarters of an hour after the opium had been taken. The phial had been broken by the fall, and it was evident that a small quantity (probably half a drachm) of the fluid had remained, as traces of it could be seen distinctly on the hearth. He was now in a state of profound coma, or stupor; the pulse quick and small; the respiration somewhat slower than usual, but scarcely to be deemed stertorous; the eye-lids closed, and the pupils rigidly and permanently contracted. The face was pallid; lips somewhat of a blueish tinge; and the skin generally perspirable. The odour from the drug was less perceptible than might have been expected. The stomach must have been empty, or nearly so, at the time the poison was swallowed, and consequently rapid effect took place. [...] Such was the state of my patient on my arrival, and no attempt at treatment of any sort had been resorted to by those whom the report of the event had attracted to the spot.

I had brought a drachm of sulphate of zinc with me, and directing that he should be immediately raised and held in the upright posture by two men, I contrived to give him half of it in a little tepid water, which was a matter of no small difficulty, from the almost totally suspended power of deglutition. He was then dragged round the room, more like a corpse than a living being, and fortunately [an] abundance of

¹³² From Grasett, G. R. (1847). ON POISONING BY OPIUM. *The British American Journal of Medical and Physical Science*, 2(12), 313-315. “Read before the Toronto Medico-Chirurgical Society, 2d December, 1846.” Written by Dr. George R. Grasset (1849 – 1886).

help was at hand for this purpose, as it required almost Herculean strength to support his weight, his form being very muscular, and his height upwards of six feet.

Fifteen or twenty minutes had elapsed, and no effect was produced by the zinc; the other half was therefore given, the stomach pump being rendered useless from the accidental loss at the moment of a very important part of the tube. I was, therefore, obliged to proceed with such means were at hand, but as no effort at vomiting was yet manifested, I began to think that it would be almost impossible to supply the want of an apparatus so essential in cases of this description.

Draughts of warm water were poured down from time to time; constant motion kept up in the manner already described, and at length I had the gratification of seeing a copious ejection from the stomach of a dark coloured fluid. The effect of this was very marked, for consciousness now began, in some measure, to return, and warm water could be swallowed without much difficulty. After each act of vomiting, sensibility seemed to increase; articulation was partially restored; and he was now apparently aware that he was under medical treatment, for, opening his eyes (which he had great difficulty in doing), he implored me to allow him to lie down, even if only for a few minutes.

The desire for sleep was most pressing, and resistance to it was evidently painful to him. He continued occasionally to entreat for permission to rest, but as yet, this would have been manifestly improper; and the absolute necessity, therefore, of continuing in motion having been impressed upon him, his supporters renewed their trying office with unwearied assiduity.

Whether occasioned by the narcotic, or whether from the acrid effect of the zinc, I was unable to determine, but at this time thirst was much complained of, and he begged that cold water might be substituted for the strong coffee, which had latterly been very plentifully supplied. To this request I readily yielded, and I fear that I should be thought desirous of imposing upon your credulity, were I to state the aggregate quantity of his potations within the short space of one hour.

From this period he rapidly improved, walking with but little support, and at length, about day light, he was permitted to lie down, and indulge the now much diminished desire for repose. At seven o'clock in the morning, he was in a tranquil slumber, from which he was easily aroused, and in reply to my inquiry, expressed himself free from uneasiness, except perhaps a slight degree of headache. A light breakfast was recommended, with a small quantity of brandy and water, to be taken immediately afterwards, and some gently aperient medicine in the course of the morning. No interruption to convalescence subsequently occurred.

“The death of Mr. Solomon Landon”¹³³ (Ontario, 1848)

Brockville, Jan. 20 – 7 p.m.

Suicide – It is with regret that we announce, this evening, an event which, fortunately, is of rare occurrence in our neighborhood. We allude to the death of Mr.

¹³³ From BY TELEGRAPH. (1848, January 24). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 2.

Solomon Landon, who has, by his own account, rushed, unbidden, into the presence of his Creator. Mr. Landon was a resident of Elmsley, in this County, from which place he came to Brockville, yesterday morning, about 9 o'clock, and, after having transacted some business during the day, he retired to bed, about 8 o'clock, p.m., complaining of a slight indisposition. A person who slept in the adjoining room occupied by Mr. Landon, entered it, and found him, as he thought, in a fit; but, on discovering two phials in the room, labeled "poison," suspected that Mr. L. had endeavored to destroy himself. A medical gentleman was immediately sent for, but arrived too late, as the poison had been taken some hours previously.

The unfortunate man seemed fully bent on self-destruction – if we may judge from the manner in which he procured the drug – having purchased two phials, each containing an ounce of laudanum, at different Druggists. Mr. L. had been laboring under partial aberration of mind for some months previously.

"Temporary insanity"¹³⁴ (Ontario, 1851)

An inquest was held yesterday in the house of Mr. John Watkins, a very respectable person, Richmond Street, on view of the body of one of his daughters, a young woman between 17 and 18 years of age. It appeared from evidence that deceased had on Monday sent a younger sister to an apothecary's in Queen Street, for some laudanum, and stated to her that she was to use it to dye some things. Nothing further was known of the affair until yesterday morning, when [the] deceased became alarmingly ill. Her appearance indicated that poison had been taken. The stomach pump was applied and laudanum extracted.

The jury returned a verdict [of], "Died from having taken a dose of laudanum while laboring under temporary insanity."

"Suicide at Mile's Hotel"¹³⁵ (Ontario, 1852)

A person of the name of Andrew Wallace, a native of Scotland, committed suicide at Mile's Hotel, Hamilton, on Thursday night last, by taking a large quantity of Laudanum. He was only about a month in this country, and had been employed on the Great Western Railroad near London. An inquest was held before J. Bray, Esq., Coroner, and a verdict recorded that the deceased came to his death in consequence of having taken a large quantity of laudanum while laboring under temporary insanity.

¹³⁴ From An inquest. (1851, February 3). *Daily British Whig* (Kingston), p. 2.

¹³⁵ From SUICIDE. (1852, August 12). *Daily British Whig* (Kingston), p. 2.

“Died last night from the effects of laudanum”¹³⁶ (Ontario, 1853)

An Inquest was held at Frankford on Friday last by R. Munro, Esq., Coroner, on the body of Mrs. Divine, wife of John Divine, Innkeeper at that place, who died the evening previous from the effects of laudanum. It appeared in evidence, as the verdict shows, that Divine’s habits of intemperance and misconduct towards her, had so wrought upon her delicate frame, that in a moment of despair (as it is assumed) she took this method of putting an end to her existence.

The principal witness at the Inquest was a servant girl, who stated that the deceased sent her for laudanum the evening before her death, giving as a reason that it was for a pain in her stomach; the next morning after breakfast, of which she partook, she retired to her room, where, it is supposed, she took the contents of an ounce vial of the poison; she soon after called the girl to get her some milk, as she was very sick, and the girl went to procure some at a neighbor’s. Divine, who had been absent since breakfast, on coming in two or three hours later and finding what had occurred, gave her a mustard emetic, upon which she threw up a portion of the laudanum, but soon after became insensible.

“Infanticide and attempted suicide”¹³⁷ (Ontario, 1854)

A shocking act of child murder and attempted suicide was committed in Niagara, on Saturday night last, by Mrs. Lathrop, the wife of one Martin Lathrop, who was in the employ of Messrs. Brainards, Williams & Co., at the Niagara Railway Car Manufactory. The parties, we understand, were from Vermont, and had only resided in Niagara about eight weeks. Mrs. Lathrop gave birth to a male child on the 24th ult., and it seems that a few days subsequent to that event her husband abandoned her – to take up, it is said, or at any rate as she believed, with another woman, and it is supposed they have returned to the States.

This heartless and cruel conduct on the part of him who ought to have been her most faithful protector, and occurring at such a time, too, preyed on the poor woman’s mind until it drove her to attempt the destruction of both herself and infant.

From the evidence adducted on the inquest it appeared that on Saturday night Mrs. Lathrop, and another person who was assisting her throughout her confinement, went to bed as usual with the infant, all three sleeping together. Some time after 3 o’clock, the nurse being woken up by the child crying, got up after some remonstrance from Mrs. Lathrop to make a fire, when she found the room not as they had left it on retiring to bed. Three drawers of a bureau had been emptied and the contents containing the clothes of the unhappy woman had been taken out and burnt in the stove. An empty bottle of laudanum stood by the bed-side, and on a stand the nurse

¹³⁶ From FRUITS OF INTEMPERANCE. (1853, November 29). *Daily News* (Kingston), p. 2.

¹³⁷ From INFANTICIDE AND ATTEMPTED SUICIDE. (1854, February 11). *Daily News* (Kingston), p. 2.

discovered a sheet of paper, folded up, which contained the following lines written in pencil:-

“I do this myself, when they are all asleep – why Martin has gone away, I do not know. I state my death on him.”

The nurse, fearing some great calamity, woke up another family in the house, and the Doctor was instantly sent for. Meanwhile, Mrs. Lathrop and child both showed alarming symptoms of the effect of poison. Mrs. Lathrop, who expressed her desire to die, was revived and ultimately placed out of danger.

The infant, however, died about 8 o'clock A.M., and on the post-mortem examination, it was proved that it died from the effects of laudanum administered to it. These facts were clearly substantiated, and the principal question with the Jury seemed to be [the] state of the prisoner's mind at the time of the murder. That she was in deep distress at the barbarous conduct of her husband, as she believed, was evident; but it did not appear from the testimony that she was at all insane, or ignorant of what she was doing – although [she] was undoubtedly blind to the consequences of her act. It was a delicate point, however, and the jury gave the benefit of their doubts to the prisoner, and found her guilty of her infant's death, being of unsound mind at the time of committing the crime.

“Found dead in his bed”¹³⁸ (Ontario, 1854)

On Saturday afternoon, an inquest was held by Dr. King, in the Shades Hotel, [Brantford,] on the body of an elderly man named Reuben Massey, an Englishman, who was found dead in his bed that morning, in a house in Melinda street, where he had been lodging a few days. The deceased had been working as a gardener in the city and vicinity for the last twelve months. He had complained of being very unwell the previous night; and after his death, an empty laudanum bottle was found in his pocket.

“Supposed suicide”¹³⁹ (Ontario, 1854)

A man named James Purcell, a ship-carpenter, who had been employed on the *Europa*, was noticed acting very strangely in the bar-room of Hudspith's tavern, [Hamilton,] near the lake, on Wednesday evening. He was soon after taken very ill, and from some stains on his face, it was feared he had been taking laudanum. He was immediately removed to the City Hospital and proper medical attendance procured. The suspicions proved correct – the unfortunate man had taken a dose of laudanum, but assistance came too late – he died early yesterday morning.

An inquest was held on the body before H. B. Bull, Esq., Coroner, at one o'clock yesterday. After an examination of about three hours, the jury rendered a verdict that

¹³⁸ From CORONER'S INQUEST. (1854, June 6). *Conservative Expositor* (Brantford), p. 3.

¹³⁹ From SUPPOSED SUICIDE. (1854, December 16). *Hamilton Spectator and Journal of Commerce*, p. 2.

the deceased, James Purcell, came to his death in consequence of the habitual use of intoxicating liquor, stimulated by opium.

“The Brown case”¹⁴⁰ (Ontario, 1855)

The Coroner’s Jury have found a verdict of manslaughter against Dickson, a medical student, who administered medicine (morphia) to a man here [Toronto], whereof they say he died. Half a grain of morphia is a dose. Dickson gave 15 grains, which would poison a person, but Drs. Rolph, Aikins and Telfer say the man (Brown) died of dysentery. The medical gentlemen who examined the body considered that the morphia and the means used afterward caused Brown’s death, and the jury *very properly* censured the unjust practice of allowing inexperienced medical students to tamper with human life, administer dangerous drugs and receive doctors’ fees, though neither licensed nor at all qualified to act as physicians. Dickson was committed.

“The Broom and Blackie poisoning cases”¹⁴¹ (Ontario, 1855)

“Thus with our hellish drugs, death’s ceaseless fountains,
In these bright vales, o’er these green mountains,
Worse than the very plague we raged.
I have myself to thousands *poison* given
And heard their *murderer* praised as blessed by Heaven,
Because with *nature strife he waged.*”
Goethe’s *Faust*.

“There has been a great increase of medical men it is true, of late years; but upon my life diseases have increased in proportion.” – Abernathy’s *Surgical Lectures*.

During the past four weeks, they have had very exciting times in the medical department in Toronto, and if such a state of things is to continue they have not much assurance of peace and quietness in that city. Before the medical faculty was broken up in the University, a very bad feeling existed between its Professors and those of the Toronto School of Medicine. And this feeling was not merely confined to the Professors of both schools; it extended also to the students, and led to many a battle between both parties. Since the medical department was dispensed with in the University, this rival spirit of revenge has been manifested in an increased degree between the Toronto school and that of Trinity College. The feelings of hatred and revenge which had been stirred up between them have frequently rendered them

¹⁴⁰ From THE BROWN CASE. (1855, August 3). *Daily News* (Kingston), p. 2.

¹⁴¹ From The Broom and Blackie Poisoning Cases. (1855, August 24). *The Semi-Weekly Expositor, Railway Advocate and General Advertiser* (Brantford), p. 2.

ridiculous in the eyes of the people. They have recently committed themselves to such an extent as to bring their profession into disrepute.

The chief scene of conflict betwixt both parties was the General Hospital. Trinity school wanted to monopolize the whole Hospital, and adopted various measures to exclude the other school from enjoying any benefit therefrom. Such selfishness required and deserved a check, and it was not long forthcoming. One of the students of the Toronto school wrote a letter which appeared in one of the city papers; in this he took occasion to point out several instances of malpractice and gross neglect which occurred in the Hospital, and ascribed these to the medical Professors of Trinity College. An investigation of the matter took place by the proper authorities, and the result of it was to bear out the charges made by the student alluded to. It was proved very clearly that the institution was conducted in a very inefficient manner.

The Doctors of Trinity College were anxious to retaliate, and they had the opportunity of doing so a month ago. Jacob Broom was taken sick and Mr. Dickson, one of Dr. Rolph's students, prescribed for him. The dose administered was morphia, but in too large a quantity. The evil effects of the overdose soon became manifest. Broom was thrown into a stupor, and notwithstanding that efforts were made to restore him, he died from the effects of the poison which was very imprudently and rashly administered to him. This tragedy would not at all [have been] noticed had it not been for the Professors of Trinity. Two of them conducted the *post mortem* examination, and they spared neither pains nor trouble in raking up everything imaginable to incriminate Dickson and bring the Toronto school into disrepute. Dickson was found guilty of manslaughter and Drs. Rolph and Aikins were severely censured for allowing him to practice.

About two weeks ago a case occurred which gave Dr. Rolph's party a chance to retaliate, and they were not tardy in availing themselves of this privilege. An individual named John Blackie was taken ill a few miles from Toronto, and Dr. Philbrick of Trinity College was called upon to drug the unfortunate patient, which he did with a vengeance and soon terminated his existence. A *post mortem* examination was held on his body and the affair was wound up the other day by acquitting Dr. Philbrick. It is generally believed that the first dose he administered was at least seven grains of morphia, equal to about forty-two grains of opium or about 1,000 drops of laudanum. Within the period of four hours there was given to him in all no less than 19 grains of morphia, which equals 114 grains of opium or 2,850 drops of laudanum. Nothing is more evident than that the man was poisoned; such a large quantity was sufficient to destroy even a giant. Dr. Philbrick, in our opinion, has committed as great a blunder as Mr. Dickson, and deserves equal punishment. If the former is allowed to go free, the latter should also.

No doubt multitudes are killed in the same way as Broom and Blackie were. Undoubtedly more are slain than cured by the profession. If nature was allowed to have her own course we believe our grave-yards would be more thinly peopled. Morphia and mercury have slain their thousands and the lancet not a few. The *mortar and pestle* are destroying more infants diurnally in Canada than fell in the Herodian massacre in Bethlehem.

“Injudicious use of laudanum”¹⁴² (Ontario, 1856)

An inquest was held yesterday by Dr. Scott, at the Hart Inn, corner of Duchess and George streets, [Kingston,] on the body of William Farrell, who had expired suddenly at his house, No. 35, Duchess street, at 7 o'clock in the morning.

The deceased was a married man. He was rather sickly on the preceding day, complaining of having the bowel complaint. Between 4 and 5 in the evening he took a few drops of laudanum and whiskey. About an hour afterwards he took a second dose, and after supper a third. By this time he had taken about four drachms of the anodyne, and still wished to get more. An ounce was accordingly sent for, of which he only got three or four drops. He did not seem to sleep much during the night. A little before six, his daughter left the house on business; he was then asleep. When she returned in half an hour, she saw her father lying as she had left him, and attempted to waken him, but found he was dead. The laudanum was kept in the house for use in case of sickness.

Dr. Hallowell was called in about eight o'clock, and on examining the body, he found it retained part of its natural heat, and was lying in a perfectly easy position. [The] deceased was of a stout, muscular frame, and had evidently not been suffering under protracted illness. From the appearance of the body and the above facts, the doctor was of the opinion that the deceased came to his death from a fit of apoplexy, hastened by the injudicious use of laudanum. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with this opinion.

The Coroner commented on the improper conduct of druggists in disposing of laudanum in large quantities, without having a physician's prescription. He regretted the pernicious habit prevailing in this city of using laudanum to a great extent, which was, no doubt, partially owing to its being so easily accessible.

“Numerous instances of self-destruction”¹⁴³ (Ontario, 1856)

Judging from the numerous instances of self-destruction which cross our vision in the newspapers of Europe and America, a large proportion (considering the nature of the contingency) seem to find this world not so enticing as to induce a desire for prolonged residence in it. While preachers and teachers inculcate the abnegation of worldly things, and even the world itself, as a principle of Christian ethics, too many, we find, without reference to any principle of morality or faith, eagerly rid themselves of life to escape either the real or imaginary evils to which they are liable in the world. Mental disquietude, incurable physical infirmities, pecuniary losses, social disputes, and various other causes of despondency have their several effects in driving the unhappy victims to the surest, yet most objectionable, of all remedies, death. Strychnia and laudanum are now the favorite potent agents employed in the

¹⁴² From INJUDICIOUS USE OF LAUDANUM. (1856, September 8). *Daily News* (Kingston), p. 2.

¹⁴³ From Judging from the numerous instances. (1856, September 18). *Daily News* (Kingston), p. 2.

melancholy work, to guard against the sale and proper use of which seems to have baffled all legislative enactments and local precautionary regulations.

The Toronto papers of Tuesday relate two instances of suicide. One is that of a person named John Cinnamon, well known to most of our citizens, who kept a small tavern in Barrie Street, and who sold his place about a year ago, and went to Toronto. The account before us says he was a brewer by trade, and being unsuccessful in getting employment, and deeply regretting the sale of his property, brought on a fit of despondency which drove him to the rash act. He was seen by his son to pour a liquid out of a vial and drink it on Friday evening, after which he went out of the house, and was found on Saturday evening quite dead in a retired place known as Ridout's Bush. The deceased was said to have been of temperate habits, and his death is attributed to laudanum.

The other case was that of a Maria Connors, who had long been subject to occasional fits of "melancholy of an extreme character." On Saturday evening she provided herself with a vial of laudanum, and went to bed, where she was found by a member of the family in a stupefied state, which resisted all medical treatment (two physicians having been immediately summoned), and she soon expired. A broken vial that had contained the laudanum was found near her bed.

The *Globe*, from which we abridge the above particulars, in closing its account, says: "It was only the other day that Coroner Scott pointed out the necessity for caution, on the part of druggists, in selling laudanum in larger quantities than may be required for a dose or two, without the written order of a respectable party, or a prescription. Had this wholesome admonition been acted on, possibly this casualty might not have occurred. We believe strychnine and arsenic are the only active poisons in the sale of which any caution is exercised, while other equally dangerous drugs, such as laudanum or prussic acid, may be bought by any person in any quantity."

"Morphine to her daughter's child"¹⁴⁴ (Ontario, 1861)

Mrs. Jacob Demerest gave morphine to her daughter's child, which caused its death. She afterwards opened a vein in her arm, swallowed red precipitate and died. She poisoned the child because it was born four months after the daughter's marriage, whose husband had left her. The parties live in Unionville, [Ontario,] near Rochester. Mrs. D.'s death took place on Saturday last.

"Suicide at Sarnia"¹⁴⁵ (Ontario, 1861)

On Tuesday morning last, Patrick Sheridan, an old and well-known resident of this Town, committed suicide by taking Laudanum. It appears he was troubled with a sore leg, and had been failing very much for some weeks past. This, with some

¹⁴⁴ From All Sorts of Paragraphs. (1861, May 24). *Ingersoll Chronicle*, p. 2.

¹⁴⁵ From SUICIDE AT SARNIA. (1861, October 29). *Daily British Whig* (Kingston), p. 2.

family differences which pressed upon him, was evidently the cause of his resorting to self-destruction, in order to free himself from his troubles.

On Monday last he was in Town and bought¹⁴⁶ some Laudanum, called upon several parties with whom he was acquainted; and having paid some few debts, bid them good bye; saying that he did not think they would see him again. He told his wife it was the last time she would make his bed; also, that he had taken Laudanum, which, it appears, she did not believe.

He went to bed about 7 o'clock, and fell into a heavy sleep at once. No doctor was sent for, nor did any person remain in the house with him – his wife and children being in a house a few rods distant. His wife visited him twice during the night, and at both of her visits he was sleeping heavily. She went again to see him in the morning about 6 o'clock, and found him nearly dead.

An Inquest was held on the body by Coroner McMullen, and a verdict of suicide rendered in accordance with the facts.

“The death of John Wood”¹⁴⁷ (B.C., 1863)

The Coroner’s Jury, summoned to inquire into the cause of the death of the late John Wood, resumed their sitting at the Boomerang Inn, [Victoria,] yesterday afternoon. [...]

EVIDENCE OF H. SIEBIRST

Henry Siebirst, sworn – [I] am an actor; on Thursday evening last, about 20 minutes past nine o'clock, I visited Mr. Wood at Dr. De Wolfe’s premises and asked, “are you not asleep yet?” Dr. De Wolfe came into the room with a cupful of medicine of some kind; there was a chair between the bed and the door; I asked, referring to the medicine, “laudanum?” The doctor did not answer, but said, “Mr. Wood, it’s very nice; I’ve mixed it up in some molasses.”

The doctor had given him laudanum once before, and I thought this dose was similar. The color was dark, like molasses. I went out of the room on account of the bad smell of the medicine, and did not see [the] deceased swallow it. [I] heard through the partition Mr. Wood say afterward that “it did not taste bad.”

I laid my head on a table and fell asleep; [I] was awakened soon afterward by the alarm of fire, and ran out of the house. [I] was gone about fifteen minutes, and when I returned I told Mr. Wood that the fire was in the *Evening Express* building; he said something in reply. I then laid down on the floor of an adjoining room so that I might be within call if wanted.

¹⁴⁶ “He [...] purchased an ounce of laudanum from an unsuspecting young man in Mr. McLean’s drug shop. [...] The young man who sold the poison was subsequently brought before Alfred Fisher, Esq., and fined the sum of \$1 and costs, the smallest the law allows in such cases, and which, considering the youth and inexperience of the lad in such matters, and the unquestionable appearance of the old man, he had a right to claim. [The] deceased was about 50 years old.” POISONED BY LAUDANUM. (1861, November 7). *The Hamilton Weekly Spectator*, p. 3.

¹⁴⁷ From THE DEATH OF JOHN WOOD. (1863, June 2). *Daily Chronicle* (Victoria), p. 3.

In the morning, when I awoke, I put the blankets under Mr. Wood's bed. He was lying asleep half-way out of his bed; I lifted him up and put him in the middle of the bed.

He said "Hallo, who's there?"

I replied, "I'm putting you in the middle of the bed."

Said he, "How did I get there?"

I told him that I supposed he had rolled over in his sleep.

The sleep appeared to be an ordinary one. I was absent about twenty minutes, and when I returned I found him asleep. I came in several times during the day and found him asleep each time; at 4 o'clock in the afternoon I said to Mr. Dyson, who takes care of the place, "Mr. Wood is having a long sleep, and I am going to ask the Doctor if he's not sleeping too long."

The doctor was out, and I ran and told Mr. Griffin that Mr. Wood was breathing very hard; Mr. Griffin thought it ought to be attended to. About 5 o'clock I found the doctor at home, told him about what was the matter with Mr. Wood, and he accused me of having given him something; I denied having done so.

The doctor said he thought we could recover him by giving him a bath. We first gave him what I believe was vinegar and sugar. A bath, which the doctor said was tepid, was also given [to the] deceased.

I ran again after Mr. Griffin, and when I returned the doctor gave [the] deceased what he said was an emetic. I asked Mr. Wood if he had taken anything. He was breathing very hard with his eyes open; the breathing was hard, like snoring, accompanied by dingling [sic.] in the throat. I asked him if I had given him anything; he replied, "No." Did anybody give you anything today? "No." Did the doctor give you anything last night? "Yes." I asked him if he knew where he was, and he replied "yes," several times.

Before the doctor came Dyson and myself tried to arouse him, and he said that he felt pain all over his body; the doctor said that he thought he could get him all right in a little while, and made mesmeric passes over him, which I thought was the wrong way to proceed about. Having traveled with a party who did that business, I knew something about it (laughter). The doctor said that Dr. Haggin knew something, and I went after him.

To a Juror – The medicine was in a cup; it was administered between 10 and 11 o'clock on Thursday night, and the next afternoon, about 4 o'clock, I obtained an answer from him; when the mesmerism took place, the doctor pulled his hands backwards and forwards from the deceased's head; he said he would get a little strength into him. The doctor kept saying, "he's getting quite nice now; he's coming to," and so forth. I asked him a question and the Doctor advised me not to speak to him. The cup seemed about half-full. [I] had been in the habit of giving [the] deceased morphine pills to quiet him; the last pills, four in number, I got about four weeks ago on Johnson street.

To the Coroner – I gave no medicine of any kind during the three weeks that he was sick at Dr. De Wolfe's, except pills which the Doctor left there. [I] heard the doctor say once that seven pills would keep [the] deceased's bowels open and keep

him quiet until morning. For a few days previous to his death Mr. W. appeared to be getting better, but he suffered a great deal from pain on the day previous to his death.

Dr. De Wolfe (who was in the room) here asked permission to put questions, or, at least, to make a few remarks on the testimony; but the Coroner decided that privilege could not be allowed. Dr. De Wolfe hoped that all witnesses would be summoned, as he, as well as the public, was anxious that the fullest investigation should be had in the case.

Witnesss – The doctor stated to others that the medicine which he gave to Mr. Wood was a light powder mixed with peppermint to take the taste away. I [smelled] no peppermint.

EVIDENCE OF DR. DE WOLFE

C. H. De Wolfe, sworn – I am a Doctor of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. [I] considered Mr. Wood my personal friend. Three weeks ago last Friday I visited Mr. Wood in this house (Boomerang). I found him in a very critical state of health. All his joints were swollen, and he was unable to turn himself in bed. He could eat nothing – could keep nothing down. [I] found that he had not only local but general troubles. I knew his destitution and said to him, “Johnny (having known him familiarly for some time) you will die unless you leave this house.” He swore by all the gods at once that he’d drink no more if I would take charge of him. Drink was the cause of his sickness. I took him to my bosom like a child; I carried him in my arms to and from his bath and succeeded in reducing the swelling of his joints and the excessive pains he labored under. The means employed were simple; I trusted almost entirely to nature, and my course of treatment is open to the inspection of all whose business it is to inquire into such things. My success–

The Coroner declined to hear anything irrelevant.

Witness – Well, he was rapidly recovering up to Tuesday night last. He then complained of feeling bad; [he] said he feared he’d sat up too long. [I] gave him a cathartic, and on the following morning he felt relieved. On Wednesday night he complained that he could not sleep well, and I gave him a diuapheretic powder, one-ninth of which (less than one grain) was opium. This powder was ejected from his stomach during the night. In the morning [I] found him sleeping. At noon he still slept, and [I] told [my] wife that Harry Siebirst (previous witness) must have given him some narcotic.

[The] deceased died on Friday evening, not Thursday evening, as stated by [the] previous witness, at four o’clock in the afternoon. [I] believed that he had got a light narcotic. [I] mentioned [my] suspicion to Mr. Dyson, who replied that Henry Siebirst said that this morning he had given him laudanum. This confirmed [my] suspicion, and [I] immediately prepared an emetic consisting of equal parts lobelia and ipecacuanha, but before administering it [I] thought of giving a gill of vinegar to neutralize the effect of the opium. [I] gave the [the] deceased a warm bath, and subsequently applied cold water to his temples with a sponge. This seemed to revive him considerably, and he opened his eyes. [I] then addressed him as follows: “John, have you taken a narcotic? Siebirst gave it you? Two teaspoonsful?” To all these questions [the] deceased made a motion of assent with his head.

[The] witness here described the pathetic manner of Siebirst when he thought Mr. Wood was dying, [and] denied that he (witness) was mesmerizing Mr. Wood; [he] was rubbing his stomach and bathing him in camphorated spirits. [He] followed an emetic up with two glasses of warm bone-set tea. [The] deceased then began to sink rapidly. When the emetic was offered him, [the] deceased at first objected to take it, until somebody suggested it was "old Tom," when the poor man gulped it down and seemed glad to get it.

"He died at half-past seven on Thursday night," [continued Dr. De Wolfe. "I] have had 140 patients since I have been in town, and no one has died under my care." [The doctor] made no inspection to ascertain whether the disease was accompanied by organic disease of the heart. [He] believed that [the] deceased's lungs and heart were sound, [and that] Mr. Wood brought on his disease by intemperance and exposure to the inclemency of the weather. [...]

The inquest here took a recess until seven o'clock.

EVENING SESSION [– EVIDENCE OF ROBERT BISHOP]

The jury re-assembled at 7 o'clock.

Robert Bishop sworn – I am a Solicitor of Medical Jurisprudence. On Thursday last about 7 o'clock, I saw Siebirst come out of Dr. De Wolfe's, and he said to me, "Mr. Bishop, poor Mr. Wood is dead or dying." I had known Wood for some months previously. Siebirst said, "Dr. De Wolfe has been giving him something which has killed him, and now he wants to put the fault on me". The youth was crying very much. He said Dr. De Wolfe says "I have given him laudanum, but I have done nothing of the sort; I should like to know what the doctor gave him the night before, and I should like to know what he vomited."

When I went to the house at p.m. 7.30 to 8 o'clock, I found Dr. Haggin standing on the right-hand side of the deceased. Dr. De Wolfe was supporting the deceased with his hand. I said, "Is he dead?" Dr. De Wolfe answered [that] he is at his last gasp. I said, "What remedies have been applied?" On which Dr. De Wolfe threw down the blankets, and said his pulsation had ceased. Dr. De Wolfe began to make a statement, but removing the blankets to try the action of the heart, found there was none. Then Dr. De Wolfe replied to my question; Dr. De Wolfe's statement to-day was substantially correct. * * * I (Bishop) had heard the statement of the boy, and thought it strange that on finding the stertorous breathing he did not call in other aid. I am not Siebirst's adviser. I am only a friend of John Wood, and never received one shilling for my services. Dr. De Wolfe said he put him to a tepid bath, I found the boy Siebirst and Dr. Wolfe's statements so contradictory that I made a statement to the Coroner; I was under the impression that the vinegar had been applied externally.

The Coroner then read the witness' evidence.

[EVIDENCE OF THOMAS DYSON]

Thomas Dyson sworn – I am a servant to Dr. DeWolfe. Between 9 and 10 on Thursday morning, Harry came in and said, "Wood sleeps well; that is from the effects of the laudanum." I said "How do you know it?" "Because I have given him laudanum." (The witness spoke so indistinctly that reporters could not hear him.) He came in again when I was at dinner; he was then holloaing [sic.] out to Mr. Wood to speak,

and hitting him hard for 3 or 4 minutes. At last Wood spoke. Mr. Wood asked, "What's the matter?" "Nothing," said Siebirst, "what is the matter with you? What have you been taking?" "Nothing," said Wood. I told Siebirst to leave him alone until the doctor came home. He went off about 5 o'clock. About half an hour later the doctor returned, and he came into the room where Wood was, and gave him, between 5 and 6, some vinegar and sugar to drink.

This witness was quite sure that Siebirst said he had given him laudanum himself.

[Replying to a question] by Dr. De Wolfe – He told me he had morphine pills, and showed me three in a box, eight days ago before the deceased died. I asked him where he got them. He said a friend had got them made up at Langley Bros. for him to make Wood sleep. I did not tell the doctor until [that] night that Siebirst said he had given him something.

By the Coroner – Why did you not tell the Doctor at 12 o'clock that Siebirst had given him something?

[Witness –] Because I thought it was all right.

[Coroner –] Did you ever know him to give him anything at any time before?

[Witness –] I did not; I did not think the sleep suspicious. I did not see Siebirst give him anything, nor know it until he told me.

[Replying to a question] by a Juror – He came to Dr. De Wolfe's on the night of his benefit. Dr. De Wolfe nursed him like a child. I assisted him; he gave him all he wanted, and if he had not it, sent for it.

[EVIDENCE OF RICHARD CRANSHAW]

Richard Cranshaw sworn – I am an actor; I have known [the] deceased 6 or 7 years. I never knew him in ill health until I met him in Victoria, within the last year. To the best of my recollection, in Olympia, when suffering from rheumatic pain, he told me that he was in the habit of taking morphine to relieve him. When I was ill in Victoria he told me, to the best of my recollection, that he was in the habit of taking 4 grains at a dose. I know it was a large quantity, and double what I could take.

[EVIDENCE OF J. B. HAGGIN, M.D.]

J. B. Haggin, M.D., sworn – Last Thursday evening, about 7 o'clock, Siebirst came down in great haste and wanted me to go to Dr. De Wolfe's and see Wood. He told me he thought Wood was dying. He said Dr. De Wolfe was attending him, and it was at Dr. De Wolfe's request that he called me. I went up and found Mr. Wood lying on a couch, with Dr. De Wolfe supporting his head. His face was bathed in a cold clammy sweat and blanched, eyes partly closed, mouth open, and complete relaxation of all the muscles. His pulse was gone. He was gasping at long intervals; I saw him do so half a dozen times before he expired. I elicited from Dr. De Wolfe that he had a suspicion that some opium or laudanum had been given to him by Mr. Siebirst. He was too far gone for resuscitative measures; I stood by and saw him expire.

I would not have come to any conclusion as to his death except from what the doctor said. I assisted in making a post mortem examination. I have heard the testimony of the different witnesses. If a poisonous dose of any mixture was given to a person, it would manifest itself in a few minutes if given in a fluid form, or longer

in a solid. A man might live from ten at night until next night at 7.30. Patients sink gradually into a sound sleep. Dr. De Wolfe's treatment for a narcotic dose was not the treatment I should have adopted; it was not good. I would seek to inform myself whether the patient was suffering from a long illness and rheumatism or had heart disease. I would not use warm baths; instead of stimulating [the patient] it would have a contrary effect. Cold water dashed on his head and [a] warm bath was not good practice; it was bad.

[EVIDENCE OF CHARLES FORBES, M.D, M.R.C.S]

Charles Forbes, M.D., M.R.C.S. – I have made an analysis of the contents of the stomach of the deceased.

Dr. Forbes read a long and elaborate paper on the state of the stomach, kidneys, hearts, lungs, and brain of [the] deceased. [...] The stomach contained about ten ounces of a yellow green fluid, about the thickness of gruel. There was no smell of morphia, but rather of vegetable acid. Morphia, which is a constituent of laudanum and opium, was there in sufficient quantity to account for death. [He] could not say in what quantity, and it was not necessarily, considering the wasted state of the heart, a large quantity. The flaccid state of the heart increased the poisonous effect of the opium.

"I do not think," [said Dr. Forbes,] "Dr. De Wolfe's treatment the best adapted to restore the deceased." The means resorted to, to restore animation, were bad. Vinegar would make any preparation of morphia more soluble, consequently more poisonous. If the opium, by mechanical means, an emetic, or absorption was removed from the stomach, vinegar or any vegetable acid to restore animation would not be injurious. A very small quantity of opium would be absorbed in 20 hours, though the effects might continue. A large quantity might be entangled in the stomach, and [should] the stomach remain inactive, then the vinegar would prompt the action of the stomach and dissolve the poison.

"Lobelia and Ipecahuana," [continued Dr. Forbes,] "were the very last things I should have used as an emetic". The cold water was the saving chance of his life in the warm bath; immersion in the warm bath was likely to asphyxiate him. The usual period of life after fatal doses of narcotics poison does not exceed 12 hours. "I do not conceive the dose was necessarily more than an ordinary dose. I should, knowing the suspicion at four o'clock, have immediately evacuated the stomach. I should have used sulphate of zinc, an emetic that is certain to act, used cold water, rubbed the chest, and applied mustard poultice."

W. M. Searby, analytical chemist, sworn – I have heard the notes of the analysis read by Dr. Forbes, and agree with them.

Dr. Haggin, recalled, concurred in the notes of the *post mortem* examination.

H. Siebirst, recalled – [I] did not make the statement alleged by Dyson respecting giving [the] deceased laudanum. I had two pills of morphine left out of four, and I threw them away on Government street two weeks before wood's death.

[EVIDENCE OF CONSTANTINE, A GREEK]

Constantine, a Greek, who spoke Italian, sworn (Mr. Gentile interpreted) – He said (through Mr. G.) that he clearly understood what was said on the occasion

referred to. He believed he knew their import. [He] saw Siebirst show a box of pills to Dyson, but heard nothing from Siebirst himself. Dyson told him after Monday that Siebirst had given Wood laudanum. He slept in the same room with Wood, and did not see Siebirst give the deceased any medicine that night or any time. Dr. De Wolfe had cautioned him to watch if Siebirst gave Wood medicine some few days before the deceased's death. He did not watch much because it was not his business.

The Coroner explained that the court could not listen to any statement that was not evidence, as the court was an inquiry touching the how, when, and where the deceased came to his death, and not charging either Dr. De Wolfe or any other persons with complicity, [and] that if the jury did ultimately find a verdict reflecting upon any person, there was another tribunal where the person charged could appear and refute the charges either in person or by counsel.

The Coroner in summing up the evidence pointed out that if a person through ignorance or negligence gave a drug of which he did not understand the properties and effects, it would amount to manslaughter.

The jury retired, and after an absence of one hour found "that the deceased, John Wood, died from the effect of a dose of an opiate which proved fatal, owing to the diseased condition of his system, but that it does not appear [evident] by whom this dose was administered. CHAS. W. WALLACE, Foreman. Victoria, June 1st, 1863."

"The late John Wood"¹⁴⁸ (B.C., 1864)

Dr. De Wolfe *v.* the Administrators of the late John Wood, (Actor). Suit was brought to recover the sum of \$242.50, for professional services rendered, and board, baths, medicines, &c., furnished [to the] deceased. Mr. Green appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Bishop for the defendants.

The pleas for the defence were four in number, viz: never indebted, that the plaintiff was not a legally qualified practitioner, unskilful treatment, and excessive charges.

Dr. De Wolfe, examined by Mr. Green – [I] have carried on the practice of medicine in Victoria, [and I] also kept a bath house. [I] attended the deceased John Wood. [I] was invited by one of [the] deceased's fellow-actors to call on him at his lodgings, where I found him very sick. [I] told him the nature of his disease; he said he was unable to walk, sit, sleep, or do anything. Told him it was necessary for him to remove to my house to get the full benefit of my services. He came to my house, and had to be dressed and undressed by myself or assistants and carried like a child to his bath. In three weeks he was able to be about, but remained with me nine weeks to keep clear of the influences which were destroying his life. At the end of that time he went out one day with Mr. Ward, manager of the theatre, and returned desperately intoxicated. The next day he removed to McDonald's Chop House and promised to pay me a balance due shortly. I next saw him at the Boomerang. I don't visit such

¹⁴⁸ From Summary Court. (1864, August 31). *Daily Chronicle* (Victoria), p. 3.

places except [when] I am compelled to do so. The room in which he was lying was destitute of comfort. He lay on the bare floor. He had not, from appearance, been changed for three or four weeks. I had him brought to my house, and he rapidly improved for three weeks, being able to walk about the room and read. I charged him \$50 per week for attendance. The estate owes me \$270, of which I have not received a farthing.

Cross-examined by Mr. Bishop – I kept no books, only a memorandum.

Mr. Bishop – How do you spell “fever”?

Witness – You might spare your breath, Mr. Bishop. I shan’t answer your question. I shall submit to no impertinence. I don’t know that I’m being examined for a teacher in the primary school.

Mr. Bishop – How do you spell “medicine”?

The witness told Mr. Bishop there was “no use fussing about such questions,” for he should not answer them, and the Chief Justice decided that the questions were irrelevant.

Witness continuing – [I] know that Mr. Wood had a benefit given him to pay his old debts. He told me that of the amount realized it took all but \$17 to pay his whisky bills, etc., and that Benj. Griffin had that \$17.

By Mr. Bishop – Did you swear at the inquest that you took Mr. Wood to your bosom as a friend and brother?

Witness – I did; I carried him like a child to his bath. Mr. Griffin was his particular friend; I wonder if he forgot to charge Mr. Wood’s estate for Old Tom.

Mr. Bishop – You charge for nursing and attendance by Mrs. De Wolfe. Who is Mrs. De Wolfe?

Mr. Bishop – She’s my wife, sir?

Witness – Well, then, I’m very glad she’s not in this town.

Mr. Bishop – Are you married to Mrs. De Wolfe?

Witness – I am, according to the laws of Washington Territory.

Mr. Bishop – Any magistrate present?

Witness – No, sir; I wouldn’t disgrace myself by having one of them there. Everything in the bill of particulars is correct.

Mr. Bishop – You charge \$12 for a poultice to Mr. Wood’s heel?

Witness – A loafer named Siebert was allowed to sleep on the floor in the room adjoining Mr. Woods. He never was allowed to dress him; a convalescent patient took charge of Mr. Wood at night. It is none of your business whether the patient was paid or not; he owes me \$300.

Mr. Bishop – You were a witness at the inquest?

Witness – I was.

Mr. Bishop – What were you sworn to do here?

Witness – I was sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth, and not to allow myself to be choked off by you. (Laughter.)

Mr. Bishop – You needn’t grin.

Witness – I’ll grin to suit my own countenance and convenience, sir.

Mr. Bishop – Did you not state to the Coroner’s jury that you gave Mr. Wood an emetic?

Witness – I did.

Mr. Bishop – How long before his death? A short time?

Witness – I think I did; I said one of the component parts of the powder was lobelia.

In the course of a dispute Mr. Bishop said that he charged Dr. De Wolfe with “unskillful practice.”

Witness – I could charge you with more things than you could carry off. (Laughter.)

Mr. Bishop – My lord, I have a duty to perform.

Witness – Yes, to cheat me out of my pay.

Mr. Bishop – Did you not give Mr. Wood a certain powder?

Witness – I gave him a good many powders.

Mr. Bishop – Did you give him a certain powder just before his death?

Witness – I gave him a powder composed of ipecacuanha, lobelia, and sanguinia. Ask some of the doctors here if they kill their patients, of which they lose so many.

Mr. Bishop – Did you ever read Taylor’s *Medical Jurisprudence*?

Witness – No; nor I don’t care anything about him, either. I call them all quacks – manslaughterers.

Mr. Bishop – Do you know what ipecac is?

Witness – Yes, and I’d like to give you some.

Mr. Bishop – Ah! poison me too.

Witness – I’ve given lobelia to 700 different persons in this town. I’ve cured 150 persons in this town who were turned out to die. I’ve known patients to die of eating pudding and milk and drinking Old Tom. (Laughter.) I measured the quantity I gave Wood in a teaspoon. I first try the medicines on myself and then judge of their effect on others. If some of my brethren did the same, there would be fewer people poisoned. I remember Dr. Forbes at the inquest. He, for an old school practitioner, is very much of a gentleman, which is seldom the case, for they would sooner that a man should die than that I should cure him. I never knew lobelia to kill any one. Dr. Forbes’ evidence was correct, so far as he knew. I’ve been an amateur actor; I did not take John Wood to my bosom as a brother actor. I played Wm. Tell here once. I have physicked a great many persons with great success. I don’t think quite all the world are fools, barring yourself. I disagree with Mr. Taylor, if he is an old practitioner, and I presume he is, or else you wouldn’t have his *dirty thing* (a book) in your hand. I am not the best speller in the world, but I think I could spell with you, Mr. Bishop.

The case for the plaintiff here rested, and Mr. Bishop opened the case in behalf of the estate of the deceased. He said the plaintiff was an empiric – a quack – who set himself up as an authority above the old medical practitioners. He did not know how to spell common English words; he did not know the effect of lobelia, it being one of

the most deadly poisons¹⁴⁹ which could be administered. He would show by the evidence of Dr. Forbes before the inquest that the case was most unskillfully treated. He would show that charges were made for services after Mr. Wood's death, and that the charges were improper.

Dr. Davie, M.R.C.S., sworn – Lobelia is a drug we never use in England; it is prohibited. If a patient were suffering from an overdose of morphia I should not prescribe lobelia. [I] have heard of vinegar being used as an antidote for morphia. Vinegar causes the poison to be taken up into the system more readily. To throw a person laboring under poison into a bath would produce a dangerous relaxation of the system; such treatment would be highly improper.

Dr. J. B. Haggin, sworn – [I] saw John Wood shortly before his death. [I] heard Dr. De Wolfe say that he had used the warm bath. Lobelia is used by what is called the botanical school of medicine. It is a violent emetic and has narcotic properties. [I] never give lobelia; it is so dangerous that the medical profession generally have discarded it. I consider the treatment of Mr. Wood by Dr. De Wolfe as improper.

Dr. Dickson, sworn – (Mr. Bishop called for the production of a deposition taken before the Coroner's jury, but it was ruled out of order by the Chief Justice.) [I] am Coroner; nothing but the stomach pump will prove effective in removing morphine from the system. [The] witness corroborated the medical testimony of previous witnesses.

The Court was adjourned for one hour.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Upon the reassembling of the Court, Mr. Green, the counsel for Dr. De Wolfe, informed the Chief Justice that circumstances had arisen which rendered it imperative that he should withdraw from the conduct of the plaintiff's case.

The "circumstances" to which Mr. Green referred are understood to have been the desire of Dr. De Wolfe to address the jury, which Mr. Green, as a professional man, could not consent to.

Mr. B. P. Griffin was called to prove the state of [the] deceased's affairs at the time of his death, &c.

Cross examined by Dr. De Wolfe – There are no conveniences for a sick man in my house. [I] think I visited [the] deceased's room every day. Mr. Wood was an old friend of mine. I spoke to Seibirst about getting him a change of linen. I never saw Wood dirty; the room in which Mr. Wood was in my house was much more comfortable than the one in which I saw him in your house. I used to beg my customers not to call for drinks while John Wood was present.

Mr. Griffin – I wish you'd speak a little faster; I'd like to sit down.

Dr. De Wolfe (very slowly) – As a physician, I would recommend you to stand a little more than you do. Dr. Forbes would agree with me in that, I think. (Laughter.)

¹⁴⁹ "In excessive doses the effects are those of a powerful acro-narcotic poison, producing great depression, nausea, cold-sweats, and possibly death. Poisonous symptoms may occur from absorption of it through the epidermis." An editorial note adds "Herbalists also deny that it has poisonous properties and that it has ever caused death." From a Dover facsimile edition (1981) of Grieve, M. (1931). *A Modern Herbal* (Volume II). Harcourt, Brace & Company.

To Mr. Bishop – I think Mr. Wood paid me about \$25 in all. I never imagined that he owed Dr. De Wolfe anything.

John Levy, sworn – [I] am proprietor of the Globe Hotel. [The] deceased owed me between \$16 and \$17 for ale and porter sent to the theatre to him, and for money borrowed.

Mr. Bishop summed up for the defendants, and the plaintiff made a very sarcastic and (as it proved) effective address to the Jury in support of his claim.

The Jury rendered a verdict for [the] plaintiff in the full amount claimed.

“Melancholy occurrence”¹⁵⁰ (Ontario, 1864)

On Monday evening last a young woman named Catherine McKenna, who had been boarding for some short time in the house of a Mrs. McDowell, on Spadina Avenue, [Toronto,] attempted to destroy her life by taking a large dose of laudanum. The immediate effects of the poison were neutralized by the exertions of the medical gentlemen who were called in, but last evening the unfortunate girl died in the General Hospital, whither she had been removed soon after taking the fatal dose.

The circumstances connected with the case are not of a novel nature. An unfounded suspicion that her affection was unrequited seems to have driven her to the desperate act which finally took away her life. The facts are these:-

It appears that this rash young woman came to this city from Kingston (where her mother resides) several months ago, and was subsequently employed as a servant at the Shakespeare saloon, King Street West. While living there she is said to have received attentions from a boarder, who became attached to her in consequence of her amiable disposition, and who, it seems, more in fun than otherwise, asked her to consent to become his wife. She, poor, thoughtless girl, offered no objections to the proposal. Matters went on smoothly enough for some time; both seemed to enjoy each other's company very much till, through indisposition or for some other cause, Miss McKenna found it necessary to leave her place. She then went to board with Mrs. McDowell, as above stated, where her male friend also visited her occasionally, and, as a matter of course, took it for granted that she was soon to be married.

On Monday last, however, another young woman called on Mrs. McDowell and took occasion to tell Miss McKenna that the young man with whom she had been keeping company was about to leave for New York, with the intention of leaving her behind. This incorrect information (as it subsequently proved to be) threw the poor girl into a violent passion, and while in this fit of anger she proceeded at once to her room and deliberately drank nearly an ounce and a half of laudanum, with the intention of destroying herself.

The deadly dose soon began to show its effects, and those in the house were not long in discovering that she had made an attempt upon her life. Dr. W. Ogden was immediately sent for, and upon his going to see her promptly applied the usual

¹⁵⁰ From MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE. (1864, March 10). *Hamilton Weekly Spectator*, p. 4.

remedies in such cases, and after remaining with her during the night concluded to send her to the hospital.

She was accordingly admitted on Tuesday forenoon and placed under the care of Dr. Newcome. The galvanic battery and other remedies were then applied, and appeared to produce the desired results. She was soon considered out of danger, and continued to improve till Thursday afternoon, when she took a change for the worse. Notwithstanding that everything which medical skill could suggest was done for her, the unfortunate girl continued to sink till she died last evening.

She is spoken of as having been an industrious, virtuous young woman.

“Outrage and attempt at murder”¹⁵¹ (B.C., 1866)

[CONTENT WARNING – sexual assault]

A colored family, residing about ten miles from here [Victoria], on the Saanich road, were the victims of a fearful outrage and attempt at murder on Tuesday. The family consisted of a man named Freddison, his wife, a daughter aged 14, and a colored deserter from the U. S. steamer Saginaw, who has been working a bit of land for his “grub.” On Tuesday Freddison went from home, and his wife took a gun and proceeded to the garden to shoot blue-jays, and, while thus engaged, she was approached by the deserter, who seized and threw her down, forced a quantity of morphia into her mouth, tied her clothes over her head, and struck her on the back of the head with the handle of an axe, producing insensibility. The scoundrel then repaired to the house, seized the girl, forced a lot of morphia into her mouth, and pressed her throat until she was nearly strangled, when he effected his vile purpose.

The villain left his second victim lying on the ground insensible, and ransacked every trunk and drawer in the house, appropriating a number of small articles. He then went into the kitchen and laid in a supply of bread, butter, and bacon, and made for the woods. He was seen yesterday near North Saanich by Indians, and officer Farrell has gone in pursuit of him.

The old woman recovered her senses yesterday morning, and Dr. Davie, who examined her, does not consider her injuries fatal. The girl lay for three hours after her violator fled, when she revived after hiding several hours, and alarmed the neighbors.

The perpetrator of these outrages is said to have murdered a man quite recently at Honolulu. We hope, if caught, that he will be sent up to survey Saanich district from the topmost branches of one of the tallest trees on the Island.

“Another melancholy death”¹⁵² (Ontario, 1869)

Another melancholy death from carelessness in the use of morphia is reported from the Village of Cavanville. Dr. Rowan being subject to irregular action of the

¹⁵¹ From OUTRAGE AND ATTEMPT AT MURDER. (1866, October 11). *Cariboo Sentinel*, p. 3.

¹⁵² From MORPHIA. (1869, February 4). *Weekly British Whig* (Kingston), p. 3.

heart, was in the habit of taking this drug to counteract it, and on Monday he died from an overdose, compounded for him and administered by his daughter. The deaths through the use of this dangerous narcotic are becoming more and more frequent, showing that its use is more wide-spread than the public have any idea of. It is at first taken, generally in cases of head-ache or nervousness, to quiet the nervous system, and is perhaps continued until familiarity leads to carelessness, and an overdose ends in that "long sleep which knows no waking". We would warn our readers against the use of morphia; even when prescribed and administered by the hands of the most careful and skillful physician, its effects are irregular and uncertain, and a dose which might at one time be taken with impunity, may in certain cases of physical derangement produce death.

"James Finch was found dead"¹⁵³ (Ontario, 1871)

Yesterday (Sunday) morning a law student named James Finch was found dead in the office of Mr. P. Smith, on Rideau Street. A number of versions of the sad tragedy having got abroad, we refer the reader to the history of the affair, as elicited by the inquest, a full report of which is appended.

At 9 o'clock this morning Dr. Beaubien, Coroner, held an inquest on the remains of the late James Finch, in the room adjoining the office of Mr. P. Smith, where the body was lying just as it was found yesterday morning.

THE JURY

The following persons composed the jury: Messrs. Thos. Robinson, Wm. Holland, Hubert Kerr, N. Helmer, R. Montgomery, John Curtis, Wm. Baskerville, Samuel Borbridge, W. F. Russell, W. Sutherland, John Dwyer and A. B. Cale. Mr. Montgomery was chosen foreman, and all were regularly sworn in by the coroner, after which they adjourned to the next room to view the body.

The deceased was lying to the left of the door in an easy, restful position, with his arms thrown back under his head, under which was his cane. He was lying on his back and partly on the left side, with one knee drawn up – his whole position betokening that he had hung himself down, overcome with weariness. An empty 2 oz. phial was found near him. The body was quite rigid and the features swollen and discolored.

Francis R. Davidson, deposed:-

"I keep a druggist's store in this city. I remember seeing the deceased about 5 o'clock p.m. on Saturday. He came here to get some laudanum. He said he wanted it to rub on his side as an external application. I gave him about 1 ½ ozs. He wanted 2 ozs., and from the quantity he asked for I thought it all right for the purpose he represented. I told him to be very careful, as it was a poison. He replied that he knew all about it. I put a label on the bottle indicating the nature of the contents. He gave me no order for the laudanum from a medical man. He was in the habit of getting medicine at my shop during the summer. I never gave him laudanum before. He was

¹⁵³ From SUICIDE. (1871, August 28). *Ottawa Daily Citizen*, p. 3.

perfectly sober when I gave him the laudanum. I marked the bottle in the usual way poisons are marked before I gave it to him.”

THE BOTTLE

The bottle which contained the poison was produced, labeled “poison.”

Witness, to foreman – “This is the bottle he got from me. It would contain 2 ozs. It bears the inscription, ‘Laudanum, or Tinc. Opium. Dose – For adults, if taken to produce sleep, 15 to 30 drops. It is also a valuable external application, quickly allaying severe pains in the bones, &c. In an overdose it is a powerful poison. Prepared by Davidson & Daniel, Rideau street, Ottawa.’ One quarter of an ounce would cause death. He was not nervous or shaky when I sold it to him. That Act says it can be sold to parties whom we know.”

NOTHING TO INDICATE FOUL PLAY

Dr. Sweetland, deposed:-

“I am a medical practitioner in this city. I have made an external examination of the body of James Finch. When I was passing this house yesterday a young man ran down to me and said Finch was very ill, perhaps dying. I came upstairs at once, and found the deceased in the same position as he now lies. From the rigidity of the body, and its coldness, I am convinced he was dead for some time. From the history of the case, and the finding of the bottle, I am satisfied he died of an overdose of opium. A man who had been drinking could take a much larger dose without injury than one who had not. It was evident that he had died by his own hand, as there was nothing to indicate foul play.”

Daniel O’Connor, deposed:-

“I keep a grocery store in this city. I saw [the] deceased for the last time between 5 and 6 o’clock on Saturday evening. I remarked nothing unusual about him at that time. He was in apparent good health, but appeared weak. I saw a bottle very like the one produced in his possession. He called my attention to a bottle of [a] drug in his possession, saying that a dose of it, and the world would be little bother to him. I cannot say whether he was sober or not. He appeared as usual. He sat down on a chair, [and] unwrapped the bottle from some paper. I looked; it was filled with a dark brown substance. Some one remarked after he went out that it was laudanum. I was busy at the time, and did not pay much attention to him.”

A FAMILY DIFFICULTY

A. I. Dunning was called and deposed:-

“I am a barrister of this city. I knew the deceased James Finch for some years. I went with him on Saturday morning, at 9:30, from Mr. O’Gara’s office, to the Division Court nearly all the time till near 3 p.m. He was attending to a case in the Court and seemed in perfect health. I left the Court to get my dinner. I returned about 4 o’clock and met Mr. Finch at the door of Mr. O’Gara’s office.

“He said, ‘Where have you been?’

“I answered, ‘to dinner.’

“He replied, ‘you are more lucky than I.’

“I asked him, ‘why so?’

“He replied, ‘because I haven’t had dinner.’

“I advised him to go and get his dinner.

“No,’ he replied, ‘there is a family difficulty. Chabot owes me \$2, and told me to go for it at 6 o’clock; I will then get something to eat.’

“This was about half-past 5, and I said I would go and get my tea, and Finch asked me to leave the outer door open. I knew no more till Sunday morning. I left the door open as he requested.

BLUE AS THE MISCHIEF

“About half past 8 o’clock on Sunday morning I was on my way to my office when I met Mr. Patrick Smith coming out of his gateway.

“He said, ‘the lad is up in the office and is as blue as the mischief.’

“Smith and I started to come up to my office. Just before coming to the door Smith said, ‘let us look at him.’ I looked at him. He was lying almost identically as he was this morning. One hand had been moved and the knees had settled down. His lips were of a dark blue. His face was discolored. The color attracted my attention. To a slight extent the idea of death flashed through my mind. I watched to see if he was breathing, and noticed that he was drawing quick and long respirations, as though he was sleeping at perfect ease.

SLEEPING AT PERFECT EASE

“I made a step toward him, and Mr. Smith said, ‘don’t wake him up; let him sleep.’ Smith and myself then came into the office. About five minutes after, Mr. Smith said, ‘I must go and get my breakfast.’ He then got up and went. I took a lawbook down from my shelves, and while taking it down I felt as though there was something wrong with Finch. I concluded to look at him again before I began to read. Mr. Smith was gone about two minutes at this time. I went into the next room and looked at [the] deceased, and instantly saw he was dead. His face was darker than when I had last seen him. I put my hand on this thigh and shook him slightly, and noticed to a certain extent that he was rigid about the thigh. His knee was raised from the floor. I took hold of his foot to stretch it out, and found the leg was stiff. I went and told Mr. Smith that Finch was dead. He said, ‘nonsense, wait till I go and see him.’ Returning in a few moments, Mr. Smith said, ‘you are right; he is dead.’”

Patrick Smith, deposed:-

“I am an attorney by profession. Yesterday morning I called at my office at about half past 7. I went in for my cane. The door was a little open. I was going up stairs, and noticed a man’s feet. When I went in I saw [the] deceased lying on the floor; his head was at the end of my desk. I walked over and got my cane. I thought he was sleeping. He had told me previously he was in the habit of sleeping in the office, and for that reason I thought he was asleep. I went to church, and after I came back Mr. Dunning and I met at my place. I told him a friend of his was asleep in my office. We went to the room and looked at him, and then went into Mr. Dunning’s office, where we remained about ten minutes. I afterwards went down to get breakfast. I did not commence to take breakfast until Dunning came down after me and told me he was afraid Finch was dead, or about dying. I came up and put my hand on [the] deceased’s face, and when I went down I told Dunning I was afraid Finch was dead. We then informed the family and the police about it.”

Question by a Juror – “Did you see him on Saturday evening?”

[Witness –] “Yes, and he seemed to have liquor in him.”

Another Juror – “He was in the habit of drinking, I believe?”

[Witness –] “I believe he was.”

Q – “Did you notice him breathe when you came up first?”

[A –] “No, I did not. I thought he was dead, as he was purple about the lips.”

P. C. Durocher deposed having found the body in the position described by the former witnesses.

After this evidence the jury retired, and in a few minutes returned the following verdict:-

“We, the Jury, being appointed to try the cause of death of James Finch, have come to the conclusion that he came to death by his own hand, by an overdose of laudanum.”

“Murder and suicide”¹⁵⁴ (Ontario, 1873)

A correspondent of the *Mail* writing from Maxwell, under date February 11th, gives particulars of the shocking murder in the village of Feversham, in the township of Osprey, in the county of Frey, and how the murderer committed suicide in the Owen Sound gaol by hanging himself.

There lived in the township of Feversham, up to the time of the tragedy, an old pensioner named Beggs and his wife, apparently on very good terms, although at times it was known that they had little disputes, but nothing was ever thought of them. Their habitation was a small log house, and although they were not too well off, they had all the necessaries of life.

Some few days before the bloody event Beggs drew his quarter’s pension, and he celebrated the occasion by getting drunk. He kept his spree up for several days, and on Friday evening, his whiskey having run out, he ordered his wife to go out and procure him more. In the hope of forcing him to become sober, Mrs. Beggs refused to go, and for this disobedience she forfeited her life. Beggs, half insane from whiskey, flew into a passion, seized an axe, rushed towards his wife, and dealt her a fearful blow upon the head.

We have only the culprit’s account of what took place, and, when asked, he said, “it was all over in a moment.” The axe blade was buried in the skull, and a second blow inflicted a fearful gash on the shoulder of the probably already murdered woman. Before the murder took place the victim and her slayer had undressed preparatory to retiring, and the woman’s clothing lay upon a chair beside the bed.

About one o’clock on Saturday afternoon, a daughter of Mr. Fisher called at the cabin with a jug of milk for the old couple. She knocked several times before getting any reply, when finally Beggs came to the door and asked who was there. On learning who it was that desired admittance, Beggs opened the door and greeted the girl with the remark, “Mother is dead.” The girl entered the house and saw the murdered

¹⁵⁴ From MURDER AND SUICIDE. (1873, February 15). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 1.

woman smeared with blood lying in the bed, and she also saw a great pool of blood on the floor. The child ran from the house in alarm and informed the neighbors of what she had seen.

Her story, as may be supposed, created great excitement in the village, and a few of those villagers proceeded at once to the house where the sickening sight, already but faintly described, met their eyes. The village constable was sent for and Beggs was arrested. Before he was arrested, however, he drank the contents of a phial of laudanum with the intention of ending his life then, but his determination was for the time being foiled, as he vomited the poison up, having taken so much that it acted as an emetic.

After the arrest the premises were carefully examined and the axe secured.

A coroner's inquest was held on Sunday, at which the prisoner endeavored to assume a careless demeanor, but with poor success. At times he would appear quite cheerful and evidently wished to be communicative, but at intervals his face betrayed the deep mental agony he was suffering, and large drops of perspiration oozed out from his forehead.

When asked if he committed the crime, he said, "I did it all in a moment." It has since been ascertained that after committing the foul deed, Beggs placed the corpse in the bed, and that he afterwards laid down beside the bloody mass and remained there until the girl called with the milk about eighteen hours afterwards.

The prisoner was on Monday conveyed to the Owen Sound gaol to await his trial. He was placed in a cell by himself, and, within three hours afterwards, ended his earthly career by hanging himself with a sheet which he procured from his bed, thus accomplishing what he failed to do by poison.

"Death from an overdose of morphine"¹⁵⁵ (Ontario, 1873)

STIRLING, May 24 – The coroner, Dr. Hamilton, was yesterday called upon to hold an inquest on the body of one James Goodwin, from near Picton, P. E. County, Ont. It seems the unfortunate man had been indulging too freely in strong drink for two or three days past, and finally fell in with a man by the name of N. Maybee, who styles himself an M. D., and who assisted Goodwin at finishing up his spree. Goodwin being restless, and unable to sleep, the Dr. went to a drug store and purchased twenty grains of morphine, nearly two of which he gave to the deceased, who, not finding the relief he was seeking, got hold of the paper and took about six grains more, according to the doctor's own statement, making in all eight grains; the result was death in the course of two or three hours. The Dr., who is in the habit of taking morphine and opium, asserts that he took the remainder, about twelve grains, himself.

As it was too late to hold the inquest last evening, Coroner Hamilton postponed the investigation until this a.m., when, after hearing the evidence in the matter, the jury returned a verdict "that [the] deceased came to his death from an overdose of morphine, administered partly by N. Maybee and partly by himself, and that Maybee

¹⁵⁵ From DEATH FROM AN OVERDOSE OF MORPHINE. (1873, May 26). *Owen Sound Times*, p. 2.

was deemed guilty of manslaughter.” In the meantime, Maybee, during the night, absconded to parts unknown.

“Mrs. Lincoln’s attempted suicide”¹⁵⁶ (B. C., 1875)

Between 2 and 3 o’clock yesterday afternoon, Mrs. Lincoln went into the drug-store of Frank Squair, Pharmacist, in the Grand Pacific Hotel, and wanted him to give her some laudanum and camphor, saying that she needed it for neuralgia in the arm. Knowing her mental condition¹⁵⁷ he pretended he had none ready, and that it would take half an hour to put it up. She said she would call in again for it, and then walked out into the street. Mr. Squair, supposing that she was going to some other drug-store, put on his hat and followed her.

She went directly across the street to Rogers & Smith’s, at the corner of Adams and Clark. Just as she was telling Mr. Smith that she wanted some laudanum, Mr. Squair beckoned to Mr. Smith, and, when he came up, told him who it was he was talking to, and that he must not give her any laudanum. Mr. Smith then said to her [that] he could not sell her any without a doctor’s order, and she left and went down the street to Dale’s, where she asked for laudanum and camphor separately. Mr. Squair got in ahead of her, and was consequently able to prevent her getting anything there.

Then, seeing that she was about returning to the Pacific, he hurried back to his own place, and put up a mixture of one drachm of liquid burnt sugar and ten drops of tincture of camphor, in a three-ounce bottle filled with water and labeled, “Laudanum and Camphor.” She took it and went outdoors, and as soon as she got on the sidewalk she drank the contents. About ten minutes afterward she returned to the drug-store, saying that her arm troubled her very much and she wanted some laudanum to add to the mixture. Mr. Squair asked her if she had used it, and she said no, that she wanted it stronger. She went behind the counter and began watching him. He told her the laudanum was kept in the basement, so he went down there and made up a mixture of an ounce of liquid burnt sugar, and labeled it “Laudanum – Poison,” cautioning her to be careful, and gave it to her. She took it out and drank it. In the meantime he had sent for her son, who came and took charge of her.

“A sad occurrence”¹⁵⁸ (Quebec, 1876)

An occurrence transpired on Sunday afternoon at the residence of Mr. Alexander Murray, Petite Cote, which plunged the family of that gentleman in deep affliction and cast a gloom over the whole municipality. It appears that Sarah H.

¹⁵⁶ From Mrs. Lincoln’s Attempted Suicide. (1875, June 5). *Nanaimo Free Press*, p. 1.

¹⁵⁷ “Mrs. Lincoln, being well enough to leave Bellevue Asylum, proceeds to the home of her sister, Mrs. Edwards, at Springfield. It is not considered likely that she will return, as she shows no tendency to mania.” Mrs. Lincoln. (1875, September 22). *Nanaimo Free Press*, p. 1.

¹⁵⁸ From A SAD OCCURRENCE. (1876, November 14). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 4.

Pontine¹⁵⁹, wife of Mr. Murray, had been in ill-health for some time, and was in the habit of taking medicine – a little morphine sometimes forming part of the dose, while at other times Dover’s powders seem to have been also used. It seems that the unfortunate lady had mistaken the Dover’s mixture and taken a dose of morphine instead¹⁶⁰, which resulted in her death. The following is the verdict of a coroner’s jury, summoned by Coroner Jones, and the details of the sad occurrence are therein given:-

At half-past eleven Mr. Coroner Jones commenced an inquest, Messrs. Thomas Caverhill, Robert Kerr, John Whyte, James Stewart, Alex. Cooper Hutchinson, Andrew S. Ewing, Jas. Muir, Jas. K. Ward, Wm. Rutherford, Robert French, Charles Fleet, Thos. Samuel, Henry Earle, Henry Woodhouse, and Wm. H. Thompson being sworn in as the jury.

Dr. R. P. Howard being sworn, deposed:-

About four o’clock yesterday Mr. Murray’s servant man came to my house on horseback, saying that Mrs. Murray was ill, and asking me to bring my stomach-pump. I immediately made arrangements, and drove up as fast as I could. I found [the] deceased lying in her room, supported by her friends, and perfectly insensible – profoundly insensible, I might say.

Mr. Murray, [continued Dr. Howard,] said she had taken a dose of morphia. He said she had sat down to dinner at two o’clock, but, not feeling well, had only taken a plate of soup. That subsequently he had gone to her room for a few minutes, returned, and on again going up, remained until Mr. Murray went up and found her lying on the bed in a state of stupor. When he asked her what she had taken, she directed him to a bottle standing on the dressing-table, which I found had contained acetate of morphia. Very shortly after that she became perfectly insensible, when he became alarmed and sent for me.

After using the stomach-pump, I injected hot coffee, and sent for Dr. Drake to bring stimulants and a galvanic battery. We injected atropine under the skin, and employed electricity, but all these measures failed to produce any signs of improvement, the insensibility becoming more and more profound, until she died at 25 minutes past 8 p.m.

The bottle containing the Dover’s powders which she had been accustomed to take was larger than the other, but it was quite possible she mistook the bottle. Mr. Murray accounted for the presence of the morphia by saying that it had been used for hypodermic injections during his father’s late fatal illness. He [Dr. Howard] never prescribed for the lady herself.

To the Jurors [in response to a question] – A full dose of Dover’s powder contains ten grains of opium, and if she took as much of the morphia it would probably be fatal. Morphia, to speak popularly, was the essence of opium. The acetate of

¹⁵⁹ Buried as Sarah Harriet Murray. It’s possible a grandchild was named after her, as Sarah Harriet Pontine Murray (b. 1877), daughter of Walter Gow Murray (1835 – 1917) and Eliza Felicia Murray (1835 – 1917), died in Montreal in 1956.

¹⁶⁰ This was not the only time this would happen in Canada: “ A child named Garneau, seven weeks old, has been accidentally poisoned at Beauport, its mother having given it morphine for Dover’s powder.” NOTES OF THE NEWS. (1899, March 25). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 21.

morphia, though at first a white powder, turned fawn color, and then might be easily mistaken for Dover's powder.

Mr. Alexander Murray, her husband, and who appeared much broken down at his sad loss, deposed that the deceased had felt so unwell as to be unable to go to church. She suffered great pain. When she had gone up the second time after dinner and remained about twenty minutes, he went up and found her lying on the bed. He asked her what was the matter. She opened her eyes, and he was shocked at their appearance. On speaking to her again she said she had taken something from a bottle to do her good, and that the bottle was in the dressing-room. He jumped up immediately and examined the bottle, and seeing that it had held morphine, became alarmed and called on Mrs. Hill, a lady of the family, and the servants to help. Mustard was uselessly administered to produce vomiting, and she rapidly became insensible. The bottle she directed him to was the sole one on the dressing-room table.

To Mr. Ward [in response to a question] – She was usually very careful, and I cannot conceive how she could have made the mistake. She once before had taken a little of the acetate, but he warned her against the effects and threw it away.

The doctor, on being recalled, said persons when suffering terrible pain might be rendered insane by it, and she might have been unable to measure the dose she took. [He] believed, from the rapid effect of the poison, that she must have taken a large dose.

Mrs. Ann Russell Hill, widow, gave corroborative testimony.

The jury, after deliberating, returned a verdict of “Death from taking an overdose of morphia by mistake, while suffering extreme pain.”

[The] deceased was a fine-looking lady, and had only recently returned from a European tour. She leaves a large circle of acquaintances to mourn her sudden decease.

Mr. Murray is President of the Montreal Type Foundry.

“Death from morphia”¹⁶¹ (Quebec, 1877)

About noon, yesterday, Dr. George Begg Shaw died at his residence, Radegonde street, [Montreal,] from the effects of an overdose of morphia. At three o'clock the Coroner held an inquest on the body of the deceased, at his late residence. The following is the substance of the evidence adduced:-

Dr. Trenholme, being sworn, deposed:-

[He] had known [the] deceased since he came to Montreal. [He] knew him to be a man of intemperate habits, [and] had tried lately to make him endeavor to give up drinking, and help him in every possible way, but [the] deceased had refused to reform. Yesterday morning about 9:30, [the] witness was called to attend Dr. Shaw, and on his arrival found him sitting on a bed, pulseless, and breathing hard. After examining him, [the] witness was convinced that he was suffering from an overdose of morphia, and administered the necessary antidote, but without avail. [The]

¹⁶¹ From DEATH FROM MORPHIA. (1877, April 21). *The Star* (Montreal), p. 1.

deceased seemed to somewhat revive after taking the medicine; however, he did not regain consciousness. [The] deceased was covered with a clammy perspiration, and was perfectly insensible. He died about noon. [The] deceased was dressed, and in the pocket of his coat was found a bottle of gin.

F. W. Campbell, M.D., stated that he saw [the] deceased about eleven in the morning, and he found him in a thorough comatose condition, in which he remained till his death. His respiration was two inhalations a minute (a natural state being 20 to 30).

Mrs. Dunlop, [the] deceased's house-keeper, testified to calling Miss Mary Holmes to attend him.

Mary Holmes, who resided at Dr. Shaw's, at Mrs. Dunlop's request, was next sworn, and deposed essentially as follows:-

She had attended [the] deceased about 3 a.m. At his request [she] had given him a small quantity of chloric æther, about a tablespoonful, which was in a bottle. He took it himself, and poured it into a tumbler. She then gave him about a teaspoonful of paregoric (here [the] witness pointed to a phial labeled paregoric, but later in her testimony it was shown that she had taken from a bottle containing laudanum.) The two drugs were then mixed and taken by the deceased about 3:30. [The] witness also gave him egg in some gin. [She] had given him a powder (morphia), which was marked "poison". [The] deceased mixed it with the chloric æther and laudanum and drank it, remarking as he did so, "If this sickens me, I will not take more, and then I am done." [The] witness gave [the] deceased the powder twice. About an hour afterward [she] gave him another quantity, and at 6.30 still another. He took morphia three times, once himself, and [the] witness gave it to him twice. [The] witness had told him that it was poison, and asked him if he was sure it was safe for him to take it, to which he replied, "Don't fiddle about, but give it to me," adding that he could prescribe such drugs for others, no matter how drunk he might be.

Dr. Trenholme here produced the paper containing the morphia, and said [the] deceased must have taken 16 grains, as there were 20, and but 4 remained (2 grains is sufficient to kill an adult).

[The] witness continued:

Dr. Shaw went out at 6.30. [She] had helped to dress him, putting on his boots, &c. He was perfectly sane when he left, and bid her good-bye, which struck her as singular. [The] deceased had said he was going to get gin, as he was dying.

Dr. Trenholme showed the bottle of laudanum which had been given him by Miss Holmes. The latter could not say how much [the] deceased had taken (the bottle contained 2 oz., and 1 oz. was left). [She] saw [the] deceased next when Mrs. Dunlop called her. [She] found him lying across the bed with his clothes on, and in his coat pocket was a bottle of gin. [The] witness had tried to shake him up and lift him, but he was insensible, and did not speak. [The] deceased often felt despondent and spoke of his pecuniary difficulties, of God and the future state of man.

[The] witness further said:

He appeared to be very good. He seemed to be in pecuniary difficulties. His principles were noble. He did not want to owe any one. He frequently prayed aloud.

He belonged to the Church of England. [The] deceased complained of the remarks made against him by some of the medical professors, and spoke of his friends. He spoke freely to her, but never mentioned that he was married. He was a man who had to be given what he asked. [The] witness had never had any suspicion that he wanted to do away with himself. It was drink, the medicine and his troubles that had broken him down.

John David Long Ambrose, druggist, being sworn, said he had been acquainted with [the] deceased, who was in the habit of occasionally getting prescriptions made up at his store. Wednesday night [the] deceased wrote a prescription for Miss Holmes. Thursday he called and wrote a list of medicine, viz.: Two ozs. laudanum, two ozs. paregoric and two ozs. chloric æther, for which he was charged 75 cents. [The] deceased then desired the witness to make up the balance of the dollar with morphia. A discussion followed on the merits of the different kinds, and [the] deceased finally ordered acetic morphia. The large bottle of æther he took with him. It was only half full and contained two ozs. [The] witness knew [the] deceased to be a man who indulged in liquor, from hearsay only. [The] deceased was intellectually bright. On Thursday he appeared to have been drinking hard, but [the witness] had no suspicion that he would attempt his life. [He] thought it was the other way, rather.

Hugh Gallagher, saloon and restaurant keeper, Notre Dame Street, being sworn, said:-

About 7:30 Thursday morning Dr. Shaw came to his place and asked for a drink, saying he must gulph [sic.] something down just then, as he had taken some medicine and must have a drink. [The] witness refused and suggested some oysters. After partaking of these, [the] deceased again asked for drink, but was again refused. He then said, "It's because I have no money," to which [the] witness answered "No." Dr. Shaw asked for a bottle of gin, but was answered in the negative, upon which [the] deceased asked for a bottle of beer. This [the] witness promised to send him. [The] deceased, before going, said "Will I be able to find my way home? I feel very ill." [The] witness said, "Of course you will," and followed him to the door, when he saw that [the] deceased proceeded in the direction of his residence. It was the opinion of this witness that the bottle of gin found in [the] deceased's pocket was bought in a grocery, as saloons did not keep pint bottles. [He] had never seen [the] deceased drunk.

Ascher Ansell, tobacconist, who resides next door, was on the jury. He was sworn, as it was he who saw Dr. Shaw when he returned between seven and eight on Thursday morning after going to the last witness' place. [The] deceased, when he entered the [the] witness' store, appeared paralyzed, and his eyes were turned up. Mr. Ansell offered to send for his friends, but he replied, "No one but God can do anything for me." He also said that he could not see [the] witness, but on the latter placing his finger close to [the] deceased's eyes, he said he could perceive it. [The] witness saw the doctor to bed, and put a pillow under his head. Mrs. Dunlop sent for Dr. Trenholme.

Alexander Hutchinson, one of the jurors, was sworn and testified that he probably had known [the] deceased longer than any man in Montreal. He had known

him at Ottawa, when [the] deceased took sprees. [The] witness had taken great care of him, but after doing all he could, he got disgusted and gave him up. During these sprees [the] deceased was despondent, and had remarked that he “wished he could die.” It was [the] witness’ opinion that he would end as he had done, and he (witness) was not surprised when he heard that his death was produced by an overdose of medicine. When drinking, [the] deceased was hard to manage, and if a woman nurse had resisted him he would have used violence. [The witness] had known him to strike persons when in liquor. [The] deceased had no relations in this country.

After a short deliberation a verdict [was returned by the jury] of: “While in a state of mental aberration, [the] deceased came to his death by taking an overdose of morphia.”

The late Dr. Shaw had, up to a recent period, occupied the position of Professor of Chemistry¹⁶² at Bishop’s College. He was a man of superior mental endowments, and, as a lecturer on chemistry, had few equals in the Dominion. [The] deceased was about 45 years of age, and of a strong constitution. He came from Manchester, England, four or five years since, and was about to return there soon. He had two brothers, one a railway manager, and the other a lawyer in London. He was married in England to a person in [an] inferior station of life, but it did not turn out happily. From the opinion of several medical gentlemen present at the inquest it would appear that [the] deceased took as much as 16 grains [of] morphia in about three hours, sufficient to kill seven or eight persons.

“The late John Lockie Taylor”¹⁶³ (Quebec, 1878)

Mr. Coroner Jones opened an inquest upon the body of Mr. John Lockie Taylor, who died this morning from an overdose of morphine. The following are the names of the jury: William McConnell, William McGowan, Amos Cowan, Gordon Hughes, William Adams, Albert Adams, James Duncan Adams, Samuel Burland, John Morris, Hugh Alexander Bain, William Macmaster (foreman), John Andrew Macmaster and Alexander Noble Shewan. The inquest was held at [the] deceased’s residence, No. 147 Cadieux street, [Montreal].

The jury and Drs. William Benjamin Burland and Aaron Hart David, having been sworn, proceeded to view the body.

Dr. Burland was the first witness. He said he was summoned to attend [the] deceased. Upon his arrival he found him in a state of complete coma. The symptoms indicated that he had taken a narcotic poison. [The] witness had learned that [the] deceased was in the habit of using morphia for rheumatism or neuralgia. He had been informed that [the] deceased had taken a large dose of morphia before his (witness) arrival. He administered an emetic and sent for another physician. Mr. David

¹⁶² Dr. Shaw resigned this position. “The Chair of Chemistry having become vacant by the resignation of Dr. Shaw, applications for the same will be received by the undersigned up to the 12th of May. FRANCIS W. CAMPBELL, M.D. Registrar.” Campell, F. W. (1877, May 11). UNIVERSITY OF BISHOP’S COLLEGE [Advertisement]. *The Star* (Montreal), p. 1.

¹⁶³ From Inquest on the Late John Lockie Taylor. (1878, February 13). *The Montreal Daily Star*, p. 3.

responded and they inserted the stomach pump, and, at the suggestion of Dr. David, they injected a solution of atropine about two a.m. and deceased died about 3 a.m. with all the symptoms of being poisoned by a narcotic. A member of the family had shown him a paper containing morphia, to all appearance. [He] knew [the] deceased well, but was not aware he suffered from rheumatism or any malady. He was satisfied that morphia was the immediate cause of death. [He] saw an empty phial in [the] deceased's room.

Dr. David testified to the same effect as the previous witness, adding that he had injected about the 30th of a grain of atropine about 23 minutes to 3 o'clock. [He] had not seen the powder referred to, as it had been thrown away into the closet. He was also satisfied that death was caused by an over-dose of some narcotic poison.

Robert George Taylor, brewer, testified that he was a brother of [the] deceased. [He] had heard him complain of rheumatism. [The] deceased often took medicine to induce sleep. [He] saw him most of the afternoon yesterday. [The] deceased left the brewery about 6:30 p.m. yesterday. After tea [the] witness went out for an hour and a half, and when he returned he heard [the] deceased groaning. He went into his room and was told by [the] deceased that he had pains. [The] deceased seemed to go to sleep. About 1:30 a.m., [the] witness again heard [the] deceased moaning, and went into his room and found him suffering and looking very bad. The powder alluded to by Dr. Burland he had found in a paper on a shelf in [the] deceased's room. [He] had gone for Doctors Burland and David. [The] deceased was very restless at night, and sometimes got up at night and read; one night he got up and played on the violin. [The] deceased's wife was in Scotland. [The] deceased, as far as he knew, had a knowledge of chemistry. He thought he was a skilled chemist. He had lots of medicine at the brewery in his room.

One of the jurymen, Mr. Alex. Noble Shewan, was sworn, as he knew something of [the] deceased. He stated that Friday or Saturday last, he was in company with [the] deceased, and had asked him to come into his house and have something to drink, as they passed the door. He had refused to go in, saying he could not drink as he felt troubled in the head. The same thing had occurred at the brewery the Tuesday previous.

Mr. Robert David Gillespie testified that he had been with [the] deceased the best part of the day yesterday. [The] deceased had had about a couple of glasses of lager beer. [The witness] had slept at [the] deceased's house on a sofa, and had seen him at 10:30 last night, when he appeared in good spirits.

Ald. Robert Taylor testified that his son suffered from rheumatism. [He] had never seen him take morphia or morphine, but was told he did; he was devoted to the science of chemistry, and was a little fool-hardy with drugs. [He] had himself taken medicine from [the] deceased. [The] deceased said he was lonesome on account of his wife and child being away.

After a short deliberation the following verdict was rendered: "That [the] deceased came to his death by accidentally taking an overdose of morphia to alleviate suffering and pain, and not otherwise."

The late Mr. Taylor was only 32 years of age, and had been general manager of his father's business, of which he had a thorough knowledge. The utmost sympathy will be felt for the deceased's family under their painful affliction.

“Mysterious death”¹⁶⁴ (Ontario, 1878)

Dr. Lynn held an inquest yesterday afternoon on the body of Joshua Thompson, who died suddenly at Mrs. Dean's, [Ottawa,] the night previous.

The following jury was empannelled:-

W. Barber, foreman; Wm. Shirley, J. S. O'Brien, W. H. Bell, John Mahar, Wm. Couller, W. J. Murphy, Thos. Barber, Joseph Lapointe, Albert Amery, Geo. Thompson, David Black, E. Ackroyd and Chas. Lapointe.

After the jury had inspected the body, it was decided to have Drs. Corbett and Rogers make a *post mortem* examination.

Geo. Turgeon was the first witness called. He said he knew the deceased for the past year. He roomed at Mrs. Connolly's, and that was where he met him. He was told yesterday that he had died suddenly, and went up to Mrs. Dean's and assisted to lay him out. Whilst he was there Mrs. Dean came into the room with a coat, and said she had found a bottle of laudanum in his pocket. The deceased occasionally went on a spree.

R. J. Mills was the next witness called. He said he was a druggist, and recognized the bottle produced as one of his. It had contained laudanum. He could not say that it was bought at his place. There is a Pharmacy Act, regulating the sale of poisons in Ontario. The poisons are classified; they are divided into first and second classes. It is necessary to keep a register of all first-class poisons sold. Laudanum belongs to the second class. It is only necessary to label it poison, with the name of the party selling it attached. He did not remember selling any laudanum within the past ten days. The bottle produced might have been filled by another druggist.

To detective McVetty – The bottle produced contained laudanum. He did not remember seeing the deceased in his shop. His clerks were allowed to sell laudanum if the party had a prescription.

Mrs. Conolly said:-

“I have known the deceased for about two and a half years. He boarded with me. I had opportunities of studying his habits. I have seen him under the influence of liquor, but not very often. He was not an habitual drinker. At times he would be three or four months without drinking.” She never knew him to take laudanum. “I last saw him alive on Tuesday at noon,” [she continued.] “He took his dinner at my place, and was perfectly well. He did not appear as though he had been drinking. I did not see him until yesterday, after that. He was then sitting in the rocking chair in the front room, and appeared bad. I thought he was dying. I asked him what had happened, but he couldn't answer me. I sent for Rev. Dr. O'Connor. Mrs. Dean was not present at the time. Mrs. Joly told me Mrs. Dean had been away from home all

¹⁶⁴ From THAT MYSTERIOUS DEATH. (1878, May 4). *Ottawa Daily Citizen*, p. 4.

day, working for Mrs. Hope. [The] deceased lived [for] about an hour and a half after I came in. When I came in he appeared to be suffering very much.”

To Detective McVeitty – “The deceased left without any words, just as he had always done. There was no difficulty about his board bill. I never heard him say he was tired of life. I did not see any of the bottles produced with the deceased. He used to deal with Mr. Davidson, druggist, before he left. There are no bottles in his room labeled laudanum. [The] deceased was in the habit of visiting Mrs. Dean. He used to board with her. He had his washing [done] by Mrs. Dean. I don’t think he had any money about him.”

Mr. D. O’Brien testified to having known the deceased for several years. Three years ago he was rather inclined to be intemperate. He once told [the] witness that he had taken chlorodyne after a spree.

Mrs. Close said she knew the deceased. [She] saw him on Tuesday forenoon and Thursday afternoon. She was present when he died. Her evidence was substantially the same as Mrs. Connolly’s.

An adjournment took place for further evidence.

“Col. Thompson’s death”¹⁶⁵ (Ontario, 1878)

The inquest on the remains of the late Col. Thompson was resumed at the British Lion Hotel, [Ottawa,] on Saturday night.

Geo. Lutiesr [sic.], a clerk in Mr. Christie’s drug store, testified to having sold Mr. Thompson laudanum on several occasions. He got it on the order of a doctor, and represented that it was mixed with oil of turpentine and used as a liniment for his lips. He sold him some on the 30th of April last.

Mrs. Dean gave evidence similar in substance to what has already been published. She added that on one occasion last fall Mr. Thompson was depressed in spirits, and said he would drown himself.

Wm. Morehead, a clerk in Mr. Mills’ store, was called and testified to having sold Mr. Thompson laudanum.

Drs. Corbett and Rogers, who made a *post mortem* examination, said they could not swear to the cause of death. They had preserved the contents of the stomach, and recommended that a chemical analysis be made. The jury then authorized the coroner to have the analysis made, and the inquest was adjourned until Saturday next.

“The late Col. Joshua Thompson”¹⁶⁶ (Ontario, 1878)

The inquest on the body of the late Col. Joshua Thompson was held on Saturday evening at the British Lion hotel by Coroner Lyn. The only witness

¹⁶⁵ From COL. THOMPSONS’ DEATH. (1878, May 6). *Ottawa Daily Citizen*, p. 4.

¹⁶⁶ From COL. THOMPSON’S DEATH. (1878, May 13). *Ottawa Daily Citizen*, p. 4.

examined was Prof. Baptie, of the Normal School, who was employed by the Government to make a chemical analysis of the contents of the stomach. He said:-

“I have made an analysis of the contents of the bottle said to contain the stomach of the late Col. Thompson and formed an opinion on it. In my opinion the poison is morphia or morphine. The amount contained in the stomach was, in my opinion, sufficient to cause death.”

The jury retired and returned the following verdict:-

“That the deceased, Joshua Thompson, came to his death from an overdose of laudanum, and we have reason to believe from the evidence that it was administered by himself, but not with the intention of destroying life, as he was in the habit of using it for several years.”

The medical evidence went to show that in his depressed condition laudanum was more readily absorbed, and thus the fatal consequences. He had been suffering for some time with sciatica and used the laudanum to allay the pain produced by it.

“Suicide by morphine”¹⁶⁷ (Quebec, 1881)

Yesterday another of those sad cases of self-destruction was brought to light by the information given to Coroner Jones of the suicide by morphine of a man named Martin Rutger Nevius, 40 years of age, married and residing at 521 Lagauchetiere Street, [Montreal]. The man, who was a bookkeeper, came originally from Millstone, New Jersey, and was a resident of the city for over two years. Since the first of May he had been drinking heavily, and whilst laboring under *delirium tremens* committed the fatal deed. Several witnesses were examined during the inquest which was held, including his wife and Drs. Roddick and Bell. [The] deceased took a strong dose of morphine in [the] presence of his wife in his bedroom and said, “I have taken the morphine, and this is the last time I will trouble you.” He had been without employment for some time, and that, together with his wretched state, drove him to despair.

The following verdict was rendered:

“That [the] deceased, Martin Rutger Nevius, came to his death by taking intentionally a quantity of morphine while in a state of delirium.”

“Died very suddenly”¹⁶⁸ (Ontario, 1881)

Napanee, Ont., July 3 – Wm. Johnson, deaf-mute, a son of Mrs. Johnson, Bridge street, and a compositor in the *Standard* office, died very suddenly this morning at 9.15. Last evening he was apparently in his usual health, and was riding a bicycle until dark, and returned at 11 p.m. after taking a dose of 10 grains of Dover’s powder, a large part of which was left in the glass. At 3 this morning he awakened his sister and complained of fullness of the veins of the neck and oppression at the

¹⁶⁷ From SUICIDE BY MORPHINE. (1881, January 6). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 3.

¹⁶⁸ From ONTARIO. (1881, July 4). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 5.

throat, but fell asleep again. At 8 a.m., when his sister went to wake him, she found him unconscious, [and] his face, neck and chest greatly congested. Dr. Brown was summoned at once, but nothing could be done for him, and he died in about 15 minutes.

“Tragedy in the East Ward”¹⁶⁹ (Ontario, 1882)

The whole city [of Brantford] was painfully startled this morning by the report that Mrs. Jas. Kennedy had died, and the most conflicting stories were circulated as to the cause. In order to ascertain the facts of the sad case our reporter called at the pretty cottage on Peel street. The signs of mourning on the door but feebly indicated the woe within. The aged father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Vanderlip, and the other members of the family were bathed in tears, and no pen can picture the woe depicted on every countenance.

TERRIBLE ACT

The form of the beloved daughter and sister lay on her couch, sleeping the sleep that knows no waking. Her appearance was as if in peaceful slumber, and there were no signs of the fearful mental struggle that had driven her to the commission of the terrible act of self destruction.

To make the matter intelligible, we go back a year to the old farm, seven miles east of this city. One year and three days since the deceased stood at the marriage altar and pledged her vows. During that time her hopes of future happiness have not been fully realized, but no single word of complaint has ever passed her lips. Her home has been a model of cheerfulness and neatness, and to-day, as the tired hands were folded across her breast, every part of the little cottage gave evidence of a woman's care and thoughtfulness.

The family consisted of the husband, Mr. Jas. Kennedy, Mr. P. F. Vanderlip¹⁷⁰, and Mr. John Kennedy, the two latter as boarders. Last evening Mr. Kennedy was from home and his whereabouts were unknown, but he was followed by the longings of his faithful wife. During the evening Mr. Frederick Brophy called, and the time was spent in cheerful conversation.

UNDER HER PILLOW

At 9:30 the family retired, and what transpired in that one lonely bed room is only indicated by a note found under her pillow, not addressed to any one in particular, which stated that the writer had taken a fatal dose of laudanum and the hope was expressed that God would forgive her for the awful act. An empty two ounce vial beside the bed confirmed the evidence, and left no doubt of the cause of the physical prostration after the family was awakened.

¹⁶⁹ From TRAGEDY IN THE EAST WARD. (1882, April 15). *Daily Expositor* (Brantford), p. 1.

¹⁷⁰ In the 1881 census, Peter F. Vanderlip is listed as a salesman living with his family in Brantford.

At 1:30 this morning Mr. P. F. Vanderlip, the brother, was aroused by Mr. John Kennedy, who said he thought Mrs. Kennedy was very ill. On repairing to her room¹⁷¹ the narcotic had done its fatal work. It is true there was the laboured breath [indicating life,] but the eye was glazed, and the mind utterly unconscious.

TOO LATE

Dr. Philip, the family physician, was hastily summoned, and he concluded that something of the nature indicated had happened, and too precaution to take Belladonna with him. This was hypodermically administered, and Dr. Digby was sent for. He brought a stomach pump, but it was too late to rouse the failing energies, and at 6:15 this morning the struggle for life ended.

THE FUNERAL

The funeral will take place at 2 p.m. to-morrow, when a short service will be held at the desolated home by the Rev. J. W. Cutler, and then the remains will be conveyed to the God's Acre at the home where she was born, where her feet often played in childhood, and where her grandfather and other relatives have been placed.

GOD'S ACRE

The deceased was a true lady. Unobtrusive and modest, but cheerful and loving, she was the pet of the household. In the church and Sabbath school she was respected and loved by all who knew her. She was the last person, judging from outside appearances, who would be thought capable of such an act of reckless determination, and it can only be accounted for by the supposition that she had buried her secret sorrows until her heart broke, and her reason became dethroned.

Taken altogether the case is one of the saddest that ever fell to our duty to record, and the parents and friends have the deep sympathy of all.

Coroner Webster summoned a jury to meet at 4 p.m. to-day, when the whole circumstances surrounding the case will be investigated.

“The last sad obsequies”¹⁷² (Ontario, 1882)

The enquiry into the cause of death of the late Mrs. Jas. Kennedy opened before Coroner Webster and a jury composed of Mr. John Leitch, foreman, and Messrs. Wesley Able, Wm. Lane, J. Lowes, W. Bachelor, P. Senn, Jas. Wilson, Wm. McCollum, J. Montgomery, N. Montgomery, H. Lowes, Jas. McLaren, [and] Wm. Petch, at Motts' Hotel, East Ward, at 4 p.m. on Saturday.

After the jury were sworn, the coroner stated that he did not feel that an enquiry was necessary, but on the advice of Dr. Phillip and the County Attorney, he had called them together.

The jury repaired to the hosue of the deceased to view the body, after which the following evidence was taken:

¹⁷¹ “LAST WORDS – ‘Jim will be sorry if he don’t’ come home to-night,’ was the sad commentary of Mrs. Kennedy last evening, just before retiring to the couch of death.” LAST WORDS. (1882, April 15). *Daily Expositor* (Brantford), p. 4.

¹⁷² From THE LAST SAD OBSEQUIES. (1882, April 17). *Daily Expositor* (Brantford), p. 1.

Mr. A. B. Emmens, sworn:-

“[I] live in Brantford. [I] knew the deceased, Minnie Kennedy. [I] saw her alive at 5 o'clock this morning at her residence. [I] was sent for by the family, [and] found the deceased in a dying condition. [I] saw on the bureau an empty laudanum bottle, labeled 'poison, S. Tapscott, chemist & druggist.' Afterwards Dr. Philip found a letter in the hand-writing of the deceased. The letter is the one produced.”

[TRANSCRIPT OF THE LETTER]

“I have taken two ounces of laudanum. I write this so no person can be accused; I want all the things I brought from home to go back again, also my wedding presents. The silverware, also my jewelry. My diamond ring I want Peter to have, also my watch (to secure him). I cannot stand it any longer; I know my God will forgive me for this rash act. Good-bye-all. M.”

“[I] am satisfied,” [continued the witness,] “the note is in the handwriting of [the] deceased.”

To a Juror – “[I] do not know of any trouble between her and others.”

Dr. Philip, sworn:-

“[I] was the family physician of the deceased. [I] was called at 1.30 this morning by Peter Vanderlip; he told me she was dying or already dead. [I] went in a few minutes, [and] found her in a comatose state. [I] concluded she was under a poisonous dose of opium, completely unconscious, and thus beyond receiving internal remedies. [I] administered fluid Belladonna hypodermically as an antidote, [and] enquired if the family knew where she got the poison. [I] found the bottle spoken of by Mr. Emmons. The bottle is the one produced. She had evidently taken the contents; [I] sent for Dr. Henwood, who came soon after. In the meantime [I] gave another injection of Belladonna, and tried artificial respiration. On turning over the body [I] found beneath the pillow the note already produced by Mr. Emmons. Dr. Henwood rendered all the assistance possible. We worked for fully two hours, but our efforts were unavailing. [I] left about 6 o'clock, shortly before her death. [I] consider that she died from narcotic poison; opium in an excessive dose.”

Dr. Henwood, sworn:-

The witness fully corroborated that portion of Dr. Phillip's evidence of which he had cognizance.

To the foreman – “[I] never attended [the] deceased professionally.”

Dr. Philip was recalled, and said the deceased was physically and mentally in good health during the past few months, but previously she had suffered from severe pains in her head. She did not complain of domestic unhappiness.

Mr. S. Tapscott, chemist and druggist, sworn:-

“[I] knew [the] deceased slightly, [but] have not seen her for some months. The label on the bottle is of recent date. Poisons are under two classes, A and B; laudanum is a class B. To purchase it does not require a doctor's prescription. The bottle produced was sold within three weeks, but not by myself.”

Mrs. Emmons, sworn:-

“[I] heard my husband’s evidence and corroborate it. [I] knew [the] deceased; she never made complaints of unhappiness. She found fault with her husband for his absence from home, but [she] would always find an excuse for him.”

Miss L. Emmons, sworn:-

Her evidence agreed with that of Mr. and Mrs. Emmons as to the last hours of the deceased.

“[I] recognize the note to be in her handwriting,” [said the witness.] “She never confided her trouble to me; as far as I know she lived happily with her husband. She was in depressed spirits at times, but she attributed it to ill health.”

T. W. G. Jeffries, sworn:-

“[I] do not know [the] deceased. [I] am a clerk at Mr. Tapscott’s; [I] don’t remember selling the bottle produced.”

I. Forman, sworn:-

“[I] knew [the] deceased. [I] delivered milk to her once a day. [I] saw her last on Friday morning at 9 o’clock. On Monday last she showed me her arm, head and mouth as being sore. She said she was taking medicine from a Dr. in Buffalo.”

John Kennedy, sworn:-

“[I] reside at Mr. Jas. Kennedy’s. [I] was out last evening, came home at 10:45, [and] heard [the] deceased (who is my sister-in-law) breathing heavily as I passed her door. At 1 a.m. [I] was aroused by hearing sounds as one in distress. The sounds were as of a person vomiting. [I] got up and called, ‘Min, are you sick?’ but got no answer. [I] called repeatedly, but no response. [I] lighted the lamp and went to her door and saw she was very ill, and I then called her brother. We went to her room and found her in the condition described by the medical testimony. Her brother asked, ‘Are you dead, Min?’ She did not reply, and he then went for medical and other assistance, as already described. [I] went to find my brother James; [I] thought he might be in town. [I] do not know when he left home; [I] saw him at home on noon on Thursday, [and] he came home at 10 a.m. to-day. [I] saw him last night at nine on Market Street; he said he was coming home, but did not. No words occurred between him and his wife. [I] never heard an angry word between them. [I] recognize the writing on the note as being that of [the] deceased. [I] have boarded there three weeks. My brother is often from home. His wife complained of his absence last evening.”

P. F. Vanderlip, sworn:-

“[I] am a brother of [the] deceased, [and] live in the house. [I can] corroborate Mr. John Kennedy’s testimony. [I] was at home last evening. My sister retired at 9:15 last night. She was suffering from a cold; she then seemed in her usual spirits. [I] was called at 1 a.m., as told by Mr. Kennedy. [I] have lived there nearly a year. Her husband was always kind to her; [I] never heard a cross word between them. He was sometimes from home when she did not know where he was, and at such times she was very despondent. She was very reticent, and made no confidant; she said once that she felt she could not stand it much longer. Jas. Kennedy always provided well for his home. He never came home drunk. [I] kept my revolver locked for fear she might do herself injury. She was home at her father’s two weeks last fall.”

At this stage the coroner said he had examined the witnesses at command, but if others had any evidence to offer, he would hear it.

THE VERDICT

“We, the jury empaneled to enquire into the cause of the death of the late Minnie Kennedy, find that she came to her death by a poisonous dose of laudanum, administered by her own hands while laboring under a fit of despondency.”

THE FUNERAL

At 2 p.m. on Sunday, a vast concourse of people assembled to convey the unfortunate woman to her last resting place, on the old farm. The Rev. Mr. Cutler conducted a brief and solemn service, and the *cortege* of over one hundred carriages started on its sad journey, and soon the quiet sleeper was laid at rest in the little burial plot on the old farm near Langford.

Thus closed one of the saddest dramas that ever transpired in our city, and we cannot envy anyone who contributed to the terrible event the recollection that such a blighted life and dishonored death must cause.

“A poisoned child”¹⁷³ (Ontario, 1882)

The citizens of Hamilton will soon expect to see a daily calendar of serious crime if the list keeps growing at its present rate. The Pool murder, the double murder and suicide at the Central school, and the tragedy at Jennie Sheppard’s followed closely on one another. It is but a few days since there lay in the dead house the bodies of Forbes and his two victims, and Broadly, the engine-driver. Yesterday morning there were two bodies there – those of John Lewis, and of a little child, supposed to have been foully dealt with. The death of the child furnishes the sensation of to-day.

The body of the child was in a neat coffin, and [his] face presented to the ordinary spectator quite a natural appearance. It was that of a male child about 3½ months old. There were rumors that [he] had been poisoned. The coroner’s inquest¹⁷⁴ will develop the truth of the affair, and in the meantime the following facts and statements have been gathered for the information of readers of the SPECTATOR.

THE FATHER’S STORY

The father of the dead child, William Henry Atkinson, is a gardener in the employ of Mr. Anthony Copp. Mr. Atkinson’s wife died about two weeks ago, and since then he has sent the child out to be nursed. It was first with Mrs. Hill, on Ferguson Avenue, and on Monday last [the child] was taken by Mrs. Gilles, a married woman, living with her husband at No. 50 Kelly Street. Mrs. Gilles has no children of her own. On Saturday night, Mrs. Gilles left word at Atkinson’s boarding house that he should come and take the child away, as [he] was very sick. The father took the child to Mrs. Haddon’s, on King Street East, where [he] died on Sunday morning. Dr.

¹⁷³ From A POISONED CHILD. (1882, July 13). *Weekly Spectator* (Hamilton), p. 5.

¹⁷⁴ “At the inquest held here [Hamilton] to-night on the child of William Henry Atkinson, supposed to have been poisoned, the jury returned a verdict that while the death of the child was not directly due to the paregoric administered by the nurse, Mrs. Gilles, she had been reckless in giving so much of the drug to the child, who was not four months old.” ONTARIO. (1882, July 12). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 8.

Griffin was called in, but the child was dying then. The father was of [the] opinion that the child had not been well cared for, and had been dosed with paregoric. He gave information to police and to coroner Woolverton.

MRS. GILLES' SORY

A SPECTATOR reporter interviewed Mrs. Gilles at her house, and gained the following information from her, after an objection by her husband that the reporter was more probably a detective than a news gatherer. Mrs. Giles said she did not care who the reporter was, as she was telling the truth and had but one story to give.

She said that she had taken the child on Monday last, and had notified the father on Saturday evening that another woman, a Mrs. Anderson, living on Cannon Street, wanted to take the child that night. Atkinson came down and asked where Mrs. Anderson lived, and went over to see her. When he returned he took the child to Mrs. Haddon on King street. The baby, Mrs. Gilles said, was restless and cross all through the week.

Coming to the question of the paregoric administered to the child, Mrs. Gilles said that on Saturday morning she sent to Dr. Smith's for five cents worth of paregoric, of which she gave the child five drops in a bottle full of milk. On Saturday evening the bottle was again filled with milk and ten drops of paregoric were put into the milk. She showed the reporter the bottle, which was almost half full, saying that five cents' worth half-filled the bottle. She did not believe that the paregoric given to the child had been in any way the cause of its death, as it had not even put the child to sleep.

"I'm sure I didn't want to kill the poor baby anyway," said Mrs. Gilles, beginning to weep. According to her, the father was very fond of the child and visited [him] every evening while Mrs. Gilles had [him]. She says she took as much care of the child as if [he] had been her own, and that Atkinson acknowledged this to the neighbors.

"Accidental poisoning in Simcoe"¹⁷⁵ (Ontario, 1882)

On the 5th inst., a young son of John H. Madden died in Simcoe under peculiar and painful circumstances. It appears that Mrs. Madden procured from a drug store what she supposed was ipecacuanha, and gave two doses to the child, which resulted in [his] death. From the evidence given at the inquest it seems the clerk gave her Dover's powder, a preparation of ipecacuanha and opium, in such quantity as to cause death when administered to a child.

After hearing the evidence the coroner's jury returned the following verdict and recommendation:-

"That Clinton Fay Madden¹⁷⁶ came to his death accidentally by opium poison, procured at J. Austin & Co.'s drug store in the form of Dover powders from the clerk's

¹⁷⁵ From ACCIDENTAL POISONING IN SIMCOE. (1882, October 9). *Expositor* (Brantford), p. 4.

¹⁷⁶ Clinton Fay Madden (August 13 1881 – September 29 1882) was the son of John Hamilton Madden (1885 – 1946) and Margaret Caroline Corbett Madden (1859 – 1942).

(Austin) hand, in lieu of ipecacuanha, which was ordered by Mrs. Madden for the purpose of curing colds. The jurors would recommend the County Attorney to endeavor at his earliest opportunity to have the Government have the Pharmacy Act so amended that none but legally qualified druggists should dispense poisonous drugs of any kind.”

“Suicide this morning by taking laudanum”¹⁷⁷ (Ontario, 1882)

John J. Walsh, junior partner of the firm of Ryan & Walsh, stockbrokers and financial agents on Yonge street, [Toronto,] committed suicide this morning by taking laudanum. He rose between five and six o'clock this morning and purchased two ounces of laudanum at Dilworth's store. He walked about for a short time, and took the fatal dose in the forenoon at his boarding house on Pembroke street. Shortly after he was found unconscious, and three doctors were summoned, but notwithstanding their endeavors, he died about one o'clock.

On Saturday Ald. Peter Ryan, his partner, told him he intended to wind up the business, and Mr. Walsh gave him a verbal as well as a written statement of the accounts of the firm, which were all correct, and showed a balance at the credit of the firm. Mr. Ryan asked him to come down this morning and they would dissolve the partnership and advertise it. Mr. Ryan thought the deceased ended his life because he took the matter so much to heart. The firm has only been in business a short time.

Mr. Walsh was 35 years of age, and was a quiet, gentlemanly man of ability. He was betrothed to a beautiful and accomplished young lady in the eastern part of the city.

“She had taken poison”¹⁷⁸ (Ontario, 1884)

About noon on Thursday last, Mr. John Anderson, of the Canada Southern Railway, St. Thomas, on going to his house, found his young wife lying on a lounge unconscious. Medical aid was at once summoned, and from the symptoms, it was concluded she had taken poison, which proved correct, as a quantity of morphine was found in her pocket, some of which, it is supposed, she had taken by mistake or otherwise. Every effort was made to counteract the poison, but without success, as she died in the afternoon.

“A deadly draught”¹⁷⁹ (Manitoba, 1884)

A man named James Keith, boarding at 35 Common Street, [Winnipeg,] committed suicide on Thursday night by taking laudanum. He had been rather despondent for some days past, owing to his failure to obtain employment, and took

¹⁷⁷ From FROM TORONTO. (1882, October 31). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 1.

¹⁷⁸ From News Notes. (1884, April 25). *Weekly Expositor* (Brantford), p. 3.

¹⁷⁹ From A DEADLY DRAUGHT. (1884, September 4). *Manitoba Weekly Free Press*, p. 10.

this method of ending his troubles. He retired to his room on Thursday night, and was found dead in bed the next morning. An empty vial that had contained laudanum was lying on the table. The unfortunate man comes from Aberdeenshire, Scotland, and has only been in this country for a few weeks. He was unmarried.

“Attempted suicide this afternoon”¹⁸⁰ (Ontario, 1885)

J. M. Carter, a collector of accounts, attempted suicide [at Toronto] this afternoon by drinking laudanum. He has been depressed in spirits for some time and engaged a room last night at 66 Victoria street with the evident intention of committing suicide, as four bottles of laudanum were found in his room, two being empty. He was taken to the hospital, where small hopes are held out for his recovery.

“Child murder”¹⁸¹ (Manitoba, 1885)

A woman named Mrs. Warren was brought into the city [of Brandon] on Wednesday last, charged with the murder of her child. The facts of the case now appear to be as follows:

Mrs. Warren, a widow of about 35 years of age, and having a boy about nine years old, had been engaged as a cook for a gang of men in the vicinity of Wolsely. Through promise of marriage one of the men succeeded in seducing her, and, aware of her condition, she left that place for Brandon about two weeks ago. She was, however, unable to proceed further than Elkhorn, where the child in question was born.

Under the impression that the child could be left in some institution in Brandon, she came to this city a week ago last Monday and stayed at the Elie House. On the afternoon of the same day she purchased a small quantity of laudanum, stating that it was for ear ache. In mistake, it is claimed for soothing syrup the child was given the laudanum.

The next day she started for the west; but in the meantime the suspicious nature of the case reached detective O’Keefe, who had her arrested by a mounted policeman, who found that she was carrying the dead body of her child with her.

Both were brought to this city on Wednesday. At the coroner’s inquest, of three sittings, the jury failed to elicit any definite evidence, although a large number of witnesses had been examined. They accordingly rendered the following verdict: “That the deceased infant came to its death by some unknown cause.”

¹⁸⁰ From LATEST FROM TORONTO. (1885, January 5). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 1.

¹⁸¹ From CHILD MURDER. (1885, March 12). *Brandon Weekly Mail*, p. 8.

“Found dead”¹⁸² (Ontario, 1885)

The widow of the late Dr. W. H. Stratford, since his death in December last, has dwelt alone in the cozily furnished and pretty little home on Albion street, [Brantford]. Contrary to the wishes and entreaties of her friends, she has preferred to live in solitude and for days together would not be seen. Since Tuesday, March 31, when she was down town, and observed by Miss Biggar, who lives opposite, to enter the house, the unfortunate woman has not been seen.

THERE WAS NO RESPONSE

On Wednesday Miss Biggar and Mrs. T. R. Nelles of Simcoe knocked at the door, but could not gain admittance. On Thursday Mrs. A. Elliott called, but there was no response to her knock. The long continued quiet and the failure of the above mentioned friends to obtain admission incited alarm, and last evening they despatched Mr. R. M. Wilson for Mr. Chas. R. Biggar about 10 o'clock, purporting to gain entrance to the house in some manner. The front door was securely bolted and fastened also with a chain, the windows are all double and securely barred, and an entrance could only be effected by climbing upon a low building at the rear, and [then going] through an upper window.

A DARK LIQUID

Mr. Biggar went down stairs, immediately opened the door and admitted Mr. Wilson, Mr. Thos. Racey and Miss Biggar and Mrs. Nelles. The lamp was on the table, but had not been left burning. Beside it [was] a china cup discolored with a dark liquid. They proceeded at once to the little bedroom off the dining room and were horrified to find a large stain of blood on the carpet, and the chamber vessels all containing water thickly mixed with blood. Fully expecting to find a bloody trail, their eyes were bent towards the floor for direction, but not a drop could be seen anywhere.

LAY THE DEAD WOMAN

After looking about down stairs, the sad-hearted group of friends proceeded upstairs, and there in a little bedroom at the front of the house lay the dead woman, upon the floor with her head in a small green painted bath tub, her face buried to the ears in water. She was dressed in a black lustre dress and had evidently taken her hair down, as it hung about her shoulders. Around her throat was a wet towel. All of the water had been poured from the pitcher into the bath, but there seemed to be not a particle of blood in this water, the hemorrhage, which it undoubtedly was, having probably stopped.

Down stairs upon the sideboard in the dining room was found a bottle labeled “Laudanum – Poison,” in which but a drop or two of the liquid remained, but there was sufficient to tell its contents were as labeled, and to connect the bottle with the discolored cup, the discolored cup with the overdose, and the hemorrhage almost sure to follow, with the result as stated.

¹⁸² From FOUND DEAD. (1885, April 10). *Weekly Expositor* (Brantford), p. 4.

CASE OF SUICIDE

Whether it is a case of suicide, or a case of having taken an overdose of opium, will never be known. Suffice it to say she was in a melancholy mood on Monday, and was bemoaning her secret troubles to Mrs. Messmore. The only inference is that if it was a suicidal act, the deed was done in a moment of temporary insanity, as it is known that she occasionally acted somewhat strangely.

There were no marks of violence about the body, and Dr. Henwood stated, in the presence of our reporter, that an overdose of the poison would be very likely to cause the hemorrhage, so that the extreme quantity of blood may be accounted for.

AN INQUEST WAS HELD

Coroner Kerr was notified and an inquest was held Saturday afternoon. The following gentlemen composed the jury – Thos. McLean, foreman, Messrs. Terrence Jones, John Orchard, Wm. Young, R. S. Kelly, H. J. Livergood, John Montgomery, Robt. McGregor, Chas. Champion, J. Daniels, Jno. Muirhead, R. J. Jackson and Geo. Clarke.

Charles Biggar, sworn, said he was a cousin of [the] deceased. On the 3rd of April he was met by Dr. R. M. Wilson, who told him that he thought there was something wrong with Mrs. Stratford, as she had not been seen for some days. He (Biggar) went to the house of [the] deceased and gained admittance by breaking a window, the doors all being fastened. He opened the front door and admitted Mr. Willson and Mr. Thos. Racey. They searched the house and found [the] deceased in a bedroom upstairs, dead.

Everything in the house was in good order. When he got into the house it was about 10 or 10:30 p.m. [He] found a laudanum bottle on the sideboard. There was the appearance of laudanum in the bottom of the cup. [The] deceased was lying partly on her right side, with her head in a small bath tub which contained about a gallon of water; her face was down, the water covering her mouth and nostrils. There was a towel around her neck, wet. Another towel was found in the room which appeared to have been used in standing blood. In a bedroom downstairs [he] found a vessel with a large quantity of blood, besides a quantity of blood on the carpet; the water in the bath tub where the body was found had little if any blood in it.

L. E. Blackader testified to having sold a similar bottle containing an ounce of laudanum. He did not know who the parties were who procured it; it was not Mrs. Stratford.

Thos. Racey saw Mrs. Stratford last on Monday or Tuesday when she was down town. [He] corroborated Mr. Biggar's evidence.

Dr. Henwood saw the deceased, [and] examined the house. [He] found in one room a vessel containing a quantity of blood and water, about equal parts, [and] on a table in another room a bottle and tea cup, with remains of laudanum in both. There were no marks of violence on the body so far as he had seen – the head and face showed great turgescence (swelling) and congestion, which led him to infer that the immediate cause of death was suffocation.

“Seeing the laudanum as it had been used by [the] deceased,” [said the doctor,] “I would suppose that an overdose had been taken, which would produce congestion

of the head and intense hemorrhage. If the laudanum was taken, it would overpower volition to such an extent as to render her incapable of withdrawing herself from the tub of water in which she was found. I would say, when I saw her, she had been dead 24 hours, and in the present temperature might have been dead several days before showing signs of decomposition.”

Mrs. Messmore last saw [the] deceased alive on Monday, when she seemed to be despondent.

Joseph Stratford knew of no financial embarrassment that would tend to depress [the] deceased. The executors, with Mr. Biggar of Toronto, had succeeded in effecting a satisfactory settlement of the estate, which settlement had been accepted by [the] deceased. He did not believe she could possibly have been suffering from want of money.

Mrs. Biggar and a Miss King were examined, but nothing was adduced.

VERDICT

The jury, after considering the evidence, agreed upon the following verdict:

“The jury empaneled to inquire how, when, where and by what means Mrs. Isabella Stratford came to her death, after hearing the evidence adduced, are of the opinion that death resulted from suffocation caused by her having fallen on her face in a bathtub partially filled with water, while endeavoring to stanch a hemorrhage from the nose, at her residence at the city of Brantford, on or about the first day of April A. D. 1885.”

NOTES

The verdict was decidedly non-committal. They merely established the fact that she had not been murdered.

Dr. Henwood’s evidence predisposes one to the suicidal theory, but there are others, and with them the jury, who inclined to an accidental theory.

The fact that a settlement of the estate had been effected by the executors, and that this settlement had been accepted by her only last week, goes to show that she could not have been anxious on that score.

On Sunday a sum of money amounting to \$35 was found in the dress pocket of [the] deceased. This will serve to explode the rumor that she was suffering from the want of the necessaries of life.

“A lamentable accident”¹⁸³ (Quebec, 1885)

A lamentable accident occurred the other day in this city. A lady who was seriously ill was ordered by her physician to take a morphia pill every hour until pain was allayed. The first pill sent the patient to sleep. The others were found by a little child of less than two years of age who tasted them and, finding them palatable (they were sugar-coated), swallowed the lot. Of course the child fell into a sleep, from which [they] never awakened.

¹⁸³ From A lamentable accident. (1885, May 9). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 4.

How many similar accidents have occurred? Deadly poisons are most useful agents when fully under the control of a skilled physician, but fatal accidents from medicinal poisons are far too common. A sugar-coated poison is an unnatural abomination. Nature does not sugar-coat poisons. There may be exceptions, but as a general rule the repulsive taste of a poison is nature's warning that it is not good to eat. That poor child ate the morphia pills not through a liking for morphia, but through a natural relish for sugar. Poisonous pills ought not to be made agreeable to the taste. Children will not swallow pills by the boxful if their flavor is disagreeable.

The ready-made pill is a great institution now; all kinds of preparations which used to be put up by the retail druggist upon the doctor's prescription are now manufactured by the wholesale druggists who compete vigorously with each other. One firm will claim superiority for their pills on the ground that they coat them with sugar, another on the ground that they coat their pills with something else, and a third that they do not coat their pills at all.

Sooner or later the Legislature will have to take the sugar-coated pill into consideration. Sugar-coated pills of a hundred different kinds look alike and taste alike, and in some cases the labels are so much alike that even adults are not free from danger in their use. The allopathic physician's morphia pills look like the homeopathic physician's morphia pills, and until the sugar coat is sucked off, the former taste like them. What [could be] more natural than that people whose ideas about medicine do not rise above a notion that "morphia is morphia wherever you get it," should sometimes mistake one for the other? A poisonous pill ought to be too nauseous for a child to voluntarily eat it, and so put up that adults cannot mistake its character.

"A woman's mad act"¹⁸⁴ (Ontario, 1885)

The residents of Adair's lane, [Kingston,] were late on Saturday evening shocked by the report that Mrs. Mary Hayes, wife of David Hayes, had ended her existence by taking laudanum. The deceased on Saturday was in the best of spirits. When supper was over she called on Mrs. Bateson. Both went for a walk, and Mrs. Hayes called at a butcher shop on Barrie Street and bought some meat. On the way home Mrs. Hayes lost her money. The purse contained a \$5 bill, a 50c. piece, an English half-penny and a pair of gold ear rings. Mrs. Hayes did not realize her loss until she got into her house. She immediately informed Mrs. Bateson of her misfortune. Mrs. Bateson tried to alleviate her fear by telling her that she might have dropped it in the house.

SEARCHED CAREFULLY FOR IT

They searched carefully for it. Mrs. Burke, a boarder of Mrs. Bateson's, was in the house when Mrs. Hayes called. She joined in the search. Mrs. Hayes went to a cupboard in her house, took out a small vial and placed it in her pocket. Mrs. Burke and Mrs. Bateson noticed this, but did not know what Mrs. Hayes had. Later on Mrs.

¹⁸⁴ From A WOMAN'S MAD ACT. (1885, September 24). *Weekly British Whig* (Kingston), p. 5.

Hayes and Mrs. Burke started for Mrs. Bateson's house, leaving the latter behind to continue her search for the purse.

At Mrs. Bateson's, Mrs. Hayes asked Mrs. Burke to hand her a glass of water. She then produced a 4 oz. vial, nearly full of laudanum, and poured the contents into the water and drank it. Mrs. Burke instantly called out, "Mrs. Hayes, you have drunk laudanum." Mrs. Hayes said the contents of the bottle were not laudanum, and told Mrs. Burke to mind her own business. The latter said she would tell her husband and started out of the house.

Mrs. Hayes followed her, and pleaded with her not to tell Mr. Hayes. They met Mrs. Bateson on the way and Ms. Burke told her what had happened. The poison began to take effect. Mrs. Hayes was fast drifting into a stupor. She told the women that she wanted sleep and could not. The women applied antidotes. They gave her vinegar, but it proved useless. They remembered that she had often told them she took laudanum to ease her rheumatic pains, and they were not at first alarmed by the act. But as she was being overcome, they repeated the facts to her husband.

He immediately summoned Dr. Fee. It was now 11 o'clock. Dr. Fee told Mr. Hayes to secure another doctor as soon as he could. Dr. Fee went to Hayes' house and found the woman lying on the floor and in a comatose state. Her head rested on the knee of a visitor.

COULD NOT AROUSE HER

He shook her but could not arouse her. He tried to stand her on her feet and failed. He administered a strong emetic of sulphate and zinc. It also proved of no avail. He put ammonia to her nostrils. She rallied once, but only for a short time. Her pulse beat slower and slower and about 1:30 her spirit took its flight. Dr. Henderson arrived shortly after the woman's death. Mrs. Bateson related the facts of the case and her story is embodied in the report.

Mrs. Hayes, when she told Mrs. Bateson that her money was gone, was very much frustrated, and exclaimed, "Oh, just think of it; I have lost most of David's week's hard earnings." As Mrs. Hayes did not like to tell her husband what had happened, Mrs. Bateson did so. When she found out that Mrs. Hayes had drunk the poison, she gave her two tumblers of vinegar.

Mrs. Burkes' story was very much like Mrs. Bateson's. [The] deceased and her husband have only been in Canada four years. Mrs. Hayes was a native of Manchester, Eng., and was 49 years of age. It is not thought that she purposely ended her life, as she never expressed discontent and always evinced a lively disposition.

RESULT OF THE INQUEST

Monday forenoon an inquest occurred, conducted by Dr. Stewart. David Hayes, the husband, said he had asked her if she had taken laudanum, and her reply was, "What do you want to know for?" The laudanum was secured from a druggist. The doctors testified that all the symptoms indicated poisoning by laudanum. The jury found that the deceased Mary Hayes came to her death by an over-dose of laudanum, taken by herself and obtained by some person or persons unknown to this jury. They also strongly censured the indiscriminate sale of poisons by druggists without proper authority.

“A dose of laudanum”¹⁸⁵ (Ontario, 1887)

Wednesday afternoon a man attempted suicide in a James street [Hamilton, Ont.] saloon under circumstances which exhibited great deliberation of purpose and a certain appreciation of dramatic effect on the part of the unfortunate fellow who was the chief actor in the scene. A party of men were standing at the bar drinking, among them being Oscar C. Evans, a sign painter who has a shop next door to the Chinese laundry, opposite the Grand opera house. Oscar is a tall, thin, stoop-shouldered man with long hair and something of the air and style of an artist of the greenery-yallery school. He did a good business here at one time, but paid too much attention to exercising his artistic talents in painting the town, consequently his custom fell away and he left the city for a space. About a month ago he returned, and has since been drinking heavily.

As he stood at the bar Wednesday afternoon the conversation turned upon the various ambitions which men have in life, whereupon Evans remarked that he had a consuming desire to be buried at a cross-roads with a wooden stake driven through his body, and in answer to the questioning looks with which his companions heard the grisly wish, he explained that that was the way they planted suicides in England.

Shortly after he ordered a glass of Irish whiskey, and taking a small vial of laudanum from his pocket, proceeded deliberately to measure in four small spoonfuls, containing about 120 drops in all. Then, stepping back from the bar he raised the glass. “Here is health, happiness and prosperity – and good-bye,” he said, and with this ghastly imitation of convivial courtesies, coolly drank down the deadly draught.

Those present did not realize what he was about until they saw him drink the stuff, and then in reply to their hurried questions as to what he had done, he showed the vial over to the saloon keeper and said he would see by that what he had taken. Evans then walked over to a chair and sat down near the stove, and the deadly torpor caused by the heavy dose of the drug at once began to steal over him.

A young man named Frank O’Reilly¹⁸⁶, who was present, took in the situation and immediately proceeded to fight the effects of the narcotic by rousing the man up and forcing him to walk about and keep awake. Assisted by the other men, the would-be suicide was taken to his shop, and there every possible scheme was resorted to [in order] to keep him awake, and after the lapse of an hour or so the effects of the laudanum began to wear off, and the immediate danger was over. One doctor was sent for, but he was not in, and no other attempt seems to have been made to secure the attendance of a physician, consequently the credit of saving the man’s life is due to O’Reilly and those who assisted him.

Evans has separated himself from his wife and family, and is living, with only his little son as a companion, in the rear of his shop, behind a low partition. That night Sergt. Major Smith, Sergt. Vanatter and a reporter visited the place to see how

¹⁸⁵ From A DOSE OF LAUDANUM. (1887, October 27). *Hamilton Weekly Spectator*, p. 5.

¹⁸⁶ According to Irwin’s *Hamilton City Directory* for 1885-86, Frank O’Reilly was a plumber, and his store was at 117 Macnab n.

the man was getting along. The low, ramshackle room that serves for a shop was all dark and no signs of life were visible within. After pounding on the door for some time it was opened by a little, ragged, unkempt boy about 10 years of age, who had been roused by the knocking from his peaceful slumbers on the hard, bare floor in the corner of the room. He led the way back behind the screen or partition that separated the private apartment from the front shop.

There, under the light of the officer's lantern, a scene of poverty and squalor was presented which the thousands of well-fed and prosperous citizens who daily pass to and fro on the sidewalk a few feet away would find it difficult to conceive of as existing in their midst. The apartment – damp, cold and ill-smelling – had not a vestige of furniture in it, not even a stove, while on the cold, bare floor, covered with a piece of sacking, the taunt figure of Evans lay stretched. Sergeant Vanatter pulled the sacking back off his head and found that he was lying with his face buried in a bundle of rags that did duty as a pillow, in such a way as to suggest danger of suffocation in view of his semi-unconscious condition. After sorting him up as well as could be done under the circumstances, and promising to visit him again during the night, the visitors departed, leaving the child in that dark, cold place along with his suicidally-inclined father.

“He now disclaims all knowledge”¹⁸⁷ (Ontario, 1888)

A farmer named Frederick Stevens, living near Toronto, took a dose of Paris green, and while Mr. Stevens ran to a neighbor's for aid he took a second dose, in all over an ounce. Not content with this second dose, he took a mixture of laudanum and ether, that had been got for a sick breast. Vomiting was produced and relieved him somewhat, but he refused to have a physician and none was procured until 4 o'clock on Sunday afternoon. At present he is improving, but it is difficult to say what the result will be, as the stomach is in a high fever. He now disclaims all knowledge of taking the poison.

“Death before labor”¹⁸⁸ (Ontario, 1888)

Frederick Hooper, a lad about 19 years old, who has quite a local reputation [in Hamilton] as a roller skater, made a deliberate attempt to poison himself some time Sunday night. Hooper's real name is McClintock, he having assumed his step-father's name. He lives with his mother and sister at 9 Macnab street south. He had been out of work for several months, and as the sister had to support the family, she told him a couple of weeks ago that he would either have to get work or leave the house. This had the effect of making young Hooper very despondent, it being impossible for him to get a situation. The thought of being compelled to leave home preyed upon his mind, and a week ago last Saturday he took a dose of laudanum, with

¹⁸⁷ From CLIPPINGS. (1888, July 5). *The Brandon Mail*, p. 4.

¹⁸⁸ From DEATH BEFORE LABOR. (1888, November 1). *Hamilton Weekly Spectator*, p. 5.

the probable intention of taking his life. His mother and sister discovered what he had done, and it was only after they had worked for some time that they succeeded in reviving him. He denied that he intended to commit suicide, claiming that the laudanum was taken for medicinal purposes, and that he had taken too large a dose. The lad was sick from the effects of the drug last week.

Saturday night when he returned to bed he told his sister not to wake him on Sunday, as he wanted to sleep all day. Miss Hooper paid no attention to her brother until Sunday night, when she went to his room and found out that he was all right. Yesterday morning about 7 o'clock she again visited his apartment and found him in a stupor. Miss Hooper then suspected that her brother had taken another dose of laudanum. She succeeded in bringing him to, and with the assistance of a neighbor walked him up and down. He was very weak. Dr. Griffin was called in. He gave him some medicine, and at his advice the boy was sent to the hospital. Hooper again denied that he had taken laudanum, but the physician was convinced that he had taken some kind of poison.

YOUNG HOOPER DIES

The youthful suicide was taken to the hospital, where every effort was made to save his life, but so much time had elapsed since he took the poison that Dr. Beemer had very little hope. About noon he became unconscious, and gradually grew weaker. He died at 7:20 p.m. Coroner A. Woolverton [held] an inquest [Tuesday] afternoon at 4 o'clock.

The inquest on the death of young Frederick Hooper, or McClintock, opened at the hospital Tuesday afternoon before Dr. A. Woolverton, and the evidence revealed the fact that the young suicide must have been a youth of very strange character, though all agree that he was perfectly sane. His sister, a good-looking young girl, gave evidence that her mother is an invalid, having suffered from two paralytic strokes, and for some months she has been the sole support of the household, yet her brother, a strong boy of 19, not only refused to help her, but loafed around the house reading novels, allowing her to support him, and finally suicided rather than shift for himself. It was not failure to get work that troubled him, because he had an offer of a job picking apples at 60 cents a day, and his board, a short time ago, and refused it.

The following jury was sworn: Wm. Peace, R. M. Cline, Alex. McFarland, Wm. Hill, C. Hayhoe, A. L. Reeves, Emerson Gage, Jos. Henry, Robt. Little, John Robinson, W. R. Powell (foreman), A. Hayes, George Davis, Geo. Richmond, [and] Laughlin McKenzie.

Dr. Griffin was the first witness, and he gave evidence as to having been called in at 8:30 on Monday morning and found the deceased suffering from an overdose of laudanum or some other preparation of opium. With the assistance of a neighbor he was got up and walked about for a while, and was subsequently sent to the hospital. The witness was shown a bottle labeled laudanum, which had been purchased at Gerrie's drug store, which the sister said was the bottle the deceased used the week before, but no other vial was discovered. In consequence of this, [the] witness could not say for certain what drug the deceased had taken. It was some preparation of opium. The sister told [the] witness that her brother was too lazy to work and had

been taking the laudanum in order to make himself sick so that he would not be able to work.

Agnes Hooper, half-sister of the deceased, was sworn. The deceased, she said, was a steady young man, but had no trade, and worked around in factories. He came back from Chicago a month ago, and only worked two days since he returned. He did not seem anxious to work, and spent most of his time reading novels. He was naturally sullen and despondent, and about a year ago he attempted to commit suicide by taking strychnine, but his mother struck the glass from his lips just in time. She was so frightened that she fell in a fit on the floor, and when [the] witness entered the house he was trying to revive her. He went very deliberately about the attempt on that occasion, and first of all poisoned a favorite cat to see how the strychnine would work. He took laudanum a week ago on the advice of his mother, to cure diarrhea, but took an overdose and they had difficulty in reviving him.

After that, the witness did not see him making any attempt to look for work, and asked him on Saturday how long he was going to remain idle. He said that he thought he would go to Buffalo on Monday. He said on Saturday night that he had food in his room and was going to remain in bed all day Sunday. [She] went to his room on Sunday evening and shook him, when he answered and told [the] witness to let him alone. About 7 o'clock on Monday morning she found him in a stupor. She put cold water on his head and revived him. He denied having taken any opium. He sank into a stupor again, but revived and asked for "an ounce more of that." [The] witness asked him to tell where he put the bottle and where he got the stuff, and he said: "Go to h——." Those were his last words. His mother is suffering from a paralytic stroke, and has been confined to the house for ten weeks.

The inquest was adjourned [...] to ascertain the results of the post-mortem. [...] [Once it resumed,] it was discovered that the deceased went very deliberately about the deed. He went to John A. Barr, McGregor & Parke, and John Gerrie on Saturday and bought half an ounce of laudanum at each place. Half an ounce is not a fatal dose, and he, therefore, was enabled to obtain it at each place without question. When taken all together the amount was sufficient to produce death. Jacob Burgess gave evidence as to having tried to resuscitate the deceased after he was discovered, and Charles Young, a chum of young Hooper, told that on several occasions the latter had expressed himself very philosophically on the question of life and death, and said it was a matter of indifference to him whether he lived or died.

In addressing the jury Dr. Woolverton said that the evidence seemed to show that young Hooper had provided himself with a large amount of opium, and had continued to dose himself with it all day Sunday, until at last he took sufficient to cause death.

Subsequently, in conversation with a reporter, Dr. Woolverton was asked if the post-mortem had discovered any signs of insanity on the part of the boy. He replied, "No; the fact is the post-mortem showed that young Hooper narrowly escaped being a genius. The brain weighed 57 ounces, which is very large. The largest, such as those of great musicians and poets, weigh but 62 ounces. The boy was well nourished and healthy in every way."

The jury returned a verdict that the deceased came to his death by his own hand by taking opium in some form.

“An overdose of laudanum”¹⁸⁹ (B. C., 1889)

Friday evening about 5 o'clock Benjamin Gillan, who boarded at the Greyhound Hotel on Water street, [Vancouver,] kept by Henry Cole, was found lying on the bed in his room in a state of unconsciousness, and with two empty bottles of laudanum on the table beside him. Medical assistance was at once sent for and Rs. Bell-Irving and Robertson answered the summons. They did what was possible to revive him, but without effect, and the man died in a few minutes after having come to his senses. Dr. McGuigan, the Coroner, was then sent for and the police were notified.

The case was at first thought to be one of suicide, but facts which have since been elicited have thrown doubt on this theory. Gillan had for some time been troubled with pains in the head and had got into the habit of taking laudanum to ease his suffering, and it is quite probable that not knowing the danger there was in an overdose, he took a larger quantity yesterday than usual. He had been at breakfast, and had given no indication of depression of spirits, and had never been known to express weariness of life or a desire to do away with himself. Those who knew him well scout [sic.] the idea of suicide and assert that his head trouble must have been more than usually severe, to allay which he must have taken an overdose.

[The] deceased was a young man between 27 and 30 years of age, and came to Vancouver about two years ago, where he has been working at his trade, that of carpenter, ever since. He was a good workman and had invested some money in land. He was an athletic fellow and a football player of some local note. His relatives live in Chepstowe, North Wales, and several letters were found on his person giving their address. They will be at once communicated with, and in the meantime, after the coroner's inquest, if one is held, his remains will be interred.

“Death cheats justice”¹⁹⁰ (Ontario, 1889)

At 6:45 Tuesday morning the dead body of Jessie Brown, a prisoner confined in the county jail, [Hamilton,] was found in the cell occupied by her. The woman was arrested on Saturday, charged with the larceny of a sheet from Edwin Harris' lodging house, on Bay Street, where she had been staying for several days, and also for stealing a shawl and Jersey jacket from Hugh Daley. All day Sunday she complained about feeling unwell, and wanted the constable on station duty to get her some laudanum. When she was arraigned before the police magistrate on Monday morning, the prosecution asked for an engagement, and she was remanded to jail until yesterday. Her death necessitated the dismissal of the case when it was called.

¹⁸⁹ From AN OVERDOSE OF LAUDANUM. (1889, January 9). *News-Advertiser* (Vancouver), p. 6.

¹⁹⁰ From DEATH CHEATS JUSTICE. (1889, January 24). *Hamilton Weekly Spectator*, p. 5.

The unfortunate woman was in the jail before about four years ago, at which time she gave the name of Eliza Brownlee. Governor Ogilvie remembered the woman, more particularly because she had a craving for laudanum. When she was brought there Monday she said she was sick and wanted laudanum. The governor refused to give her any, but he telephoned to Dr. Rosebrugh, the jail surgeon, who prescribed an opiate for her. The prisoner appeared to be greatly excited and the matron, Miss Robinson, visited her frequently during the afternoon and evening. She repeatedly asked for laudanum, and told the matron that she had been taking it for fourteen years.

Miss Robinson locked the woman up in a cell, leaving Annie Johnston, another prisoner, in charge of her, with instructions that she should visit her during the night. The Johnston woman saw the deceased about 12 o'clock, and she was alive then. Shortly before 3 o'clock Jane McCullough, who occupied the adjoining cell, heard the unfortunate woman cry for laudanum and threatening to hang herself before morning. After that she moaned several times, and then all was quiet. Dublin Jane afterwards fell asleep. When she awoke she told Annie Johnston that she thought the woman was dead, as she had not heard her moving about. The matron opened the cell about 6:45 and found her dead. She was lying on the bed, with one foot on the floor, and had a handkerchief tied tightly around her neck. Her face was only slightly discolored. The deceased was about 52 years old.

At 11 o'clock an inquest was held at the jail before Coroner White and the following jury: Hector Little (foreman), James Dutton, Thomas Walsh, Stephen Searle, Alex. Ogg, Bergeman Crisler, John Haynes, Wm. Cameron, Fred Wilbes, Buckley Whitehead, Thos. Dooley, James McEvoy, Thomas Weldon, Thomas Jones, Henry Watson and John Cole. The last six jurymen are convicts, and were dressed in unbecoming prison uniform.

Evidence was given by Governor Ogilvie, Matron Robinson, Annie Johnston and Jane McCullough, but no new facts were elicited. Dr. Rosebrugh testified that he did not think the handkerchief was tied tight enough to kill her, but that she died of exhaustion. The woman told the governor she lived in Toronto, while on the former occasion she said her home was in Dundas. The verdict of the jury was that the deceased came to her dath by natural causes, occasioned by the use of laudanum.

“An overdose of morphine”¹⁹¹ (B. C., 1889)

At 5 o'clock last evening Officers Thomas and Mitten burst open a door in the Arcade Restaurant, [Victoria] and discovered the body of John Walker, whose death was caused by an overdose of morphine. The narcotic was purchased in Vancouver and was used by [the] deceased to alleviate pain caused by rheumatism. The deceased was an American and about 35 years of age. He was employed at the Colonial Hotel and also at the Bee Hive saloon. The body was removed to T. Storey's undertaking rooms.

¹⁹¹ From FOUND DEAD. (1889, March 29). *Victoria Daily Times*, p. 1.

At 11 o'clock this morning Coroner Jackson held an inquest on the body. The following jurymen were sworn: R. Porter, foreman; H. A. Lilley, T. Horton, J. H. Baker, John Barnsley, [and] W. Powell.

John Hayes, barkeeper, said:

"On Monday last John Walker was in the Bee Hive saloon, Fort Street. He made the remark that he gave himself a couple of squirts last night. Mr. Cowie asked him if he used a syringe. He said he had rheumatism in his legs; [he] could not get any sleep and had to use it, and that he had used morphine quite a while. [I] left him at the post office about seven o'clock Tuesday evening; he seemed to be in good spirits, and said if [I] knew of a job [he] would be at the saloon [the] next day. He volunteered the statement about using morphine. He was a moderate drinker; [I] do not think he intended to take his life."

Dr. Redmond deposed that there [were] no marks of violence on the body. [...] There were a few distinct need prick marks on the right side. [He] saw a bottle on the table containing morphia; there was also a strong solution of the same in a spoon, and a hypodermic syringe on the same table. The syringe looked as though it had been recently used. From the appearance of the body [he] was disposed to think that death resulted from narcotic poisoning. The man was dead for twenty-four hours. From the quantity of morphine in his possession and the punctures on his body he used the morphia; the poison produced was purchased in Vancouver. Morphine cannot be purchased excepting in the presence of a witness, and the purchaser signs a poison book.

The jury returned a verdict as follows: "That the deceased came to his death by morphine poisoning administered by his own hands."

"Death of the late Peter Cameron"¹⁹² (B. C., 1889)

An inquest into the manner of the death of the late Peter Cameron, who died at St. Joseph's hospital late Saturday night, was held at Mr. Chas. Hayward's undertaking room this morning at eleven o'clock by Coroner Jackson, and the following jury: Messrs. A. Holmes, foreman; A. Lawrence, E. Escalet, G. Anderson, A. Biggar and J. C. Devlin.

M. J. Conlin was the first witness called. He stated that on Saturday afternoon last the deceased had dinner at the witness' house, in company with Mrs. E. McDonald; [he] believed he said good-bye at about half-past seven, saying that they would not see him again. In the evening [the] witness was at his own house, about half-past ten, talking with his family, Mrs. McDonald being present. [He] heard some one call out "good bye" and went out and found Cameron, who said "good bye, Mr. Conlin"; he was lying on the lawn near the front steps. He did not speak again. A bottle was picked up close to his head, which was examined by the light and found to be marked "laudanum". [The] witness then ran for Dr. Milne, who, with Mr. Braden, returned as quickly as possible, when the deceased was picked up and everything

¹⁹² From CORONER'S INQUEST. (1889, December 2). *Victoria Daily Times*, p. 4.

done for him. He was still conscious, and stated he had drank the bottle full of laudanum; he refused to drink the medicine given by Dr. Milne, and a hack was procured, and [the] deceased taken to St. Joseph's hospital, where he died about 12 o'clock.

[In response to a question] by the jury:-

"[I] have known the deceased personally about four days. He was a sober and sensible man, and I am surprised at the rash act. I believe [the] deceased had been engaged to be married to Mrs. McDonald, but some difference had arisen between them, which may have been the cause of his suicide. She had refused his offer of marriage, and it may have affected him mentally. I do not know of any other cause. [I] made enquiries at the hotel where he was staying and found that he had paid his board up to Saturday night. Dr. Milne took charge of the bottle. He was a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Free Masons. Mrs. McDonald had come down from Nanaimo to receive an apology from [the] deceased in reference to certain things he had said about her. This was at Cameron's request."

Dr. Milne gave evidence that he had been called to attend [the] deceased at Mr. Conlin's house. [The] deceased was taken into the house, and an examination made. In his right hand was found the photograph produced, said to be that of Mrs. McDonald. Emetics were prepared, but before they could be administered he became convulsed, after which respiration was very difficult. All possible means to restore him were tried, but they were of no avail. A carriage was procured and he was sent to St. Joseph's hospital. The bottle found was labeled "laudanum". It was either [a] six or eight ounce one. It should have been produced here. [He] had asked [the] deceased if he had taken much of it, and understood him to say it was nearly full. The label on the bottle showed it had come from Seattle. [He] had delivered the bottle and the photograph at the city hall on Saturday night. [He] believes that death wa the result of an overdose of laudanum.

[In response to a question] by the jury:-

"He was sensible when I first arrived. A dose of laudanum would probably produce insensibility in about half an hour. [I] saw no signs of insanity whatsoever."

John Braden gave corroborative evidence to that of the first witness. In addition, he stated that [the] deceased had said the bottle was full before he drank from it. His last words, when emetics were prepared, were "I don't want it." Soon after he became as one dead, and he was taken to hospital.

Officer Redgrave gave evidence that the bottle had been left in the superintendent's room, but it had disappeared, and it was supposed [it] had been thrown out by the janitor, who did not know that it was needed.

The jury considered the evidence and brought in a verdict that [the] deceased came to his death by a dose of laudanum administered by his own hands.

“A double tragedy”¹⁹³ (Ontario, 1890)

A double tragedy occurred at noon to-day in the machine shop of Hutchinson Bros., Richmond Street West, [Toronto,] and as a result Nathaniel John Hutchinson, the junior partner, is lying at his boarding house, 204 George Street, with a bullet in his head, and Martha McLean is in a delirious condition at the General Hospital from the effects of excitement and an overdose of laudanum.

Hutchinson, who is almost twenty-two years of age and unmarried, had been keeping company with Martha McLean, who was engaged as a domestic at the residence of Mr. Thomas Caswell. From the girl's story it seems that Hutchinson seduced her and then refused to do anything for her. She was dismissed from Mr. Caswell's employ.

About 11 o'clock this forenoon Martha called at the drug store of Geo. A. Bingham, 100 Yonge Street, asked for an ounce of laudanum, and got it. The Hutchinson brothers were at work a few minutes after 12 o'clock, when the young woman stepped quietly in through the side door, and closed it noiselessly after her. Nathaniel, when she said something in a low voice, turned suddenly round and angrily pushed her away. The girl suddenly drew the revolver from her pocket and, placing it close to Hutchinson's head, pulled the trigger. The young man fell to the ground on his face, bleeding from a wound in the head near the left ear. William Hutchinson was so horrified that he could not interfere, and the girl in a frenzy threw herself upon the man whom she thought she had murdered. A moment later she sprang to her feet and, taking the vial of laudanum from her pocket, she drank the poison.

Recovering from the shock, the eldest Hutchinson called for assistance and Constable Young, having been notified, arrested the girl and removed her to police headquarters. She was by this time in a dangerous condition from the effects of the laudanum, but refused to take an antidote until Dr. Sweetman produced a stomach pump, when she took an emetic which had an immediate effect and probably saved her life. She was removed to the hospital for further treatment.

“Almost a suicide”¹⁹⁴ (Manitoba, 1890)

A young woman made a brave effort to shuffle herself off this mortal coil yesterday evening by the aid of laudanum. She was a resident here some years ago but has lately been living in Grand Forks. Yesterday she arrived from the south, and in the afternoon had an interview with a young man about town who formerly paid considerable attentions to her. They had a first class row, and the despairing damsel hied herself away to a drug store and bought a bottle of laudanum. She went to a city hotel, took a room and there administered the poison. She was found in a stupor shortly afterwards and two doctors were summoned, who, after operating on her with

¹⁹³ From QUEEN CITY TOPICS. (1890, April 29). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 8.

¹⁹⁴ From ALMOST A SUICIDE. (1890, August 7). *Manitoba Weekly Free Press*, p. 7.

a stomach pump, announced that she would probably pull through, though she is not yet out of danger.

“A sensible jury”¹⁹⁵ (Ontario, 1891)

Bracebridge, Jan. 18 – Much excitement has been caused in Maganetawan lately owing to the death of Mrs. Henry Walton, who was deranged about two weeks ago from the effects of illness and depression. She slyly took rat poison, but was found in the act and subjected to treatment, and recovered.

On taking severe pains in the stomach a dose of morphia was administered by Dr. Clark, after which she dozed and slept or was drowsy for two days and a night, when she died. The dose of morphia was merely a tolerable and simple one, but in the critical state of exhaustion in which the woman was, it seemed to take more effect. Had she been awakened in the early stages of rest, and nourishment administered, or had [she] been thoroughly aroused, it is presumed by many that she might have been spared.

A coroner’s inquest was held and the jury gave their verdict on Thursday evening, having sat 36 hours on the case and heard the evidence of a number of witnesses. The verdict given was this:

“That the death of the deceased, Mrs. Ann Walton, was caused from the effects of poison taken by her own hands whilst insane, by exhaustion caused by severe vomiting, and by the neglect of all persons having charge of the case.”

“Mrs. R. L. Jones’ mania”¹⁹⁶ (Manitoba, 1891)

Many had missed the figure of “Prof.” Jones, the tonsorial artist, from the streets [of Winnipeg] lately, but his return yesterday nearly occasioned a sensation. Even now it has caused a flutter. About 11 o’clock last night a telephone message was received at the police station that a woman residing on Portage Avenue East had attempted suicide. Sergeant Munro immediately went to the scene and there found Mrs. Jones lying in an unconscious condition and nearly dead, and a few feet from her an empty vial, that had previously contained laudanum, which poison the woman had undoubtedly swallowed. Dr. Simpson was at once sent for, who administered emetics and endeavored to restore the poor woman to consciousness. Mrs. Jones was then removed to the hospital, and was reported to be doing well this morning.

This is not the first time Mrs. Jones has attempted suicide. About three years ago she took a large dose of laudanum, and was then also near death. It appears that Mr. and Mrs. Jones have been separated for some months, and the husband returning to the city yesterday, he visited his wife, when a quarrel ensued. Mr. Jones then left the house, but was followed shortly after by Mrs. Jones, who went to a drug store and there procured an ounce of laudanum. Returning to the house she swallowed the

¹⁹⁵ From A SENSIBLE JURY. (1891, January 19). *Evening Times* (Owen Sound), p. 3.

¹⁹⁶ From MRS. R. L. JONES’ MANIA. (1891, December 8). *Winnipeg Daily Tribune*, p. 4.

drug, and was found shortly after by other servants of the house, who notified the police.

Sergeant Munro experienced some difficulties in getting his patient to the hospital. A cab was called, but the vehicle became stuck in [a] snow drift a short distance from the hospital, when the woman was lifted out and carried through the snow.

“Prof. Whitman suicides”¹⁹⁷ (B. C., 1892)

A sad case of the suicide of a man who once had stood well up in the legal profession took place in a cheap lodging house Monday. The unfortunate person was James Whitman, whose articles in the Boston *Home Journal* on Vancouver and British Columbia have been much admired for their literary merit. He, no doubt, had got discouraged at the long series of misfortunes that had befallen him and thought a dose of morphia the easiest method of ending his miseries.

On February 25th the unfortunate man went to the “Mechanics” lodging house [at the] corner of Homer and Hastings streets, [Vancouver,] where he registered as Prof. Whitman, London, Eng. He usually ate very little and was often heard pacing to and fro in his room at all hours of the day. On Sunday morning he did not feel strong, and on coming down stairs about 9 o’clock took a very light breakfast. He then went to his room where he walked up and down for hours, and did not come down either for lunch or tea.

About 7:30 yesterday morning Mr. Thos. Leach, the proprietor, told the cook to go up and see what was the matter with the professor, as he was called. A moment or two later the cook called to Mr. Leach to come up. On going to Whitman’s room they found him lying on his back, his feet over the side of the bed, his face of a bluish color and gasping heavily. He had never retired, but had lain down with his clothes on.

Every effort was made to arouse him and a messenger sent for Dr. Lefevre. That gentleman was not at home, but from his office a telephone message was sent to Dr. Robertson, who came immediately. For upwards of three hours Dr. Robertson labored hard with his patient, with the satisfaction of leaving him at 11:30 o’clock almost well again, though weak. He searched diligently in the room for the morphia which Dr. Whitman acknowledged he had taken, but could find none. Dr. Robertson left him [at] about 11:30, with the promise that he would take no more.

About 12:30 Mrs. Leach went to his room to see if he would come down to dinner, and was shocked to find him in almost the same state as he had been in when found in the morning. Dr. Robertson was again sent for, and spent half an hour of earnest labor with him, but this time the unfortunate man had graduated his dose too well, and was beyond restoration. He died a few minutes after 1 o’clock. The police were at once notified, and the remains taken to the morgue.

¹⁹⁷ From PROF. WHITMAN SUICIDES. (1892, March 16). *Weekly News-Advertiser* (Vancouver), p. 1.

Officer Haywood, on going to the room, took charge of any papers and letters he had. Some of these were from the editor of the Boston *Home Journal* and others from his sister, a married lady in Halifax, relating incidents of the family.

He had also the certificate of his call to the bar of Nova Scotia, dated April 16th, 1849. There was also a certificate of entrance to Royal Arch Masonry and the degree of a Knight of Malta and Knight Templar, the latter dated June 9th, 1865, and given in Coeur de Lion Encampment, New York.

James Whitman, known as Prof. Whitman, came to Vancouver from Winnipeg in August last, and stayed for a short time at the Hotel Vancouver. He was afterwards at nearly all the hotels of the City in turn. He wrote a number of very readable articles on Vancouver and other parts of British Columbia for the Boston *Home Journal*, the organ of tourists of the Eastern States. Several of the members of the Board of Trade subscribed liberally towards his support while here. He was a writer of considerable merit, and in times past had contributed special articles to some of the leading New York papers. When he came to Vancouver he said he was then engaged in writing a book of travels.

“An overdose of morphia”¹⁹⁸ (Saskatchewan, 1892)

On Friday last, a Mr. Cooper, who lived some distance south of Indian Head, took an overdose of morphia, from the effects of which he died early on Saturday. It appears that he was suffering with some complaint for which he was in the habit of taking morphia as a relief. Dr. Carthew, coroner, of Qu’Appelle, was called, and after investigating the circumstances in connection with the case, decided that an inquest was not necessary.

“Killed by an overdose”¹⁹⁹ (Quebec, 1893)

William Deuchars, a storeman employed by Robert Linton & Co., lies dead in the General Hospital, [Montreal,] a victim to an overdose of morphia. Deuchars, it appears, was in the habit of taking morphia pills, which he purchased in small quantities at a time. Yesterday morning Mr. Deuchars returned home about ten o’clock, and laid down on the bed. He woke up about one o’clock ill, and on Dr. Finnie being summoned he discovered symptoms of morphia poisoning. Deuchars was conveyed to the General Hospital, where he died at seven o’clock last evening.

This morning an inquest was opened in the General Hospital. It was the first inquest held by the new coroner, Mr. Edmond McMahan, and the manner of conducting it was certainly an improvement over the old style. Mr. McMahan read his commission to the jurors, and then proceeded with the inquest in a very business-like way.

¹⁹⁸ From THE REPORTORIAL ROUND. (1892, June 18). *Winnipeg Daily Tribune*, p. 8.

¹⁹⁹ From KILLED BY AN OVERDOSE. (1893, January 5). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 6.

The first witness called was Dr. Finnie, who testified to being called in and finding the traces of morphia poisoning. He also stated that he was aware that Deuchars took morphia sometimes when under the influence of liquor. Dr. Charles Markham testified to attending Deuchars when he was taken to the hospital. He showed all the symptoms of opium poisoning. Mr. James Webb, employed in R. Linton & Co., testified that Deuchars came into the office yesterday morning under the influence of liquor. He asked the manager to be permitted to go out to breakfast, and was given an hour. He had noticed some time ago that Deuchars was in the habit of taking opium for pains. Mrs. Deuchars²⁰⁰, wife of the deceased, told about her husband coming home. He had taken no morphia in the house, but had been in the habit of taking it. He usually took a couple of pills at a time. The mother of Mrs. Deuchars corroborated this testimony.

After a very short deliberation the jury brought in a verdict that the deceased had come to his death through an overdose of morphia, not taken, however, with the intention of doing himself any harm.

Deuchars, who resided at 15A St. Margaret Street, leaves a widow and several children.

“Poisoned by a powder”²⁰¹ (New Brunswick, 1893)

Woodstock, N. B., April 13 – George Crow, of Glasville, Carleton county, died under suspicious circumstances. He took what was supposed to be a Dover’s powder, prepared by Dr. Welsh, and expired a few hours afterwards in great agony. Dr. Atkinson, who had been called in before Crow died, instantly realized that the man had taken an irritant poison, and on enquiry Mrs. Boyle, who mixed the powder, produced the cup with a quantity of white powder still adhering to its sides, also the wrappers of the powder, one of which was labeled “Arsenious acid.” A ten grain Dover’s powder could be mixed in a teaspoon, but Mrs. Doyle says the powder she gave filled a tablespoon. A coroner’s inquiry is now being held.

“Suicide at Medicine Hat”²⁰² (Alberta, 1893)

Medicine Hat had its first case of suicide last week. A German named Berg, alias Charles Witt, arrived in town Sunday and put up at the American. Shortly after his arrival he purchased 10 grains of morphine from Hughes and returned to his room, where he was found at 13:30 next day in an unconscious state. He was taken to the hospital, but did not recover consciousness, dying at 18:12.

The next evening Dr. Fraser, of Maple Creek, empaneled a jury. Evidence was given by Messrs. St. George, P. Grace and Dr. Calder, which showed that [the] deceased had taken about five grains of morphine, that he had on his person a second-

²⁰⁰ Elizabeth Workman Deuchars, nee Chetwynd (1851 – 1907).

²⁰¹ From POISONED BY A POWDER. (1893, April 13). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 3.

²⁰² From SUICIDE AT MEDICINE HAT. (1893, May 29). *Winnipeg Daily Tribune*, p. 2.

class ticket from Chicago to Tacoma, and \$5.20 in cash. After considerable deliberation the jury brought in the following verdict:

“We, the undersigned, find that the deceased Herman Berg, alias Charles Witt, came to his death through an overdose of morphine administered by his own hand. And further, that the deceased obtained the morphine from Mr. A. Hughes in contravention of ‘Ord. 22, Sec. 30, N.W.T., 1891-92,’ an ordinance respecting chemists and druggists.”

“Kissed baby goodbye”²⁰³ (Ontario, 1893)

Kingston, June 26 – A sensation was caused in the city last night by a woman trying to commit suicide. Rev. Mr. Knox was before the Police Court Friday, charged with acting disorderly while under the influence of liquor. Neighbors say that he and his wife have been indulging too freely in the intoxicants. It appears the cause of his arrest was that he was acting disorderly in his home. He was allowed to go with a reprimand, and his wife felt so badly over the affair that she determined to end her life.

About 7 o’clock she swallowed 60 drops of laudanum and went to the grocer, Mr. Babcock, with whom she had been dealing, and bade him goodbye. She owed him a bill and said he would not be able to collect it.

She bade him good-bye again, saying she wished to kiss her boy before she died. The grocer said the boy was playing in Barrie street, and she went to him and kissed him several times. Then she went to her home on the corner of Barrie and Colborne streets, where neighbors found her in an unconscious state.

Physicians were summoned and Drs. Campbell, A. P. Chown, Davis and Tillman responded. They found the woman had taken laudanum, and by treatment forced her to eject most of the poison. At 10:30 o’clock all danger was past.

With the exception of being weak, Mrs. Knox was well this morning.

Rev. Mr. Knox, a clergyman of the Church of England in Ireland, came to the city with his wife about two months ago. Their actions since they lived in Barrie street made people believe they drank heavily. Mrs. Knox does not seem to be more than 40 years of age, and is a good-looking woman.

Rev. Mr. Knox is from the County of Down, and up to a few years ago was in charge of a prospering parish. His friends combined and raised sufficient money to send him and family to Canada with a view of obtaining lay employment. They are descendants of an aristocratic family. Mrs. Knox’s father is an officer in the Royal Navy.

²⁰³ From KISSED BABY GOODBYE. (1893, June 27). *The Daily Standard* (St. Catherine’s), p. 1.

“The morphine route”²⁰⁴ (Ontario, 1893)

“Well, I’m going to commit suicide. Good bye, Billy; I’ll meet you in heaven,” said Austin C. Dempsey, of Franklinville, N.Y., to bartender Billy Farrell, of the Murray House, [St. Catherine’s, Ont.,] on Tuesday, about five o’clock in the afternoon, as he was handed a pitcher of ice water he had asked for. He left the bar room with a laugh and nothing was thought of what he said. At half-past six, Fred Alexander, the hotel porter, seeing Dempsey on his bed, went into the room and picked up a piece of paper with “morphine” marked on it.

“Have you taken morphine?” he asked Dempsey.

“Yes,” was the reply, “I took a little to send me to sleep.”

In less than fifteen minutes, Murray Everett, a boarder, went up-stairs and, looking into the room, the door of which was open, was startled by the appearance of Dempsey and went in only to find that the man was cold in death. He raised an alarm and Doctors McCoy and Merritt were called, but nothing could be done.

That [the] deceased committed suicide, no doubt exists, for in addition to his parting words to the bartender he in the afternoon wrote a letter to his parents wishing them good bye, and which he showed to Nina Webster, a dining room girl. This letter cannot be found and is supposed to have been posted by [the] deceased.

On July 17th, Dempsey arrived in this city, registered at the Murray House, and secured work with Mr. J. W. Cornwell, harness maker, where he worked regularly up till Saturday night. On Sunday he and another young man drove to Grimsby Park, though he had stated a preference for the Falls, where a day or so before, he stated he was to meet his father and mother on Sunday. They arrived home about two o’clock on Monday morning, and he did not go to work that day. Tuesday he went to work at his usual hour and worked until nine o’clock, and said that he did not feel like working. He remained around the hotel all day and seemed in his usual health and good spirits. His father and brother conduct a large harness shop in Franklinville, and have been telegraphed to by Mr. Cornwell.

The body was prepared for burial, Coroner Goodman having decided that an inquest was not necessary.

The medical men are of the opinion that Dempsey did not die from morphine poisoning, but that heart failure was the immediate cause of death, though probably brought on from the excitement caused by taking the morphine, and the intense heat.

Mr. J. W. Cornwell speaks highly of the man as afar as he knew him. He does not believe [the] deceased committed suicide, and says he was a good, hard-working man. He expects the father of [the] deceased to arrive here to-day.

²⁰⁴ From THE MORPHINE ROUTE. (1893, July 26). *The Daily Standard* (St. Catherine’s), p. 1.

“A young wife’s suicide”²⁰⁵ (Ontario, 1893)

Toronto, Nov. 10 – After arraying herself for burial, the young wife of Frank L. Chestnut, a dry goods clerk in the employ of W. A. Murray & Co., took a dose of laudanum yesterday, and was found dead by her husband in a dying condition when he returned from business last evening. The circumstances in connection with the case are of the most pathetic nature.

Yesterday morning when Mr. Chestnut was leaving the house for his place of business, Mrs. Chestnut told him to take a key of the house with him and partake of luncheon down town, as she might not be in when he returned. Mr. Chestnut did as she wished. When he returned at 6 p.m. he found the house dark. In passing through the hall to the back of the house he found a letter, on which was the address: “For My Dear Husband.”

Mr. Chestnut lighted the fire in the kitchen and then went upstairs to the bedroom, where he found his wife lying upon her back on the bed partly dressed for burial.

Mr. Chestnut placed his hand on his wife’s chest and found she was still breathing. Pinned with a hat pin to a pin cushion on the dresser was a note written in lead pencil. It read: “I have taken a dose of laudanum; keep it from the world, if possible. Mrs. Chestnut.”

The distracted husband ran from the house and summoned a neighbor, and subsequently went for Dr. John King. When Dr. King arrived at 7:10 he saw at once that Mrs. Chestnut was suffering from opium poisoning. She was then in a comatose condition. He and Dr. Green, who had been also called in, applied the usual restoratives and worked with their patient until 10:15, when she died.

A bottle, still containing a few drops of laudanum, was found in a drawer of the washstand among some towels. The cup from which she had drunk the poison was on a chair by her bedside.

Mrs. Chestnut was 30 years of age. The couple had only been married five years. Her husband can give no reason for her suicide other than she had been ill for about a year and had been despondent of late.

The letter left her husband is couched in endearing terms, bidding him a fond farewell. Mrs. Chestnut was an accomplished woman and a great favorite amongst her acquaintances. She was a fine looking woman, tall and erect, [of a] rather dark complexion.

Coroner Johnston was notified, but considered an inquest unnecessary.

²⁰⁵ From A YOUNG WIFE’S SUICIDE. (1893, November 10). *Daily Standard* (St. Catherine’s), p. 1.

“The Randle Inquest”²⁰⁶ (B. C., 1893)

Coroner Pittendrigh impaneled a jury this morning to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the death²⁰⁷ of Thos. Randle. The jury comprised the following: H. Robertson, W. D. Pittenger, Wm. Ralph, T. H. Boyd, G. H. Blair, and W. Brown, the last named being foreman. The jury viewed the body at Hart’s undertaking rooms and then repaired to the city hall.

The first witness called was Louis, the Chinese chamberman of the Leland hotel annex, who said he had built a fire in [the] deceased’s room on Thursday evening at 6 o’clock. [The] deceased told him that he was sick. The small phial produced could not have been in the stove then. On Friday afternoon at 2 p.m. he tried to wake [the] deceased, and failing to do so, went and told the proprietor.

G. B. Fraser, C. P. R. telegraph operator, had known [the] deceased for a month. He returned from work about 1 o’clock on Friday morning, and thereafter sat down to play a game of cards with Mr. Hamilton and two others. Randle was there. He acted as if intoxicated. They remained in the card room for about an hour and a half, when the house was closed. Randle was very unsteady on his feet, and [the] witness offered to assist him across the room in the annex. Randle wanted to go down town. Mr. Hamilton then spoke to Randle, who then started for his room, but fell. [The] witness and Mr. Scott picked Randle up and half carried him to his room on the second floor in the Annex. He again wanted to go down town, and as a preventative [the] witness took off [the] deceased’s boots and Mr. Scott locked the door. [The] deceased was very drunk at this time, but could express his ideas clearly. They left [the] deceased lying across the bed. [He] had known [the] deceased to go to bed drunk every night for some time. On several occasions [he] had to get up and open the door for him.

[The] witness explained that his work was supposed to be through at midnight, but it was often later. On the night in question, while he was undressing, Randle pounded on the door to get out. He paid no attention to the noise till Mr. Scott came up. He then went to Randle’s room with Mr. Scott, who unlocked the door. They remonstrated with Randle for making such a racket, and on his promising to go to bed they left the door unlocked. [The] witness then went to bed. He heard Randle moving around in his room for a few minutes, and then everything became quiet.

Randle always appeared to be healthy, but he only saw him sober once. That was about a month ago, when he was introduced to him at the Metropolitan Club. He saw Randle’s dead body about 2 p.m. on Friday after the Chinaman had reported the case. The body was lying on the bed in a natural position with the face upwards. He

²⁰⁶ From THE RANDLE INQUEST. (1893, December 9). *Daily World* (Vancouver), p. 5.

²⁰⁷ “Thos. Randle, a Scotchman by birth, but for many years a resident in Canada, was found dead in bed yesterday at the Leland House, [Vancouver,] the cause of his death being, as far as can be learned, from heart failure caused by over-indulgence in the use of alcoholic stimulants. Papers on the deceased showed that he was the son of one Alex Randle, of St. Nicholas, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. There will probably be an inquest on the body.” THE CITY. (1893, December 9). *Daily News Advertiser* (Vancouver), p. 8.

never knew of [the] deceased's taking morphine. [The] deceased used to come upstairs on his hands and knees and lie at the door till let in. [The] witness was never in [the] deceased's room in daylight.

James D. Scott corroborated what had been sworn to by Mr. Fraser regarding what occurred on the night previous to Randle's death. He had never seen Randle at any other time except as a guest in the hotel at meal times.

Sergeant Haywood testified to going to Randle's room on Friday afternoon and finding him lying across the bed with his head on the pillow. He had his pants and vest on, and his right hand was in his trousers' pocket, and his left hand across his body. The position was an easy and natural one. On searching the room he found a small bottle (produced) in the stove. There had been a fire in the stove and the bottle was warm.

Dr. Thomas, who had made the post mortem, found the stomach empty, congested and smelling of laudanum. This congestion of the stomach indicated opium poisoning, as did also the state of the blood. The whole body smelled strongly of alcohol, and the liver was in a condition which indicated its excessive use. He was decidedly of the opinion that death was the result of opium poisoning. To Mr. Buscombe, the doctor said that half an ounce was recognized as a fatal dose.

Mr. Buscombe said that he would like a verdict of suicide brought in if there was no reasonable doubt. The coroner agreed with him. In his opinion the cause of death was plain. The question whether the taking of the laudanum was accidental or not was the one to solve.

The question whether the bottle could have been in the stove for long without being destroyed was brought up by a jurymen, and it was shown that a small, smouldering remnant of fire had been known to remain in the stove in question for 8 and 10 hours. Dr. Thomas said that the cork in the bottle showed no signs of charring, but it was stated that it had been found on the bureau and put in the bottle.

The coroner again called attention to the fact that neither body nor anything in the room should be touched until seen by the coroner and jury.

The jury then retired and after a short delay brought in a verdict that death resulted from an overdose of laudanum which was not, in their opinion, taken with suicidal intent.

“Was determined to die”²⁰⁸ (Ontario, 1893)

Hamilton, December 19 – A Hamilton jury was engaged on Saturday and late on Monday night investigating the circumstances attending the death of Mercedes Plows, a girl of 15, at the Loretto convent. The evidence showed that the young lady had committed suicide by taking a large dose of morphine, but the jury wished to have the inquest adjourned for a post mortem examination. This confirmed the first view of the case, which was borne out by the unhappy girl's previous history.

²⁰⁸ From WAS DETERMINED TO DIE. (1893, December 20). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 1.

Mercedes was a handsome and accomplished girl, with talents and ideas beyond her years. She had resided in Chicago, with her widowed mother, and the family history was not a happy one. Her brother, Edward Plows, a Chicago candy dealer, is defendant in a suit for damages for alienating the affections of a Mrs. Christian. Another brother was divorced from his wife last summer. Josephine Plows-Day, a well known actress, was the bride of a few days, leaving her newly married husband while they were on their wedding trip. Ola Plows, another sister, committed suicide last summer, as was believed, by reason of love troubles, and under the influence of Mercedes, who joined her in the attempt, but was brought round.

BUNDLES OF LOVE LETTERS

The girls had trouble at home with their mother, Mrs. Olivia Plows, and a year ago left home and went on the west side to board. Her sister was with her at the time. She afterward went back to her mother, but remained but a short time, when both of the girls went to the Leland hotel and attempted suicide. They were found there one day last May at noon, folded in each other's arms and lying on bundles of love letters.

Both seemed dead, but physicians worked over them diligently and Mercedes was saved. She insisted, after she regained consciousness, that she had rather die, and declared that her life would be short. At the inquest on Ola's body it turned out that the girls had made a previous attempt at suicide, but the morphine was not strong enough.

THE STORY OF MERCEDES PLOWS

The following is the story of Mercedes Plows, as told by herself to the coroner:

"My name is Mercedes Plows, and Ola is my sister. We came to the Leland last Friday and registered under assumed names to avoid any knowledge of our movements reaching our family. We had a little quarrel with our mother and left home without her knowledge. I have had morphine in my pocket for months, intending to take it some time and kill myself. We took this poison because we were tired of living and wanted to end our lives. I won't tell you the cause of our trouble at home. Both Olivia and I were unhappy and despondent. Six months ago I took poison to end my life, but failed. No one knew of it, not even Ola. Since then we have used every opportunity to gather morphine. I don't think Ola ever tried to commit suicide before. That's all, and I won't talk any more."

After Ola's suicide, Mercedes went East and remained some time in Troy, with a friend of Mrs. Josephine Plows-Day, Mrs. Andrews. They passed some time in Saratoga, but even in the gayety of this resort the girl's spirits were not enlivened. From this place she wrote Dr. A. E. Evans, the physician who had attended her, and told him that she wished he had not been successful in his work of saving her life.

ENTERED THE CONVENT

Two months ago Mercedes entered the convent at Hamilton. She seemed to believe that there she could overcome the sorrow of which she would tell no one, and could prepare for a life of religious work. But her manner was not frank, and she possessed peculiarities which did not arouse the sympathy of her fellow pupils, and her conduct was characterized as reserved.

She was a good musician and applied herself closely to her studies, which caused frequent anxiety to the Sisters. Still, no great alarm was felt until Thursday evening last week, when she asked permission to go to bed, and sent for a nun. The Sister remarked to the girl that she was very ill, but she replied that she had not. Dr. Ridley was telephoned for, and to him also she denied having taken anything. Afterwards a small pill box containing morphine was found and the girl admitted to the Sisters that she had taken enough that she wouldn't recover from the effects, and that she had taken it before. She died about 9 o'clock Friday morning in spite of all the efforts of the physicians to restore her to consciousness.

THE SURVIVING SISTER

Mrs. Josephine Plows-Day, who sent Mercedes to the convent with Mrs. Andrews, of Troy, attended to the preparing of the body for removal to Chicago, apparently being the girl's guardian. She is a tall, handsome woman, with golden hair and of a very striking appearance. She said of her sister: "The poor baby, she was so peculiarly constituted, so different from other girls, that she was never happy; but she often wrote to me that she was happier in the convent than she had ever been before." While Mrs. Plows-Day appeared to feel her sister's death keenly, she didn't appear to be deeply surprised by it.

She was sorry that the death had taken place in the convent, for the Sisters had been very kind to Mercedes and had completely won her affections. Mrs. Day had received a letter last week in which [the] deceased stated that she was making good progress and was delighted with her home. The girls had always a love for the Catholic church and religion, and had frequently expressed a desire to become a Catholic.

VERDICT OF THE JURY

After hearing further medical evidence at the adjourned inquest on Monday night the jury returned the following verdict: "That the deceased came to her death by an overdose of morphine, administered by her own hand, but that owing to the convent authorities refusing to produce some of her companions, the jury cannot determine the cause of the rash act."

"Died from an overdose of morphine"²⁰⁹ (Ontario, 1894)

Hamilton, Sept. 13 – James Hamilton, son of the late Alexander Hamilton, druggist, died yesterday as a result of an overdose of morphine, taken probably with suicidal intent. [The] deceased went into a room occupied by his brothers Ebenezer and Sandy and, saying to the former, "I'm going to take these pills," poured from a bottle a number of morphine pills and swallowed them. He lay down in bed and told his brother he had taken morphine pills. Doctors Leslie and Wallace were summoned at once, but when they arrived [the] deceased was unconscious and beyond medical aid. He was 34 years of age and unmarried.

²⁰⁹ From Died from an Overdose of Morphine. (1894, September 13). *Evening Record* (Windsor), p. 3.

“He drank laudanum”²¹⁰ (Nova Scotia, 1894)

The Loren House on Morris Street, [Halifax,] a well-known boarding house, was startled by a report that a new guest had attempted suicide by drinking laudanum. The man in question was H. H. Edmundson, a recent arrival at the house. The hospital ambulance was summoned and the patient was removed to the hospital. A stomach pump was brought in hasty use and Edmundson's life was saved. He is still at the hospital and resting easy.

Edmundson is about 30 years of age. At one time he was a clerk in the bank of Nova Scotia in this city. After that he went to Fresno, California, and worked on a vineyard there for Mr. Meltzer. Dame Fortune did not smile on the young man. He returned from California only a few days ago. He stopped at the Queen Hotel one day and on Wednesday registered at the Lorne House. He paid two weeks board in advance. The room assigned him was in the annex of the building. During the week, Edmundson had been looking for a position in the city and met with poor success. It is supposed he was addicted to the use of chloral and laudanum and such drugs to stop palpitation of the heart.

Friday about twelve o'clock he was discovered apparently lifeless and an alarm was at once given. One of the boarders states that the quantity of poison he drank was fully two ounces. The early discovery of his condition and prompt use of the stomach pump won the day. Edmundson was clear-headed, and expressed a wish to return to his boarding house.

It is not settled whether Edmundson actually drank the poison by mistake or premeditation. He was pretty downcast Saturday, and his prospects were far from being encouraging. The doctor at the hospital said he had not questioned Edmundson about the matter and that the patient had not volunteered any information.

“He is willing to go home,” the doctor said, “but we will keep him until his friends come for him.”

“Do you fear to trust him out by himself?”

“Well, I don't know,” replied the doctor. “He is not melancholy to-day and will be all right in a week.”

Edmundson came to Halifax about ten years ago from Liverpool, England. He belongs to a good family there. He obtained a position in the Bank of Nova Scotia. After a while he was transferred to the agency at Moncton. He suddenly left his position there and went to the States. His departure was simply a whim, and for no cause. About four years ago he returned to Halifax, and was once more engaged by the Bank of Nova Scotia. He was to have been married to a young lady in this city, but was taken seriously ill, and went to California in company with a sister who had come out from England some time before. Miss Edmundson is now in San Francisco.

²¹⁰ From HE DRANK LAUDANUM. (1894, October 22). *Halifax Herald*, p. 1.

“Not taken with any suicidal intent”²¹¹ (Nova Scotia, 1894)

Mr. Edmundson, whose serious illness through an overdose of laudanum was reported [earlier], called at this office yesterday and explained that the laudanum was not taken with any suicidal intent. When mining at Acapulco, Guadalajara and San Jacinto, in Mexico, he contracted chronic neuralgia of the stomach, for which laudanum was the only remedy available. He thus acquired the habit of carrying the drug with him and using it when he felt the need. On Friday, feeling quite unwell, he took a larger dose than usual and, as results show, too heavy a dose. He is now, however, quite well again.

“A deliberate attempt at self-destruction”²¹² (Manitoba, 1894)

J. H. Dolmage, postmaster at Lacombe, Alberta, made a deliberate attempt at self-destruction on Tuesday, and is now in a condition so precarious that there is but little hope of his recovery. Mr. Dolmage has been in charge of the Lacombe post office for several years and formerly lived in Winnipeg, being known to many people here.

A week or so ago the post office inspector at Winnipeg found that affairs at the Lacombe post office were in a somewhat unsatisfactory condition and made up his mind to have an investigation. The assistant post office inspector, Mr. Cairns, was dispatched there, arriving Monday night last. He at once began an examination. On Tuesday, while this examination was in progress, Mr. Dolmage went to his house and, having obtained a bottle of laudanum, swallowed four ounces of the deadly fluid. Doctors were summoned as soon as the man was found. Mr. Cairns had to leave Lacombe Tuesday morning. When he left there, Dolmage was in a very critical condition and the doctor attending him said he had little hope of saving his life. The chances are that the man is now dead.

The suicide was deliberately planned. It is understood that before taking the poison Dolmage wrote a long letter to Mr. McLeod, post office inspector, confessing that his accounts were short and that he had used the moneys received by him through the post office. He was unable to make restitution, and said he preferred death to the exposure that must follow.

Mr. McLeod was interviewed yesterday by a Bulletin reporter. He said he believed Dolmage had written him a letter explaining his shortage and the reason for suicide, but this letter had not been delivered to him. Dolmage's books, Mr. McLeod said, were in bad shape and what the amount of the shortage was, he could not state with any accuracy.

²¹¹ From Mr. Edmundson. (1894, October 23). *Halifax Herald*, p. 8.

²¹² From HE TOOK LAUDANUM. (1894, November 8). *Manitoba Weekly Free Press*, p. 7.

“A postmaster’s suicide”²¹³ (Manitoba, 1894)

A few days ago, the Free Press gave the news that Jacob Dolmage, postmaster of Lacombe, N. W. T., having been discovered short in his accounts by the post office inspector, swallowed a dose of laudanum. Now comes word of his death. Just before taking the fatal dose Dolmage wrote this letter addressed to Mr. W. W. McLeod, postal inspector at Winnipeg:

Sir – Through no fault of mine I have got into trouble about the post office. I was robbed of \$175 and I have been in trouble ever since. On the 14th of September [I suffered] another loss of \$300, which knocked the life out of me. Since then I have been crazy and not accountable for what I did. I should have reported these losses to the department, but was ashamed to do so, knowing they would blame me for losing the money. I have expected my father here; had he come, it would have been all right. To-morrow I propose telegraphing Mr. McLeod asking him to make an investigation, and appoint another postmaster. From the appearance at present I fear I am liable for arrest. Rather than be arrested for [a] felony, I would rather die.

J. H. DOLMAGE.

Lacombe, October 29, p.m., 1894.

The suicide also left a letter for Rev. Mr. Chequin and one addressed to the people of Lacombe. The letter was as follows:

Be true to yourselves. You have the best country on this continent. I am going to leave you for good, but whether in happiness or misery, I will remember the kindness that has been tendered to me by the people here. I have done what I could in making this a centre of English-speaking persons. I am going to bed for the last time. Regards to Will Matthias and Dell, his wife, also Mr. and Mrs. Raevie, James O’Shea, and Alex with the rest.

J. H. DOLMAGE.

Lacombe, October 29, p.m., 1894.

His last letter to Rev. Mr. Chequin read as follows:

Sir – I have tried on several times to break off from drink; every time I have come to the time to think, it is just as well to take a clean jump. I am not afraid of the result. I am taking this big jump, from time to eternity, but my mother is meeting me there. Farewell.

J. H. DOLMAGE.

²¹³ From A POSTMASTER’S SUICIDE. (1894, November 8). *Manitoba Weekly Free Press*, p. 7. Not a typo. The Weekly Free Press collected articles published throughout the week in question.

The only relative of the deceased at the funeral was his son, Crawford Dolmage. [The] deceased has a wife and daughter in Western Ontario, his wife being a daughter of Lieut. Col. Smith, London district.

“Morphine administered by herself”²¹⁴ (Ontario, 1894)

Essex, Dec. 7 – Mrs. John Moran, wife of a man living near Oldcastle, has just died at the Royal Hotel there, from the effect of a dose of morphine administered by herself. She went to the hotel last night and asked for a room, and gave orders at the same time that she be called at seven o’clock in the morning. Soon after she had gone to her room she called for something to eat, and when Walter Malone, proprietor of the house, went up to her room with a lunch, she remarked that she was not well.

About 11 o’clock Dr. Dewar walked into the hotel and asked if such a woman was in the house. On being told that she was there, the doctor said that she had told him, earlier in the evening at his office, that she had taken morphine and as he was uneasy as to the consequences, he had come [to] the hotel to inform Mr. Malone of the fact. The doctor and Mr. Malone went up to the room and knocked loudly on the door, but received no reply. They then looked over the transom and saw her sitting in a chair apparently sleeping. The hotel porter entered the room by means of the transom and unlocked the door so as to allow the others to enter. Dr. Dewar saw at once that the sleep was the result of a dose of poison, and this conclusion was strengthened by some morphine tablets lying on the table beside the woman. He at once sent for Drs. McKenzie, Brian and Potts, and the four worked all night to restore her to consciousness, which they succeeded in doing about morning. It was only a temporary restoration, however, as she soon sank again into unconsciousness and died about eleven o’clock to-day.

Her husband was sent for and arrived on the morning train. Mrs. Morin had made an attempt to commit suicide here about a month ago by the same means. She has been known to be a user of morphine for some time past. She was heard to exclaim last night before she went to the hotel that she wished she were dead. It is so clearly a case of suicide that it is not probable that an inquest will be held.

“Too much morphine”²¹⁵ (Quebec, 1895)

Montreal, March 22 – D. W. McDonald, traveler for the Davis & Lawrence Co., who was found dead in bed in the St. Lawrence Hall early this morning, was suffering from a painful disease and in order to allay the pain took a dose of morphine hypodermically before going to bed. Medical testimony given at the inquest this afternoon shows that he took an over dose which resulted fatally.

²¹⁴ From SHE TAKES MORPHINE. (1894, December 7). *Evening Record* (Windsor), p. 4.

²¹⁵ From TOO MUCH MORPHINE. (1895, March 23). *Manitoba Morning Free Press*, p. 1.

“Swallowed laudanum”²¹⁶ (Quebec, 1895)

At five o'clock on Thursday afternoon a young Englishman, named Louis Volger, residing with his wife at 46 Berthelet Street, [Montreal,] swallowed an overdose of laudanum and expired about ten o'clock the same evening in the General Hospital. Dr. Johnson had been summoned and found that a small bottle of laudanum had been half emptied. He had the man conveyed to the General Hospital where every effort was made to save his life, but all to no purpose.

The deceased came to Canada about a year ago, and started a cigar store on St. Catherine Street, but the business did not pay and four months later he sold out. Since that time he had failed to secure work and often lapsed into fits of despondency on this account. His wife had means, however, and they seemed to live happily. On Wednesday afternoon his wife went out to get him a bottle of soda and during her absence he swallowed the drug.

“Lewis Volger’s suicide”²¹⁷ (Quebec, 1895)

Coroner McMahon held an inquest Saturday morning upon the [body] of a man [...] [who] had at one time been quite prosperous [...], and [...] had committed suicide by taking [...] laudanum. [...] “Suicide while in a state of discouragement” was the verdict rendered by the jury. [...]

Dr. Wyatt Johnston was the first witness, and [...] had come to the conclusion that Volger’s death had been caused by taking laudanum. The lungs showed a state of extreme congestion, and there was no organic disease to account for such a condition. As regards the man’s brain, which the doctor had examined, he found no existence of disease that would lead one to believe the victim to be of unsound mind; yet there were signs to indicate a commencement of disease.

Mrs. Amelia Goddard, wife of the deceased Louis Volger, deposed that her husband, who was 31 years of age, had taken laudanum at their home on Berthelet Street, [Montreal,] and clearly detailed the circumstances of the case. A small bottle of laudanum had been procured two weeks before for the purpose of bathing the injured leg of a little dog, and it was from this bottle that her husband had taken the fatal dose. On Thursday afternoon, continued the witness, “my husband came into my room, lay on the couch and said: ‘My darling, let us part as we have always lived, friends. I have not been able to do for you as I would wish.’”

“I said: ‘Why, what is the matter?’ and I went to the kitchen for water, and when I returned he had the bottle of laudanum in one hand. The cork was in, and I am sure he must have taken it before he came into the room.”

The poor woman, almost choking with grief, said that they had been in the country about ten months, had taken a store and, having lost their money, her husband had been trying unsuccessfully to obtain a situation. He seemed very

²¹⁶ From SWALLOWED LAUDANUM. (1895, May 25). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 6.

²¹⁷ From LEWIS VOLGER’S SUICIDE. (1895, May 27). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 3.

despondent, and on Wednesday had taken hold of her and said: "Don't leave me, dear." [The] witness had done all she could to relieve him, and called for Mr. Elliott, who does business below. He had taken the dose at 4:30 p.m., and although they telephoned five doctors, it was seven o'clock before one arrived, and at that time the ambulance was sent for.

"Have you any children?" asked the coroner.

"I have a little girl four years old in England."

"Has he left any property or insurance?"

"None whatever."

Patrick Elliott, who does business at 48 Berthelet Street, deposed that Mrs. Volger had called to him between four and five o'clock Thursday afternoon, and when he went up Mr. Volger was sitting on the floor and seemed to be unconscious. [The] witness helped to get him out on the gallery and then telephoned for the doctors. Mr. Elliott knew Volger well, as they had been living over his place three or four months, and always appeared to live pleasantly together.

Robt. Hill, of 287 Bleury Street, had known the Volgers almost since their arrival in Montreal. [The] witness described Volger and his wife as being an exceedingly happy couple, and it was only a few days prior to his death that he was aware that they had lost all their money. Volger was full of life and good humor until Wednesday, when he came into [the] witness' house and acted in the most excited manner, saying "Bill, I am sick of doing nothing." He had a cup of tea with [the] witness and seemed to be terribly depressed. [The] witness also explained that he was at Volger's about two weeks ago and had seen the bottle of laudanum, and was told that it had been ordered for the little dog's leg. Mr. Hill added that Mrs. Volger was a most estimable woman and possessed the highest possible character.

Mr. Dan Church, who declared that his name was not Daniel, had known Mr. and Mrs. Volger for a few months. He had seen them frequently and had never known a more devoted and affectionate couple. [The] witness, however, noticed that Volger had been depressed of late, yet he supposed him to be the last man in the world who would have taken his own life.

The evidence being all in, Coroner McMahon addressed the jury, after which the verdict as given above was rendered.

"Death's sudden call"²¹⁸ (Ontario, 1895)

Citizens of St. Catherine's were greatly shocked this morning when the news quickly spread that Ald. H. Frank Maguire had died at an early hour from the effects of an overdose of laudanum. Like many another brainy man, Ald. Maguire had at times an unfortunate predilection for strong drink, but for two years or more he had striven to get the better of his thirst, and not till last week had he given way and permitted it to get the mastery of him.

²¹⁸ From DEATH'S SUDDEN CALL. (1895, June 10). *Daily Standard* (St. Catherine's), p. 1.

On Thursday he returned from Buffalo quite sick. On Friday night he slept at the Murray House, and on Saturday [he] went to the Falls to attend to his duties as inspector of immigrants. During the day he fell while there and received a gash in his head which had to be stitched up. Saturday night he again slept at the Murray House, and on Sunday morning [he] went to Mr. J. McCarty's, St. Paul street, where he spent the day apparently in good health. He ate a hearty dinner and in the afternoon went out for a short time. He returned and remained in the house the rest of the day. In the evening, with Mr. McCarty, he went over a number of business matters and laid out his work for the fore part of this week.

At 11:30 he was laid down on the bed partly dressed and said "good-night," and nothing further was heard of him till this morning about 6:30, when Mrs. McCarty, passing the room, looked in and found him lying on the floor. She at once told her husband, who got up and proceeded to the room, when the discovery was made that he was dead.

[The] deceased was born in old Niagara 54 years ago and moved to this city with his parents when quite a small boy. When a young man he went into the grocery business in Capt. Larkin's employ in the premises at present occupied by his family, and which then was doing a big business with vessels using the old canal. Afterwards he took charge himself, and it has ever since been carried on by him and his family.

In politics he was a Reformer and a hard worker. He knew the county like a book and almost every voter in it, so that his loss will be a heavy blow to his party. For his services in this connection he was, a couple of years ago, appointed Inspector of Immigrants at Suspension Bridge.

He entered municipal life as an alderman in 1888 and has served continuously ever since with the exception of a few months in 1893. In that year he ran for mayor against Mr. Donald Robertson, but was defeated. He was out of the council for about three months, when he was elected to fill the position rendered vacant by the removal to Chicago of Mr. A. B. Shaw. In 1891-2 he was chairman of the Finance Committee, which position he occupied at the time of his death. Besides a widow he leaves three sons and a daughter to mourn his death.

"James A. Cohen is dead"²¹⁹ (B. C. 1895)

James A. Cohen died at 2:30 o'clock this morning²²⁰ without even regaining consciousness. His medical attendants, to whose number was added Dr. Meredith Jones, were at his side through the evening and night, but nothing could be done for him. He had been delirious through the day, but quieted down and began to sink. The end came gradually and at 2:30 o'clock life had fled. There will be an autopsy to determine the exact cause of death. The hour of the post mortem and the time of interment have not yet been fixed upon.

²¹⁹ From JAMES A. COHEN IS DEAD. (1895, June 18). *Victoria Daily Times*, p. 8.

²²⁰ According to a small notice on the same page, "At his residence 175 Chatham st., [Victoria,] at 2:35 this morning."

It was learned to-day that Mr. Cohen was quite ill on Saturday. He had been unwell all last week, and on Saturday afternoon when he came down to see the Foresters' procession, appears to have been taken quite badly. He went home alone, but several people who passed him on the street noticed that he was unwell. He was holding his arms across his stomach, apparently in pain, and his step was unsteady. He was at home alone on Saturday night, the family being at the Foresters' entertainment. He evidently took the laudanum to relieve his pain on Saturday night, and with powers of perception dimmed and hands unsteadied by the pain he was suffering, took more than intended.

Mr. Cohen possessed a very bright mind, and was an enthusiast on the theories of the advanced school of political economy. He grasped the theories advanced and was a clever exponent of them. He believed in their teachings and saw in the future the improvement of the common people. He was a free trader and a believer in Single Tax and proportional representation with their kindred doctrines. He was a member of several fraternal societies and carried a fair amount of insurance on his life.

The funeral will be under the auspices of the lodges to which he belongs.

“Enquiry of the coroner”²²¹ (B. C., 1895)

The inquest in the case of James A. Cohen is in progress at the city police barracks this afternoon and will not be concluded until later. In the evidence taken up to the time the Times went to press there was not much of special importance. The jury empaneled by Coroner Hasell consisted of F. J. Hall, Michael McTiernan, Captain Daniel Campbell, W. J. Dwyer, B. H. West and F. F. Raitt. The jury, after being sworn in, selected Captain Campbell as foreman and then viewed the body at the morgue.

Harry L. Salmon was the first witness called. He said the deceased was his brother-in-law and that he had been married 12 years. The deceased had been fairly successful in business but had suffered in the depression. He had had severe attacks of cramps in the stomach and a year ago was quite ill. He complained a little lately of not feeling well for a few months. He would be laid up for a day or two at a time. The witness saw the deceased last on Saturday morning. They had a few words of conversation. He was in his usual spirits – a little bit dull. The conversation was of no importance. [The] witness did not know how his affairs were, but gathered that they were not as well as he liked.

He saw the deceased next at 11 o'clock Sunday as he lay in bed unconscious. The witness remained all day and evening, but the deceased did not regain consciousness. On Monday he was aroused, but delirious. Nothing could be made out of what he said, except that he once moaned and complained of his stomach, and also spoke about some nourishment which was given him. The deceased was unconscious for some time before he died and groaned considerably. At no time, however, was the

²²¹ From ENQUIRY OF THE CORONER. (1895, June 19). *Victoria Daily Times*, p. 5.

deceased really conscious. He believed the deceased had previously taken laudanum in castor oil for cramps.

F. W. Fawcett, clerk at Hall & Co.'s drug store, Yates and Douglas streets, was the next witness. [They] knew the deceased by sight, as he had been a customer about a year. [They] saw him last on Saturday morning about 7:30 o'clock, when he came in and asked for 25 cents' worth of laudanum. The witness asked Mr. Cohen what it was for and he replied cramps in the stomach. The witness gave the deceased one ounce. He made the usual entries in the book. It was not usual to give such a large amount of poison without a doctor's order.

"Why, then," said Coroner Hasell, "did you sell so much in this case?"

"We have the right to do so," was the reply.

"That is not an answer," insisted the coroner.

"I meant that it was unusual that such an order should be filled," was the reply. "I gave the laudanum because the man had cramps. Mr. Cohen had never had such an order filled before. The amount of a dose was marked on the label."

To the jurors – "I know Mr. Cohen only as a temperate man and a respected citizen. The law does not restrict the amount of poison to be sold. Mr. Cohen signed the poison book. He knew people who took laudanum for cramps. Mr. Cohen seemed to be in his usual health."

The witness produced the book, showing the entry.

Thomas Shotbolt was the third witness sworn. He saw the deceased last on Saturday on Johnson street outside of his store. The deceased addressed the witness and said he wanted to get some laudanum, which Mr. Chadwick, the clerk, had refused to give him. He asked Mr. Cohen to come back into the store. He noticed the deceased was in a depressed state, and had a private talk with Mr. Chadwick. He thought it wise to refuse him. The witness asked Mr. Cohen what he wanted the laudanum for, and was told for cramps in the stomach. The witness offered him a dose of chlorodyne, which the deceased refused to take. The witness then refused to give him the laudanum and Mr. Cohen left, saying he could get it elsewhere.

Laudanum could be sold in any quantity to any person known to the seller. He had once sold a customer a half a gallon of laudanum. He could sell a hundred pounds of arsenic. He had sold ten ounces of strychnine to one customer. That was without any doctor's order at all. He registered all sales of poison. He may have sold Mr. Cohen laudanum on a previous occasion.

Dr. Crompton, who was the next witness, testified to the treatment of the patient and his death, and as to the post mortem examination. He believed from the latter that death was produced by congestion of the brain, probably the result of opium poisoning.

“Heart disease”²²² (B. C., 1895)

Painful things must sometimes be told. The idea of some is to state nothing but what is pleasant. The idea has too much to commend it; this old world has enough of what is melancholy as it is. Still, there are occurrences which, because of the lesson they teach, should be given prominence.

On Friday night of last week a woman named Cora, who resided in a house on Dupont street, [Vancouver,] took a dose of morphine during a fit of melancholia. A physician was called, the poison was pumped out, the woman partially rallied, and [she] was taken to St. Paul’s hospital. Her heart was weak and did not react, and she died at 4 o’clock on Saturday morning. The evidence, taken at the inquest held by W. J. McGuigan, M. D., coroner, this morning was as follows:

Dr. He. E. Langis, being sworn, said:

“My name is H. E. Langis. I am a medical practitioner of the city of Vancouver. Last Friday evening about 7 o’clock a hackman called on me and told me I was wanted at 129 Dupont street, and to take with me what was necessary for a supposed case of poisoning. I went at once and upon going into the house found the deceased, Mamie Ackerly, in the toilet room, helpless, and supported by another woman and trying to vomit, but could not do so. After enquiring I was told that she had taken two bits’ worth of morphine. I had her transferred to her room at once and examined her. I found all the symptoms of opium or morphine poisoning. I gave her hypodermic injections of antidotes and applied the stomach pump. I walked the woman for about four hours to prevent her from sleeping, and about 11 o’clock I was requested to take the woman to the hospital. I did so.

“I took her to St. Paul’s hospital, and as the pupils were perfectly dilated from the injections administered I considered it was perfectly safe to leave her; after a hypodermic injection of ether as a heart stimulant I called again on the woman at 1 o’clock in the morning and woke her up easily. As the pulse was depressed, I gave her another hypodermic injection of ether and left instructions, as I was going away, to be telephoned for if anything should happen. At 6:30 I was telephoned that the patient had awakened by herself. I called again on her at 1 p.m., Saturday, and was told that she had been awake at intervals. When I called she was awake and answered all my questions rationally, and I conversed with her for about 15 minutes. She told me she did not remember anything that had happened the night before. I left her with the knowledge that there was hardly any danger from the morphine poisoning. At 8:15 p.m. the nurse telephoned that the patient was very short of breath. As I previously knew that she was suffering from asthma and heart disease I immediately ordered some medicines to that effect. I was informed about 6 o’clock on Sunday morning that she had died at 4 a.m. I considered that death had been produced by the heart disease, and had been accelerated by the overdose of morphine which she had taken.

²²² From HEART DISEASE. (1895, September 16). *Daily World* (Vancouver), p. 4.

“Some of the inmates of the house informed me that she had taken two bits’ worth of morphine, which I would consider was about 15 grains. I was told besides that she was a fiend (to morphine). If she had taken that overdose with suicidal intent she was perfectly willing, when I was there, that I should do anything to bring her through. For instance, when I applied the stomach pump, she introduced the stomach tube herself and kept it in position until the contents of the stomach came out. I was told that she used to get her morphine from a friend in the East. She admitted to one of the inmates that she had taken morphine, and when I questioned her she intimated the same to me by sign.”

By the Foreman: “Do you know if she took the morphine with suicidal intent?”

Ans. – “I do not.”

Della St. Clair, being duly sworn, stated:

“I live at 129 Dupont Street. I knew the deceased for the last two or three months. I do not know if she ever bought any morphine at any time. I just came into the house when [the] deceased informed me that she had taken a dose of morphine. One half hour previous to my arrival she said: ‘I have taken 25 cents’ worth of morphine.’ She did not say where she got it. I saw nothing to show where she might have got the morphine. She came up to my room to tell me she had taken morphine. She was then ill; sick at the stomach and faint, like. I have no idea where she got the morphine. I do not know whether she took the morphine in mistake or not. She had not been well for 10 days previous to this. I saw no bottles. She was at times inclined to be melancholy. She was out that afternoon. She did not drink to any excess whatever. I know of no one in the house who was more intimate with her than myself.”

The verdict was: “The deceased came to her death from heart disease, accelerated by a dose of morphine.”

Lately it has been shown with painful clearness at the police court that there are young girls in this city starting on a course similar to that of the poor woman referred to above. Let her fate be a warning. Suicide or death as a refuge is the inevitable fate of all women who stoop to folly and learn too late that men betray. Cora – or to refer to her properly, Mary Louise Ackerly, lived a short life – 24 years – and a seemingly merry one. How long she was depressed by the melancholy that led to her final rash act, the Omnipotent only knows. Her parents live in Chicago. The landlady of the house in which she lived has paid all the cost of giving the unfortunate one a decent burial, and her friends literally covered the coffin with flowers.

“I’ll poison myself!”²²³ (Ontario, 1895)

A respectable young fellow named Bernard Goble, employed in the Carriage works, [Brantford,] was arrested on Thursday night, on a charge of attempting to take his own life by taking poison. Goble has been sick with typhoid fever, and only recovered sufficiently to be around. On Thursday he came down town with a friend

²²³ From I’LL POISON MYSELF! (1895, October 4). *Brantford Expositor*, p. 4.

and had a walk around. He felt somewhat despondent, partly owing to his sickness, and partly owing to little financial difficulties of very slight importance.

After knocking around the streets looking sickly and feeling worse than he looked, he remarked to his friend that life was not worth living, and that he would commit suicide. He walked over towards a drug store on Market street and purchased five cents' worth of laudanum. His friend, apprehensive that Goble might really carry into execution his threat, followed him, and found from the drug clerk what he had purchased. He immediately apprised the police of the expressed intention of Goble. Constable Fisher, with a description of the man, started in pursuit, and finally located him. The constable demanded the bottle and Goble delivered it up.

The officer thought it would be safe to remove the young man to the lockup for further enquiry. At the police court this morning the magistrate heard the story, and under the circumstances, sent Goble home to take care of himself and recover.

“To do away with himself”²²⁴ (Ontario, 1896)

Toronto, June 26 – A young man named Geo. Foster, about 21 years of age, who roomed at 116 Shutter Street, committed suicide last night by taking an overdose of morphine. Foster was at a picnic yesterday, and while there was very despondent. He told his sister that he had not enough money to pay his lodging bill, and that it was his intention to do away with himself. She did not regard it as being serious, however, and no further attention was paid to his threat. He got to his lodging house late and did not get up in the morning.

At one o'clock his landlady went to call him but was unable to rouse him. When she entered the room he was unconscious, and as she was not able to revive him she sent for medical aid. Dr. Wallace administered antidotes, but the man had been too long under the influence to be brought around. An inquest will be held to-morrow. Foster, it is understood, attempted the act of self destruction two years ago, but was taken in time. He was suffering with consumption.

“Died from morphine poisoning”²²⁵ (Quebec, 1896)

Mrs. J. B. Desormeau died at St. Martin from the effects of an over dose of morphine. It appears that Mrs. Desormeau had been addicted to the morphine habit for the past three years. The doses were given by [the] deceased's brother-in-law, Caliste Beauchamp. In his evidence Beauchamp stated that in giving the morphine he guessed at the dose, and did not have it weighed. The evidence showed that death was due to morphine poisoning. The jury returned a verdict of “homicide by excusable imprudence.”

²²⁴ From THERE WOULD BE MANY MORE. (1896, July 27). *Daily Citizen* (Ottawa), p. 6.

²²⁵ DIED FROM MORPHINE POISONING. (1896, August 21). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 4.

“Traces of poison”²²⁶ (Quebec, 1896)

James Carmichael is lying in a private ward at the General Hospital, [Montreal,] unconscious and at the point of death, and his present state is due to acute morphine poisoning.

Two days ago the man arrived at the Windsor Hotel and registered as “J. Balfour, City.” He was seen around the corridors and the rotunda yesterday and appeared in good spirits. Last night one of the hotel employees went into his room and found him lying unconscious on the bed. He told the clerk at the office and Drs. Wilkins and Gunn were sent for. When the medical men arrived, they saw at once that the case was a serious one, and telephoned to the General Hospital for assistance. The ambulance arrived with Dr. Church and the three physicians worked for some time on the man and then decided to remove him to the hospital.

He was sent to the hospital, and has been unconscious since his arrival there. The contents of “Balfour’s” stomach were removed, and traces of morphine were found. The doctors also discovered that the man had been suffering from kidney disease. It is supposed that he took some morphine to relieve the pain, and took an overdose. An examination of the man’s effects showed that his name was James Carmichael. At the hospital this morning a telegram was received addressed to “James Carmichael” from Chicago, and asking for information regarding him.

Mr. Walter Wilson, who is the manager of the Central Agency at 12 De Bresoles Street, called at the hospital this morning, and at his request Carmichael was removed to a private ward.

Carmichael is very low, and he is being treated with vapor baths in an attempt to restore him to consciousness.

“A terribly sad tragedy”²²⁷ (B. C., 1897)

Another terribly tragic death occurred in this city [Vernon] on Friday evening, and the gloomy impress of the event left a pall of gloom over the town. About 6 o’clock on the evening of that day, Dr. Williams was hastily summoned to the residence of Mr. Alexander Grant, who lives in what is known as the “Girouard cottage,” and on his arrival found Mrs. Grant unconscious and apparently suffering from the effects of some strong narcotic poison. All that medical science could suggest was done, but the case was hopeless, and in a short time she breathed her last.

On Saturday morning Dr. O. Morris, coroner for this district, held an inquest, and a full inquiry was made into the sad case, the result of which went to show that death had been caused by laudanum. The following jury was empaneled: F. B. Jacques (foreman), J. Highman, J. Hutchinson, J. E. Matheson, H. Knight and M. O’Brien.

²²⁶ From TRACES OF POISON. (1896, November 6). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 8.

²²⁷ From A TERRIBLY SAD TRAGEDY. (1897, February 11). *The Vernon News*, p. 1.

Mr. A. Grant was the first witness called, after the jury had viewed the remains, and the scene was a distressful one, as the grief-stricken husband, unable to control his voice, sobbed out his evidence. He had walked home with his wife between 5 and 6 o'clock on Friday afternoon, having met her on the street. Shortly after reaching the house she went into her bedroom saying she was not feeling well and would go to bed. She partly disrobed and then came into the outer room where Mr. Grant and her child were. She kissed the child and went back into the bedroom. A few minutes afterwards she called Mr. Grant and cried out that she was deadly sick, telling him to run for Dr. Morris. Mr. Grant asked what was the matter, to which she replied: "I'm poisoned; run quick for the doctor." He immediately ran over to Mr. Cameron's store and telephoned for a doctor. Dr. Morris was not at home, but Dr. Williams came at once. He then got Mrs. Gilbert, from the Vernon Hotel, and they went back to the house. They found Mrs. Grant sitting on the floor near the stove in the outer room, holding the child in her arms. Just as they got there she dropped back unconscious. They tried to make her take some milk, but she could not swallow, and never spoke again. As far as he knew she had been taking no drugs for the past few months, except pills for biliousness.

Louisa Densmore, a girl about 13 years of age, and sister of the deceased, was the next witness. She had been getting supper ready, when Mrs. Grant called her into the room. She was sitting up in bed, partly undressed. She said: "Go for Lottie (Mrs. Boyd, another sister). I have taken 50 cents' worth of laudanum and will be dead before you get back. Don't tell Sandy." The witness went over to the Victoria Hotel and got Mrs. Boyd. When they reached the house the doctor was there and Mrs. Grant was unconscious. She had heard that Mrs. Grant had taken laudanum once before, but did not know when or how much.

Mrs. Boyd was next called. She testified that Mrs. Grant had been with her that afternoon at the hotel. She had spoken of feeling unwell, saying she had a headache, but said nothing of taking laudanum. Mrs. Grant was pregnant and asked her if she would look after her child should anything happen to her. She remembered her saying on one occasion that she sometimes took a little laudanum to make her sleep. Cross-examined by Dr. Williams, [the witness said] – "She told me about three months ago that she had taken a tablespoonful of laudanum. It had made her vomit. She made me promise not to tell Sandy, and said she would not do it again."

Robt. Bell, assistant in S. A. Muir & Co.'s drug store, next gave evidence. Mrs. Grant had been in the store shortly after 5 o'clock and had bought a sedlitz powder and two ounces of carbolic acid. She said she wanted the powder for a sick headache and the acid for killing bed-bugs. He produced the poison register and showed by an entry dated Dec. 21st, 1896, that Mrs. Grant had on that day purchased one ounce of laudanum. On the 8th of Jan. Mrs. Densmore had also bought an ounce. Druggists were not required by law to take a receipt for the sale of carbolic acid.

Mrs. Gilbert was the next witness. She had gone with Mr. Grant to the house and found Mrs. Grant on the floor, unconscious. She was bleeding from a cut on the cheek (evidently made by falling against the fire-place) and the baby was in her arms. She searched the bedroom and found an empty laudanum bottle in a work-basket on

the table, also an empty bottle labeled “carbolic acid” under the bed. About three weeks ago Mrs. Grant had told her she was not feeling well and occasionally took a little laudanum to make her sleep.

Dr. Williams then gave his evidence. He detailed how he arrived on the scene and was unable to find out what had caused the trouble. The patient was in a comatose condition, her breathing was stertorous and about six to the minute. There was blood on her face and dress coming from a cut on her upper lip. The symptoms were those of narcotic poisoning, and he immediately tried to produce vomiting by hypodermic injections of apomorphia. He also injected atropine and brandy. He at once saw the case was hopeless; the pulse was so feeble that it could not be counted. He had kept breathing up for some time by artificial respiration. There were no convulsions before death, and the pupils of the eyes were dilated, but that was subsequent to the injection of atropine. There was no smell of carbolic acid about the breath, and the mouth was not burned or scarred. In his opinion death was caused by taking some narcotic, and he thought it probable that the poison had been taken an hour or more previous to her collapse. Opium poison sometimes acted in this way, especially when a person had been more or less accustomed to its use. He felt certain that she had not taken carbolic acid.

The jury then retired, and after being out for about twenty minutes returned the following verdict: “The deceased, Mrs. Grant, came to her death by poison administered by her own hand.”

The funeral took place on Sunday afternoon, the remains being taken to the Presbyterian church, where a brief but impressive sermon was preached by the Rev. G. A. Wilson. The procession, which proceeded thence to the cemetery, was a very large one, the long line of cutters stretching for a considerable distance along Barnard avenue, while many of our citizens followed the solemn cortege on foot. The deepest sympathy of the entire community goes heartily out to Mrs. Grant and other bereaved relatives in their terrible affliction.

“Died from morphine”²²⁸ (Manitoba, 1898)

Winnipeg, Jan. 18 – The body of a man named Archie Campbell was taken east yesterday en route for his late home, Sand Point, Ont., for interment. [The] deceased had been working on the Crow’s Nest Pass Railway construction as timekeeper, and about a week ago, not feeling well, he took nine morphine pills, which killed him. It is believed that he was addicted to the morphine habit.

²²⁸ From DIED FROM MORPHINE. (1898, January 18). *Evening Record* (Windsor), p. 1.

“Old man took laudanum”²²⁹ (Ontario, 1898)

James Ellison, an inmate of the Old Men’s Home on Bank Street, [Ottawa] took a dose of laudanum last night with suicidal intent. Fortunately he took an overdose and the poison only made him sick. Ellison will be arrested to-day. Some time ago Ellison wrote to the board of the Home, announcing his intention of committing suicide. The board took no notice of the letter. Since taking the laudanum Ellison says he will cut his throat as he is bound to die. The board will hold an investigation to find out where Ellison procured his poison.

“His tragic death”²³⁰ (B. C., 1900)

Weary of life, and disappointed at having lost his position, Charles James, aged 29 years, went to his home at 714 Homer Street, [Vancouver,] yesterday morning and drank half an ounce of laudanum. He died shortly after 4 o’clock in the afternoon. James for the past two weeks had been drinking heavily, and yesterday morning was in a bad state. He seemed very much disheartened and told a representative of The World who met him that he was tired of everything. Urged to brace up, and leave liquor alone, James promised to do so and went home. Upon arriving there, he went upstairs to his bedroom. His wife was downstairs, and hearing her husband snoring rather loudly she went up, and was under the impression that he was sleeping, until she noticed the empty bottle labeled “laudanum”. This frightened her greatly and she sent for Dr. Robertson. The medical man called in Drs. Mills, Poole and Carroll, and they did all in their power to save the man’s life, but without success.

James called at the Owl drug store, corner of Abbott and Cordova Streets, on the 14th and asked for half an ounce of laudanum, stating that his wife was suffering from a toothache. The druggist sold him the medicine, and it being a poison, James signed for it, as is required by law. He was perfectly sober then, and talked in a most rational manner.

The deceased was born in London, Ontario, where he has relatives. His wife is a California lady and he has been married three years. About a year and a half ago he came here from Rossland and secured employment with A. G. Ferrera, proprietor of the Savoy Café. Six months ago he was engaged as one of the night bartenders at the Savoy, which position he held up to a month ago. Yesterday morning he called on Alexander Burr, of the Savoy, and begged for liquor but was advised to go home. Everything possible was done to help the unfortunate man by the Savoy people. James was of a retiring disposition and did not make friends readily, but with those who knew him well he was greatly liked. He leaves a wife and child, who will have the sympathy of many friends in their trouble. It has not yet been decided whether the remains will be sent east. Coroner McGuigan, upon learning the facts of the case, did not consider an inquest necessary.

²²⁹ From OLD MAN TOOK LAUDANUM. (1898, June 27). *Ottawa Evening Journal*, p. 7.

²³⁰ From HIS TRAGIC DEATH. (1900, April 6). *Daily World* (Vancouver), p. 8.

“A very silly girl, this”²³¹ (Ontario, 1900)

Ottawa, Ont., November 19 – Miss Eva Stroulger, a New Edinburgh girl, attempted suicide Thursday night by drinking laudanum. She had spent the evening with some friends and did not arrive home until nearly 11 o'clock. Her mother reprimanded her for staying out so late and struck her a couple of times. The girl felt keenly the indignity placed upon her and, picking up a bottle of laudanum from the table, drunk the contents. The opiate affected her immediately and she fell to the floor. Her mother and sister ran to her and carried her to bed. A doctor was summoned and all night the brothers and sisters were directed to keep her from sleeping. The girl, although ill, has now almost recovered from the effects of the poison.

“Death of Nurse Boyd”²³² (Saskatchewan, 1901)

Regina, Jan. 20 – The inquest on the death of Miss Eva Boyd, of the Victorian Order of Nurses, and engaged at Regina hospital, took place yesterday before Dr. R. B. Cotton, coroner, and the following jury: F. N. Darke (foreman), G. T. Marsh, Neil Maclean, W. G. Pettingell, Phillip Thomas and J. A. Kerr.

From the evidence it appeared that Miss Boyd was the night nurse, and last Thursday morning she had breakfast with Miss L. Bristow, the matron, and then retired to rest. In the evening, when Miss Bristow went to [the] deceased's room to call her for her night's work, she found her lying in bed in an unconscious state. All efforts to arouse her proving futile, Dr. Low was sent for, and he at once came. From the symptoms he concluded Miss Boyd was under the influence of morphia with atropine. He immediately administered stimulants, and these proving ineffectual, he went to Dr. Edwards to borrow an electric battery. The two doctors returned to the hospital and for two hours tried the battery, but without any beneficial effect, and Miss Boyd breathed her last at half-past two in the morning.

On examining the body both before and after death, the scars of punctures were seen, showing that the deceased had been in the habit of having hypodermic injections. Two of the puncture marks were quite recent, and the syringe had also evidently been recently used. Among her effects was a box of narcotics of a kind different to those used at the hospital.

Dr. Edwards had known Miss Boyd nine years ago, when she was engaged at Dr. Alloway's private hospital, Montreal, but had never seen her since then until the day before her death, when, in talking over old times, she said she had not been in good health, but suffered from neurasthenia. Miss Bristow said that Miss Boyd varied in her demeanor, sometimes being cheerful, and at other times despondent, complaining of nervousness and not being able to endure noise. She was about 36 years of age. About three weeks ago she had written to Miss Macleod, of the Veteran

²³¹ From A VERY SILLY GIRL THIS. (1900, November 20). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 10.

²³² From DEATH OF NURSE BOYD. (1901, January 24). *Free Press Home Journal*, p. 21.

Order of Nurses, saying that she was weak and would like to go east again. Mr. D. J. Goggin, D. C. L., president of the hospital, said he had taken charge of Miss Boyd's effects and had examined them. There was nothing to throw any light upon a motive for suicide. All the letters, etc., showed Miss Boyd to be of high literary tastes, and were chiefly literary criticisms of the great writers.

The jury returned a verdict that Miss Eva Boyd's death had been caused accidentally by an overdose of morphia and other drugs, self-administered, evidently with the object of relieving pain. The body will be sent to Miss Boyd's friends in Montreal.

“Accidental death”²³³ (B. C., 1901)

The inquest which was held in the city hall this morning to inquire into the death of the late Miss Mary Amos, of the night staff of St. Joseph's Hospital, [Victoria,] resulted in a verdict of accidental death. There was absolutely nothing in the evidence which could justify any other assumption, and the verdict was submitted after a short deliberation. The jury consisted of the following: J. L. Forrester (foreman), Wm. Hasserd, James Wilby, Robt. Brown, Fred. Bittencourt and John W. Sexton. Three witnesses were examined – Dr. O. J. Jenes, Sister Mary Gertrude, who has charge of the hospital dispensary, and the late nurse's sister, Miss Lena Amos.

The first witness examined was Dr. Jones, who deposed that he received a telephone message on Sunday morning about 8.30 o'clock telling him that the night nurse had taken morphine in mistake for calomel. He prescribed the course to be followed pending his arrival, and was on the scene shortly before 9 o'clock.

When he arrived the patient was sitting up in bed, able to speak but very drowsy. The usual measures were taken and persisted in during the day until 11 o'clock at night, when she died. [The] witness left the hospital at 8.30, Drs. F. Hall and Hart remaining with the patient.

To the coroner, [the] witness said that Miss Amos, in reply to his question, had stated “that she did not know how she made the mistake, and did not know she had taken morphine until she began to feel drowsy.”

To a juror: “She died from heart failure caused by the morphia.” [The] witness also said that the nurse felt the effects of the drug about half an hour after she had taken it.

As to where the drug was obtained, Dr. Jones said he had heard that she had received it from another nurse, a friend, who had recently left the institution. This lady had some calomel and morphia, and before leaving gave them to Miss Amos. The latter had apparently never used it before. Both were white powders, but dissimilar in taste and weight.

It was against the rule of the institution for a nurse to have poison in her possession, and the authorities were not aware that she or her friend had it. The

²³³ From ACCIDENTAL DEATH. (1901, August 13). *Victoria Daily Times*, p. 5.

greatest precaution was exercised in this respect, all poisons being kept under lock and key.

He did not think the morphia was secured here at all, but would imagine that it came from the States.

No blame could be attached to the institution, because the morphia was not obtained there. Had Miss Amos applied to the dispensary sister, the mistake could never have happened. Five grains of morphia is certainly a fatal dose.

The next witness was the dispensary sister, Mary Gertrude, who stated that the pharmacy at the hospital was under her charge, and the key was always in her possession. Miss Amos had been in the hospital two years, and was perfectly reliable and confident. On Sunday morning about 8.30 [the] witness deposed that the night nurse came to her and asked for an antidote for morphia. [The] witness inquired who had taken it and in what quantity. The nurse replied that she had taken five grains, and implored [the] witness not to tell anyone. She had obtained the morphia from a friend. She had intended, she said, to take calomel, but had taken morphia instead. She had not detected the difference until she began to feel the effects. The sister at once ordered her to take some milk, and immediately telephoned Dr. Jones.

To [a] juror: "Miss Amos came from Scotland."

To another jurymen, [the] witness said that she did not know in what form Miss Amos kept the powder. She did not know that the nurse had it in her possession. [The] deceased had not been in any trouble and was not low spirited. She had not been feeling quite well on the previous evening, and was prevailed upon to take a tonic prepared for her.

In her private life she was never known to have any trouble, and at the hospital she was most reliable, and one of the best nurses [the] witness had known.

Several of the jurymen also spoke highly of the deceased.

Continuing, [the] witness said that the young lady from whom Miss Amos had obtained the calomel and morphia was very friendly with her, and before leaving the institution had left the packages with her.

This concluded the sister's evidence, and Miss Lena Amos, sister of the late nurse, was next called. She stated that she last saw her sister before her illness at 5.30 in the morning, when she appeared in her usual health and appetite. The next time she saw her was when she was being treated for morphia poisoning. She heard her tell the Mother Superior that she had made a mistake and taken morphia for calomel. She had always seemed happy and in the best of health before being ill. [The] witness did not know her sister had any drugs in her possession.

That was all the evidence, and in summing up Coroner Hart spoke highly of the late nurse, with whom he was personally acquainted. She was of untarnished character, in good spirits, and there was no doubt that her death was due to a mistake. As to responsibility, everything possible was done when she became ill, steps being instantly taken to call in assistance, and no blame could be attached to any one in this particular.

As to the fact of her having drugs in her possession, the authorities of the hospital were not to blame. The rules governing this were very strict, and he had

every confidence that they were carried out implicitly. Of course, when drugs were obtained by individuals in private capacity unknown to the authorities, rules would be of no avail.

The jury were then left to themselves, and after some deliberation returned the verdict that [the] deceased came to her death through the effect of morphia, taken in mistake for calomel: or in other words, accidental death.

“Is tired of living”²³⁴ (Quebec, 1901)

She was tired of living and thought it would be brave to face death, were the reasons given yesterday afternoon by Margaret Verglault, for taking an overdose of laudanum. Fortunately, she let outsiders know what she had done, and after being quickly taken to the General Hospital, [Montreal,] where emetics were administered, she was able to resume life in the same old way.

Margaret Verglault, who is a young French woman, says she came from France to Montreal about a week ago, and that she had lived in a hotel in St. James street until yesterday morning, when she secured a room at 192 St. Urbain Street, paying two weeks in advance.

Soon after, she went out to a drug store and procured a small amount of laudanum, the contents of which she drank in her room at 3 o'clock. She notified the landlady and said she was sorry of having caused any trouble in the house, but that she was tired of living and wanted to die. The people in the house were of a different opinion, and the girl was taken to the hospital. Shortly after 6 o'clock she was given into the care of the police of No. 4 Station for the night.

Miss Verglault said she had been hired to go to work this morning with a St. Catherine Street tailor.

“London girl takes laudanum”²³⁵ (Ontario, 1902)

London, Ont., Oct. 2 – Minnie Goudy, the 17-year-old daughter of John Gouday, 188 Albert Street, committed suicide to-day by drinking laudanum and carbolic acid. She had kept company with Richard Howard, a young cigarmaker. Lately she had been displeased with him because of the attentions which she accused him of paying to another girl. Three weeks ago she went as a domestic to a Central Avenue residence. She went out last night with Howard and came in crying about 11 p.m., and told her mistress that she had just been shown a letter which slandered her. The lady attempted to comfort her and the girl went to her room. On going to call her, her mistress found her lying on the bed fully dressed with her tongue protruding. Doctors were summoned, but the girl died at 10.30 a.m. She had taken laudanum. Letters said she was heart-broken and did not wish to live, but that no one was to

²³⁴ From IS TIRED OF LIVING. (1901, November 15). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 3.

²³⁵ From London Girl Takes Laudanum. (1902, October 8). *Weekly Free Press*, p. 2.

blame. In a letter to her lover she asked him not to marry the other girl and expressed the hope that she would meet him in heaven.

“Overdose of laudanum”²³⁶ (Ontario, 1902)

Woodstock, [Ont.,] Dec. 1 – Miss Verona Sutherland, daughter of Mr. James Sutherland, who is employed by the Massey-Harris Co., of Toronto, died suddenly this morning from an overdose of laudanum. Miss Sutherland, who was quite a young woman, woke up in the night with severe toothache, and took the laudanum to ease the pain. She took too much, and never regained consciousness. The coroner was called, and deemed an inquest unnecessary.

“At 1 o’clock this morning he died”²³⁷ (B. C., 1903)

Another man has gone before the greatest of all tribunals without a summons. Crazed with whiskey, and probably disgusted with himself as far as his alcohol-saturated brain tissue would permit him to be, Edward Hawkins, a locomotive engineer of Seattle, on Sunday took a big dose of laudanum and at 1 o’clock this morning he died.

Hawkins was formerly an engineer on the Northern Pacific and, for some reason or other, left his position on the other side and came here, presumably to get work. That he had done something in that line was shown by letters from C. P. R. officials.

He arrived [in Vancouver] on Friday week and took a room at the Metropole, registering as E. Hawkins, Seattle. He appeared to be all right then, but on Saturday he commenced to drink and kept it up right along; though he never drank in other bars or else got it by the bottle. He was continually in a befuddled condition. He ran out of money and straightened up long enough to telegraph to his wife in Seattle for \$50.

On Tuesday last he made himself a nuisance round the place by dropping down and going to sleep in all kinds of odd places. He refused to go to bed and would not eat anything. Tuesday night he was found asleep on a lounge in the hotel parlor. He was awakened and asked if he wanted a room. He said that he did. He paid for his room and \$1 that he owed. He was then asked to go to bed and brace up. He refused and went out of the house, returning about three in the morning in the usual condition.

On Tuesday night, when he was awakened, he was asked if he thought of going home to Seattle, it being Mainlander night. He said no, that he had too much money to go home. On Wednesday he was requested to find quarters elsewhere as he was annoying the other guests. When he left he had over \$40 with him.

²³⁶ From OVERDOSE OF LAUDANUM. (1902, December 1). *Brantford Daily Expositor*, p. 1.

²³⁷ From OPIUM. (1903, January 26). *The Daily World* (Vancouver), p. 1.

He then went down to the Western hotel and wanted to engage a room for a week. Proprietor Dashway did not have a room vacant, so he took him over to the Regina where the man engaged quarters in the room of a brakeman named Kerwin. He kept up the drinking and it was almost by using force that Mr. Dashway, on two occasions, got him to eat a little in the hope that it would brace him up. On Friday night Hawkins awakened Kerwin and wanted him to help drive the Indians out of the room. This was a pretty fair indication of the state into which his mind was getting. Mr. Dashway refused to sell him any liquor at the bar, but gave him a little at the request of another boarder, just in order not to break him off too suddenly.

On Sunday afternoon, about 3 o'clock, Kerwin went down into the hotel office and said that the man in his room was dying. "He's more like dead drunk," was the comment, and little attention was paid to the matter. When it was mentioned again, Mr. Dashway asked how the man was. Kerwin said he was lying on the bed breathing heavily. Mr. Dashway asked what Hawkins did when he went ostensibly to go to a drug store on Sunday. Kerwin replied that Hawkins had got a bottle of whisky and that he had helped him drink it. This was considered explanation enough of the man's condition.

Later in the day Kerwin went into a drug store to get something to straighten him up and he told the drug clerk something about the case. The drug clerk asked questions as to how the man was breathing, and on being informed told Kerwin to rush back to the hotel at once and have a doctor called in, adding that he would be in readiness to bring down anything needed as soon as telephoned for. Kerwin got back to the hotel in the evening and went up to the room – this was about 7 o'clock – and in a few minutes came down with an ounce phial in his hand, calling out:

"This is what he took! This is what he took! I knew he'd taken something, and he's only breathing by jerks now."

In two seconds Mr. Dashway was at the telephone and, catching Dr. McPhillips at home, asked him to come down. Dr. McPhillips got to the hotel about 7:15 and had the man taken post haste to the city hospital, where everything possible was done for him. The poison, however, had been working on him for four hours and his heart was in bad condition so that the work was in vain, and at 1 o'clock this morning Hawkins breathed his last.

The phial which contained the laudanum had been bought from a Vancouver drug store, but from the label on it, it looked as if the bottle had been carried about for some time.

The dead man's wife and the Seattle branch of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, to which he belonged, have been communicated with.

A WOMAN ALSO

A small boy came to the police station this morning about 9:30 with a report that a woman was lying in a coal shed at Murdoch's cabins on Powell Street. Murdoch's cabins are situated on the south side of the street, just east of Westminster Avenue. The building is two stories high, and in the centre, on both floors, runs an apartment where the users of the various cabins store their wood and coal.

In the upper story of this part of the building the police found a woman lying cold and stiff in death. She could not have been there yesterday, and none of the people in the cabins could remember having seen her about the place. The supposition is that she crawled in there last night for shelter and died from the cold and the effects of opium. She was poorly dressed and in her pockets were \$2.25 and a quantity of opium, such as Chinamen chew, not the refined kind that they smoke. The woman is apparently about 35 years of age, has dark brown hair, a sharp and prominent nose, a large mouth and straight lips. She had on a pair of old fashioned ear-rings.

The police have an idea that she is the wife of a man who was sent to the penitentiary from Nanaimo because of a shooting affray. After his incarceration she sold out all they had in Nanaimo and for a time frequented Dupont Street resorts in this city, and afterwards, through morphine, got down to a very low scale.

“Death of the late Edward Hawkins”²³⁸ (B. C., 1903)

Coroner McGuigan held an inquest into the cause of death of the late Edward Hawkins yesterday afternoon. The jury empaneled to investigate the case was composed of Messrs. W. Law, foreman, A. Tester, J. D. McGregor, F. A. Lee, J. L. McTaggart, A. R. McCallum and C. Porter.

Three witnesses were examined: Mr. C. Dashaway [sic.], proprietor of the Western Hotel; Dr. F. X. McPhillips, and Mr. M. M. Kerwin. The latter stated that he was a C. P. R. switchman, and had known the deceased about five days. He met him at the Western Hotel, where he roomed, the deceased apparently “chumming up” to him because he was a fellow railroadman. On the day of the death of the deceased they had taken a little whiskey together, and about 5 o’clock he found the deceased in his room apparently sleeping heavily, and with an empty laudanum bottle by his side. He notified the proprietor, and a doctor was sent for.

Mr. Dashaway confirmed the evidence of Mr. Kerwin, and stated that when his attention was first called to the deceased he thought that he was only sleeping. Others in the house agreed with him, but when the laudanum bottle was produced a doctor was immediately sent for; this was a little after 6 p.m. on Sunday.

Dr. F. X. McPhillips testified to having been called about 6:30 p.m. on Sunday. He found the deceased in a pulseless condition, and the symptoms were those of poisoning. All that medical skill could do was done for the man, and after his removal to the City Hospital, [Vancouver,] he rallied a little, but relapsed again and died at 1 a.m.

This was practically all the evidence adduced, and, after a short deliberation, the jury returned the following verdict: “That the said Edward Hawkins came to his death from an overdose of laudanum, administered by himself, and we recommend that the law regulating the sale of poisons be enforced.”

The remains of the deceased were taken charge of, after the inquest, by Mr. C. Houston, of Seattle, a representative of the Brotherhood of Railway Engineers, of

²³⁸ From SALE OF POISONS. (1903, January 28). *Daily News Advertiser* (Vancouver), p. 5.

which body the deceased was a member. The funeral will be held in Seattle, where the family of the deceased resides.

“By laudanum route”²³⁹ (Ontario, 1903)

Toronto, Oct. 29 – Lottie Gamp, 17 years of age, whose home is in Lambton Mills, was arrested by F. C. Taylor, yesterday, and is now in custody at No. 2 police station on a charge of attempting to commit suicide.

Yesterday morning Miss Gamp went into Mr. Roy Wood’s drug store at the corner of Gerrard and Church streets and asked the clerk to sell her some laudanum. As she had no doctor’s order the clerk refused to give her the poison. She then asked if she could smell some, and the clerk handed her the bottle. Miss Gamp, instead of smelling the bottle, put it to her lips, and before the clerk could interfere, had swallowed a quantity of laudanum. Dr. R. T. Noble was called, and succeeded in reviving the girl by the use of a stomach pump. The police were notified and the girl was arrested. She refused to state why she wished to end her life.

“Rough, but it cured”²⁴⁰ (Manitoba, 1903)

Prothonotary John McDonald, of Portage la Prairie, on Friday afternoon telephoned Dr. Lundy, of the same place, saying that he had taken poison.

Proceeding hastily to the courthouse the doctor found his old friend and client in a sinking condition, having taken eight grains of morphine, a sufficient dose to kill a man in the prime of life, much less an ailing old gentleman of sixty.

Dr. Lundy at once sent for a stomach pump and for further medical assistance. The pump was used, and strychnine, which, although a deadly poison, is an antidote to morphine, and a tonic to the stomach when administered.

The doctors then took McDonald down into the prison yard in the rear, and two strong men made him walk briskly up and down, despite his refusals, and his pitiful cries to be allowed to sleep – the sleep of death.

For three hours the struggle continued. The effect of the morphine made McDonald so very drowsy that he fell asleep almost as he walked, so the doctors and others beat him with switches with all their full strength.

The walking and flogging had the desired effect. The unfortunate man was kept awake until the poison had lost its potency and the desire to sleep was gone.

Then he was taken home and put to bed, bruised from head to foot and thoroughly exhausted, but the medical men have no doubt of his recovery. Mr. McDonald is a well known resident and has occupied the position of prothonotary at the courthouse for many years. He has been ailing for some time and had not eaten anything for the past week.

²³⁹ From BY LAUDANUM ROUTE. (1903, October 29). *Evening Record* (Windsor), p. 5.

²⁴⁰ From TWAS ROUGH BUT IT CURED. (1903, November 20). *Saskatoon Phenix*, p. 2.

“By the cup route”²⁴¹ (Ontario, 1904)

Chatham, March 23 – Frequent family quarrels are said to have been the cause of the rash act of Mrs. Fralick, who lives with a man named Prentice on Wellington Street of this city, who last night attempted suicide by drinking a large dose of laudanum.

According to the residents of the vicinity, Mrs. Fralick and her man Prentice have frequent family quarrels. Their home life has not been of the most peaceful nature during the past few days, and Monday night things came to a focus and a fracas ensued. It is alleged that Mrs. Fralick came out of the row sadly damaged and shaken up. Mrs. Fralick took Prentice’s abuse to heart. She evidently concluded that life was not worth living and decided to end it all. Prentice had vowed that he would kill her, and no doubt would have done so had not Constable Henry Weaver intervened and pacified the man. Last night Mrs. Fralick dosed herself with laudanum. She was discovered before the laudanum had taken its full effect, and will probably recovery.

“Too much morphine”²⁴² (Manitoba, 1904)

Crystal City, May 25 – On Tuesday night the residents of Cypress were surprised to hear that Robert Cousins, a prosperous young bachelor of that district, was dying from the effects of an overdose of morphine. For some time the deceased young man has been in a despondent frame of mind, and had to some extent become a morphine fiend. On Sunday evening he was at a neighbor’s for tea and seemed quite cheerful. Mr. Geo. Potter, his next neighbor, called to see him on Tuesday noon, and was surprised to find him lying on the bed unconscious. He at once drove to his father’s place where he met Dr. Corry, of Hannah. The men and doctor hurried to the unfortunate young man’s place and took charge of him, while Dr. Riddell was sent for. Both doctors worked with him until his death, which took place about five o’clock on Wednesday morning. The deceased was an industrious young man, and well thought of by his friends and neighbors. He was in good financial condition, and has his crop near all in.

“Disappointed in love, he suicided”²⁴³ (New Brunswick, 1905)

A blind young man named W. D. McLellan, belonging to Moncton, was found dead in his bed at his boarding house, 176 South street, yesterday morning, having committed suicide by taking laudanum. He arrived in the city on the fourth and took up his quarters in the north end hotel, where he remained for some days. His friends in the city observed that he was at times in a somewhat despondent mood and at

²⁴¹ From BY THE CUP ROUTE. (1904, March 24). *Evening Record* (Windsor), p. 1.

²⁴² From Too Much Morphine. (1904, June 1). *Weekly Free Press* (Winnipeg), p. 5.

²⁴³ From Disappointed in Love He Suicided. (1905, March 13). *Evening Mail* (Halifax), p. 4.

others very excited and hopeful. To some he spoke of the prospect of his early marriage to a young lady in New Brunswick, but in his moody moments declared that his hopes would never be realized.

Last Wednesday he purchased a half-ounce of laudanum at a city drug store and drank it. He informed his friends of it, and said that life had lost its joy for him and he had decided to end his misery. A medical man was called in, who ordered his removal to the Victoria General Hospital. The effects of the dose were offset and on Saturday he was discharged. Within two hours he had purchased three ounces more of the poison and took it with him to his boarding house. At seven o'clock he went to call on his friends and said that he had taken a second dose. Nothing seems to have been done, however, as he returned to his boarding house, where he held a long discussion with another friend on religious matters. He stated "that laudanum would not kill him, that God did not intend for him to die, and that he meant to turn over a new leaf and live his life."

About ten o'clock the landlord went into McLellan's room, put fresh coal on the fire and had a pleasant chat. During the night he was heard moving about his room. About 3.30 yesterday morning a gentleman called to see how he had spent the night and found him on his bed, dead. Dr. Silver was summoned, and it was found that Mr. McLellan had been dead for upwards of an hour. Dr. Finn was then called, and after hearing the evidence gave a certificate that death was due to an overdose of laudanum taken while temporarily insane.

Funeral Director Snow took charge of the remains, which will be sent to New Brunswick for interment. He was about twenty-one years old and since being graduated from the Blind school has been engaged in business in Glace Bay and Moncton.

"A young man's sad ending"²⁴⁴ (Quebec, 1905)

Montreal, Sept. 18 – Mr. N. A. Batchelor, 21 years of age, the son of a prominent barrister of London, England, committed suicide at his boarding house, 95 Mansfield Street, Friday night, by taking an overdose of morphine.

The people of the house remarked that Batchelor did not rise as usual Saturday morning, and when he did not appear at noon, the door of his room was tried. It was locked, and all their efforts to summon him proving unavailing, the police were notified. They forced the door and found the young man, attired in a dressing gown, lying dead on the bed.

Before committing the deed, Batchelor had placed the remainder of his money, sixty cents, on the dressing-table and had torn up all his letters. The drug was taken by means of a hypodermic syringe, which was found in the room.

The deceased belonged to a well-to-do English family and came to Montreal last June, obtaining employment as clerk from the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. Although addicted to the morphine habit, he proved a steady and

²⁴⁴ From A YOUNG MAN'S SAD ENDING. (1905, September 18). *Ottawa Evening Journal*, p. 9.

conscientious worker. His friends frequently tried to make him give up the drug, but he paid no attention to their entreaties and was so reticent concerning his private affairs, that to urge him on any personal matter, was difficult.

About the middle of July he grew despondent, and remained a whole day in his room at 25 Victoria Street under the influence of the drug. When his companions returned from work they found him in such a precarious condition that they had removed him to the General Hospital for treatment. Shortly after his recovery Batchelor said that he was homesick, and went back to England. He returned a week ago, more broken down than ever.

He took up abode at 95 Mansfield Street, and remained in his room most of the time. On Friday night he retired, locking the door of his room. Failing to get a response on Saturday morning, the landlady waited till the afternoon, thinking that the young man was resting, but at last she became alarmed and called in Constable de Konnick, of Chaboilles street station, who broke the door open.

The remains were conveyed to the morgue, where an inquest will take place this morning.

Batchelor studied medicine for three years at Guy's hospital, London, England. It is said that his father, who is a widower, sent him to Canada in the hope of breaking his craving for morphine, and gave him a monthly allowance.

“Wetaskiwin woman drinks laudanum”²⁴⁵ (Alberta, 1906)

The citizens of Wetaskiwin were excited on Tuesday morning last upon hearing that Mrs. Backner, a woman who does not bear a good reputation in the community, attempted to dispose of herself by drinking laudanum.

It appears that a couple of Wetaskiwin's prominent citizens, accompanied by a lady friend, drove north of the city on Sunday afternoon to spend a quiet afternoon. But after they had selected an inviting spot and were about to enjoy refreshments, Mrs. Backner drove up and fired several shots into the bushes where the party were, and then left the place.

On Tuesday morning about 7.30 the victim came down [the] street and called at the residence of the young ladies in question, but upon receiving a cold reception from their guardian, she broke into a drug store in the city and then went and smashed in the door of one of the young men referred to above. It is thought her intention was to shoot this young man and then drink, but not finding him in the room she gave up her search, drank the poisonous drug and flung herself upon the bed. Persons watching the strange conduct immediately gave the alarm and called in a physician and telephoned the police.

When the doctor arrived she refused to take an emetic, repeatedly saying “Leave me alone,” [and] “Let me die.” The doctor, however, worked heroically, and compelled her under threat to take the emetic, which saved her life as she had drunk enough of the fluid to kill three or four people. Two notes which were supposed to be

²⁴⁵ From Wetaskiwin Woman Drank Laudanum. (1906, July 28). *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 1.

written by her but unsigned, reading “Darling,” “Dearest,” “Sweetheart,” etc., in which she stated she could not live without the affections of the young man, were found in her room.

She was at once taken in charge by Constable Anderson and at the preliminary hearing on Wednesday before H. D. Mills, J. P., was committed for trial on the charge of attempting to commit suicide. We understand that there may be another preliminary trial on Friday on a charge of attempt to murder.

“Suicide at Content”²⁴⁶ (Alberta, 1906)

Reports come from Content that on Monday, Aug. 6 a young man by the name of Smith committed suicide at that place by taking laudanum. He was 18 years of age and had a homestead near Content, about 60 miles east of Lacombe. Just before committing the deed he paid up all bills he was owing, but seemed in his usual spirits and gave no indication of his intention. He was well thought [of] and no cause is given for the rash act.

“The laudanum was in the drawer”²⁴⁷ (Ontario, 1907)

Chatham, March 11 – Saturday afternoon about 4 o’clock the thirteen-months-old child of Mr. Basil Milner, William and Murray Streets, in the absence of the mother from the room in which she was playing, opened the drawer of a sewing machine and swallowed two teaspoonsful of laudanum from a bottle contained therein. The mother, coming into the room, found the child lying prostrated on the floor, and hurriedly summoned medical assistance, who labored with the child for twenty hours without success. The laudanum was kept in the drawer for household medicinal purposes. The little girl died at noon on Sunday.

“Miner takes last drink”²⁴⁸ (B. C., 1907)

Fernie, B. C., April 30 – (World’s Special Service) – A distressing suicide took place here last night. A miner named Alexander, who had been drinking to some extent during the day, took a large dose of laudanum and in spite of all medical efforts to keep him alive he expired early this morning. No cause can be given for his action, as, apparently, nothing was wrong with him, nor did he have any particular trouble. When he had drunk the laudanum, some friends asked him to have a drink, and he said he had just had one, pointing to the bottle. They thought he was joking. A little afterwards, the heavy dose he had taken took effect.

²⁴⁶ From Suicide at Content. (1906, August 14). *Red Deer News*, p. 8.

²⁴⁷ From SWALLOWED LAUDANUM. (1907, March 11). *Brantford Expositor*, p. 4.

²⁴⁸ From MINER TAKES LAST DRINK. (1907, May 3). *Semi-Weekly World* (Vancouver), p. 5.

“Toronto poisonings”²⁴⁹ (Ontario, 1907)

Toronto, Sept. 5 – Two cases of laudanum poisoning occurred in the city today, both of which had fatal effects.

William Cone, of 262 Salem avenue, came home and found his wife Elizabeth dead in bed with an empty bottle beside her. The bottle had contained laudanum, according to the label on it.

Bearing every evidence of intentional suicide from laudanum, Thomas Degner, a lance corporal in the ordnance stores, was found on the lake shore near the old Fort this morning. Lying beside him was a partly empty three ounce bottle of laudanum, and the man’s pockets were turned inside out. The ambulance was called and conveyed him to the hospital, where he died shortly after his arrival.

“David H. Hood takes poison”²⁵⁰ (Manitoba, 1907)

Yesterday, David D. Hood, manager of the Palace Livery Stable, Smith Street, [Winnipeg,] drank a two ounce dose of laudanum, which resulted in his death in St. Boniface Hospital.

The deceased had been manager of the Palace stables since September, and was well liked by employers in the stable. He was usually in good humor. Yesterday morning, however, something seemed to be preying on his mind and he went about the stable in an aimless manner. Contrary to his usual custom, he ignored the employees and did not seem to notice them. He slept in a room on the second floor of the stable, and in the morning he was seen to come down stairs, put on his rubbers, and go down the street. He came back and went to his room.

FINDS HOOD

Dr. Smith, veterinary surgeon of the establishment, had occasion to go into Hood’s room, and when he opened the door, he found Hood lying on the floor with a bottle containing laudanum nearby. He at once telephoned to Dr. Kenny, who ordered Hood to be removed to St. Boniface Hospital, but on his way to the hospital he became unconscious.

On the patient’s arrival at the hospital antidotes were administered, but without avail. Hood died at 3 o’clock.

The body was removed to Clark Bros. & Hughes undertaking parlors, where it will remain until it is decided whether an inquest is needed or not.

David H. Hood was born in Montreal. He was fifty-three years of age and was very well known in Montreal where he has some relations. Previous to working in the Palace stables, it is stated he was employed by the Empire Wallpaper Co.

²⁴⁹ From Toronto Poisonings. (1907, September 6). *Morning Leader* (Regina), p. 1.

²⁵⁰ From DAVID H. HOOD TAKES POISON. (1907, December 14). *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 8.

“Death caused by overdose of morphine”²⁵¹ (Alberta, 1908)

The inquest on the death of Frank McKenzie, the old man who died in the [Calgary] police station on Friday evening, [has concluded,] the jury bringing in a verdict that McKenzie had died from an over dose of morphine, and they believed the dose was administered by himself.

Dr. Crawford presided as coroner and the following gentlemen composed the jury: Ald. Terrill, foreman, Ald. Mitchell, Wm. Halliday, G. Griffiths, Jas. Twohey and Jas. Stuart.

Constable McKay told of arresting the man near the Imperial Hotel on Friday afternoon in a drunken condition. Harry Kirby, the police court clerk, told of registering the man and having him placed in a cell when brought in. He thought he was drunk at the time.

At six o'clock McKenzie complained of not being well and asked for a doctor, but he appeared to be drunk and as he looked to be all right no attention was paid to the request. He did not get a doctor, as it was very seldom prisoners required one, though they often asked for one.

Dr. Graham and Dr. Pirie, who performed the autopsy on the body of the dead man, stated that they found nearly all the organs normal except that one lung was slightly affected. They stated that he had taken a large dose of morphine previous to his arrest. It might have caused his death four or five hours later. They found no trace of morphia in any of the organs, as nearly all that it would appear in had been taken out intact and sealed up in case the jury wished to have their contents analyzed at Regina. They both agreed that the fluidation of the blood and the engorgement of the menenegetis [sic.] were pretty sure indications of poisoning by morphia, and they had found both these things in performing the autopsy.

Chief English told how McKenzie had asked him for a doctor when he passed his cell, saying that he had asthma, but the chief examined the man to see if he was breathing hard and found him to be very normal and bright, so thought no more about it. Had the man shown the least signs of heavy breathing or any sickness, he would have sent for a doctor, but they have sent for the medicos so often when the prisoners were only drunk, or sick from the effects of drink, that they seldom comply with the request unless they are sure a man is really sick.

William Thorburn, with whom the dead man lived while in Calgary, stated that he had been sick nearly all the time, and on several occasions he, Thorburn, had to get up in the middle of the night to get him morphia. [The] deceased used the drug right along, [and] said it helped his asthma. On Thursday night the old man was pretty sick, so Thorburn undressed him and put him into bed. He said then that he was about all in. This was at a quarter to eight. At ten o'clock he looked in and saw that McKenzie was resting quietly. He went to work early next morning and never saw the man again. His wife told him that McKenzie had left the house about twelve

²⁵¹ From DEATH CAUSED BY OVERDOSE OF MORPHINE. (1908, January 13). *Morning Albertan* (Calgary), p. 1.

o'clock the same night he put him to bed. McKenzie often told him that he would die soon.

Robert Devine, one of the prisoners in the cells at the time of McKenzie's death, said the old man had been drunk when brought into the cells. The officers had handled him carefully. He heard him coughing several times while in the cell. The officers later had allowed him to come from the cell and he, Devine, gave him the chair by the fire. He talked with them for some time and then fell asleep.

Smith, another prisoner, shortly afterwards went for a drink of water and noticed the old man's false teeth hanging out. He then told the sergeant about it and they found the man to be stone dead. When talking to the prisoner before he fell asleep in the chair, McKenzie had remarked that he wished he had his dope with him.

William Smith, the other prisoner, told of passing the old man and noticing his teeth hanging out. He felt the back of his neck and his wrist and they were cold. He then lifted his head back and saw at once that he was dead, whereupon he notified the sergeant. He had heard him say that he wished he had his dope. His breathing was all right and he appeared to be quite cheerful when sitting at the stove, having remarked to them, "boys, I would rather be talking to you than be talking to a priest of the Methodist church." This was the last thing the old man said before falling asleep.

This concluded the evidence and the jury after a short session brought in the above verdict. The stomach and other organs will not be sent to Regina for analysis.

"Ended life by laudanum"²⁵² (Manitoba, 1908)

Winnipeg, Man., Feb. 1 – J. Kerruish, a traveler for the Redmond Co., Limited, of Montreal and Winnipeg, drank laudanum at the Royal Alexander Hotel yesterday morning and died at the general hospital several hours afterwards.

No motive is given for the act. Kerruish arrived in this city late on Thursday night and secured a room in the Royal Alexandra. Yesterday morning one of the maids rapped at his door and, receiving no answer to her knocks, she entered to make up the bed. She found Kerruish lying on the bed and groaning as if in pain. Beside the bed was a two ounce bottle bearing a laudanum label, and the usual remedies were applied, but without avail.

Kerruish was about 30 years of age and is well known in the East.

"Strange death of a traveler"²⁵³ (Manitoba, 1908)

Winnipeg, Feb. 3 – There were no new developments today in the case of E. J. Kerruish, the traveler for the Redmond Fur Co., of Montreal and Winnipeg, who committed suicide yesterday by drinking laudanum.

²⁵² From TRAVELER ENDED LIFE BY LAUDANUM. (1908, February 1). *Victoria Daily Times*, p. 1.

²⁵³ From STRANGE DEATH OF A TRAVELER. (1908, February 3). *Morning Albertan* (Calgary), p. 4.

The case has caused considerable comment among the traveling men of this district, as Mr. Kerruish has always been in the best of spirits and his health was of the best. The news that he had ended his life in such a tragic manner was heard with regret by many. The coroner decided that no inquest was necessary.

Kerruish registered at the Royal Alexandra Hotel on Thursday and was assigned to a room. He retired early; shortly after eight o'clock yesterday morning he summoned a bell boy by the name of William Nyles, and sent him to a drug store to purchase two ounces of laudanum. The boy procured the poison and delivered it to Kerruish.

He was a married man, his wife being at present in Montreal. His body will be sent east.

“Never revived”²⁵⁴ (Ontario, 1908)

L. N. Castanier, who took suddenly ill at the Bank Hotel, [Windsor,] Tuesday afternoon, died about 6 o'clock at his room in that hostelry, succumbing to the effects of morphine poisoning. Drs. Cruikshank and Ashbaugh worked in vain to revive him after resorting to all known expedients.

Twenty years ago [the] deceased lost both legs in an accident on the Grand Trunk railroad, near Stoney Point. Recently his suffering was rendered more acute by a fall near the post office. He was known to be taking morphine at times to relieve the pain, and it is believed that he made a mistake in the dose. Coroner LaBelle will not hold an inquest.

[The] deceased preceded Gaspard Pacaud as licence inspector, and about 1897 was appointed to the customs, serving as a clerk on the staff at the federal building. In addition to a brother in Bay City, Mr. Castanier is survived by two sisters in Windsor and Comber.

“Blind citizen took laudanum”²⁵⁵ (Ontario, 1908)

Martin Powers, a blind man residing on Chatham Street, [Kingston,] came within an ace of giving up the ghost this morning. He went to a local drug store and bought ten cents' worth of laudanum. He then returned to his home and drank all the drug. Almost immediately he fell into a heavy slumber.

Subsequently his wife tried to rouse him, and not succeeding, she became alarmed, and hurriedly summoned medical assistance.

The doctor promptly gave an antidote, and it is thought that Powers will recover, although he is still in a deep sleep.

It is hard to say what motive inspired the unfortunate man to take the laudanum. It is difficult to explain his action on any other ground than that he had

²⁵⁴ From NEVER REVIVED. (1908, February 19). *Evening Record* (Windsor), p. 1.

²⁵⁵ From BLIND CITIZEN TOOK LAUDANUM. (1908, May 22). *Daily Standard* (Kingston), p. 1.

become tired of life. Those who are in a position to know are inclined to that view of this act.

Life has not held out too many blessings to Powers. A great stroke of misfortune befell him two years ago when he lost his sight from drinking a quantity of wood alcohol by mistake. Since then he has been more or less despondent, and no doubt bought the laudanum when in a fit of despondency.

Powers is a married man and the father of two children. The quantity of laudanum taken by Powers was an ounce, which is sixteen times greater than the usual dose.

W. W. Gibson, Red Cross Drug Store, states that Powers had attempted to secure laudanum at his store this morning, but was refused by the clerk.

Gates appeared on a charge of vagrancy and was given until Wednesday to leave town.

“Chatham woman tries suicide”²⁵⁶ (Ontario, 1908)

Chatham, July 4 – An almost successful attempt [at] suicide [was] made by Mrs. J. Elliott at [the] home of her sister, Mrs. George Birkby. The woman swallowed the contents of a one-ounce bottle of laudanum.

Mrs. Elliott had to appear in police court a few days ago, charged by another sister with having stolen some clothes. Her experience at police court made her melancholy and depressed. As the police case had been remanded, she was arraigned again yesterday, but declared that she would never go in court again, attempting suicide in an effort to stave off appearing.

The woman took the poison while alone in a room. Dr. George McKeough used a stomach pump on her, saving her life, after which she was taken to the Public General Hospital.

“Bought it regularly”²⁵⁷ (Ontario, 1910)

Port Hope, Jan. 6 – The inquest into the cause of death of the illegitimate child of Florence Paden will resume again Jan. 12.

The autopsy declares the infant died from narcotic poisoning, suffocation or convulsions. Druggist John Breen swears that he sold Paden, the girl’s father, on Dec. 4, a day or so before the child was born, laudanum and strychnine, and showed Paden’s signature, but Paden denied the purchase, the signature and any knowledge of the book. He said he got [the] poison Nov. 27, but Breen swore he did not. Breen said either Paden, Ginsburg, the boarder, Mrs. Paden or Miss Paden all bought laudanum every day for two years, sometimes twice a day.

²⁵⁶ From CHATHAM WOMAN TRIES SUICIDE. (1908, July 4). *Evening Record* (Windsor), p. 1.

²⁵⁷ From BOUGHT IT REGULARLY. (1910, January 16). *Evening Record* (Windsor), p. 1.

All denied these facts, and said once in two weeks laudanum was got for the children's earache. Both Mrs. Paden and Florence said Ginsburg never got the drug at any time, and that no adult in the house used laudanum. The infant never was given any kind of drug, they said, and all differed as to the alleged purchase of the strychnine and laudanum on the date of Nov. 27. Miss Paden swore Ginsburg was not the parent of the infant.

“Life despaired of”²⁵⁸ (B. C., 1912)

Grand Forks, B. C., Sept. 24 – James Miller, thirty-five years old, a stone mason working with the C. P. R. bridge crew, putting in [a] buttress for the steel bridge over the Kettle river, took morphine this morning and lies at the point of death.

He has acted queerly for two weeks. He left the bunk house at 11:30 last night and went to the shack of an acquaintance named Andy Anderson, who is addicted to morphine and who had just got in a two-ounce bottle. Miller made an excuse to leave the shack, surreptitiously taking the bottle with him. He came back after an hour and went to sleep. He called Anderson at 1 o'clock and told him he had taken the morphine. Anderson examined the bottle and, finding over a hundred grains gone, went out and called the watchman at Dawson for help. He also phoned Dr. Kingston.

Miller, meanwhile, escaped but fell down and was brought back. The doctor did not see Miller till five this morning and considers recovery hardly possible. Miller took enough of the drug to kill twenty men. Miller was engaged to be married. His brother has been communicated with.

“Swallows 210 grains of morphine and still lives”²⁵⁹ (B. C., 1912)

Grand Forks, Oct. 4 – With a vigorous constitution to fight against the deadly effects of 210 grains of morphine, James Miller lies in the Cottage Hospital with encouraging prospects for recovery after a suicidal dose of the drug.

Miller was an employee on the bridge gang east of the city and had been acting strangely of late. On Monday he was overly industrious until about 4 p.m., when he somewhat collapsed. About midnight he got out of bed and left the camp. Several fellow employees searched the city for him in vain. At 4 a.m. he was found unconscious near Smelter Dam, where another bridge gang is at work, and investigation indicated that he had gone to the cabin of a workman he knew and swallowed the contents of a bottle of morphine.

Dr. Kingston was called and for three hours, with the assistance of the bridge gang, put the victim through a rigorous treatment. He was removed to the hospital

²⁵⁸ From SWALLOWED MORPHINE; LIFE DESPAIRED OF. (1912, September 25). *Calgary Daily Herald*, p. 5.

²⁵⁹ From Man Swallows 210 Grains of Morphine and Still Lives. (1912, October 5). *The Sun* (Vancouver), p. 8.

at 9 a.m., where he has been making slow but steady progress and will now probably recover.

“Is sorry it didn’t work”²⁶⁰ (Ontario, 1912)

“A bottle of laudanum makes you feel mighty funny, especially when the angels of death are hovering near,” was the remark made by Mrs. Julia Smith, who lies in the Hotel Dieu suffering from the effects of that drug, taken with suicidal intent on Thursday afternoon.

Mrs. Smith, who is a pretty, comely woman of 25, and a native of Stevensville, Weiland County, Ontario, is, or rather was, madly in love with Russell Churchill, a 24-year-old Windsor man, and she took the poison in his presence.

Calling at Stephens’ Inn, Sandwich Street East, at 4 o’clock on Thursday afternoon, Mrs. Smith asked to see Russell Churchill. She waited in the parlor. When he came they entered into conversation, and a moment later Churchill ran to the door shouting that the woman had killed herself. Sergt. Nash and Charles Stephens, proprietor of the hotel, rushed in and immediately summoned Dr. Henry Crassweller. Treatment was administered, and an hour afterwards Mrs. Smith was on her way to the hospital, where she was on the road to recovery at noon today.

Prior to her arrival in this city Mrs. Smith lived in Elkton, Mich., with her husband and two children. There were differences, and the woman came to the International Hotel, Windsor, last December and worked there till about a month ago.

Shortly after her arrival in this city she made the acquaintance of Russell Churchill, and according to her story, they have been keeping company for the past four months.

She called on Churchill’s father several weeks ago, and since that time has endeavored to meet the son on more than one occasion. As late as Wednesday a phone message came from over the river, where Mrs. Smith has been stopping ever since she left the International, that “Julia was dead.” This message was received by Churchill.

But Julia didn’t die, and, learning that Churchill was employed at Stephens’ Inn, came over to end her life in his presence.

She bought all the laudanum the law would allow, at a local drug store, and, suffering from ill-health as well as a broken heart, decided to “pass over” this life.

At the Hotel Dieu on Friday she said in answer to a question: “All I have to say is that I did it, and that I’m only sorry it didn’t do the job.”

Churchill refused to say anything about the matter.

At the Hotel Dieu at Friday noon it was said that the woman would recover.

²⁶⁰ From *Disappointed in Love, Woman Takes Dose of Laudanum; is Sorry it Didn’t do the Work*. (1912, September 27). *Evening Record* (Windsor), p. 1.

“Dr. Reid died today”²⁶¹ (Manitoba, 1912)

After suffering a relapse at about midnight last night Dr. John T. Reid, who was recently charged with fraud and allowed out on bail, died while unconscious at 5 o'clock this morning in the General Hospital, [Winnipeg].

Dr. Popham was in attendance at the hospital and as soon as he pronounced life extinct, Acting Coroner Rogers was notified. The coroner investigated the case this morning and on officially finding that the doctor was suffering from morphine poisoning, ordered the removal of the body to Thomson's undertaking rooms, where a post-mortem examination was held by Dr. Bell.

No statement is forthcoming from Dr. Popham, Dr. Reid's physician, as to the circumstances leading up to the sudden illness and death this morning of the patient.

AN AMELIORATIVE

It was learned at the General Hospital this morning, although not officially, that Dr. Reid was believed to have been suffering from angina pectoris and had been in the habit of taking morphine tablets as an ameliorative. It is known now that at noon on Sunday Dr. Reid was admitted to the General Hospital and placed in a private ward.

He was under treatment by Dr. Popham, of Ellice Avenue, and was suffering from morphine poisoning. Until midnight last night Dr. Reid appeared to be gradually recovering from the effects of the morphine, but at that time he relapsed into unconsciousness, and began a rapid decline in vitality. At about 4:45 this morning he passed away without having recovered consciousness.

“Drank laudanum to end his troubles”²⁶² (Quebec, 1913)

An old man of about sixty-five years of age was found dead in his bed this morning in the boarding house kept by Mrs. E. Gagnon, at 5 Clark Street, [Montreal]. When the matter was reported to the police, Constables Martin and Galillard, of the central police station, were sent to the house and when they penetrated into the old man's room they were attracted by a strong smell of laudanum. They searched the room and found a small bottle which had contained the drug and which had fallen beneath the bed. The old man had been drinking very heavily for the last few days, and it is supposed that in a fit of dementia he drank a heavy dose of laudanum. His landlady did not know his name, but it was later discovered that it was J. P. Langlois. The remains were taken to the morgue.

²⁶¹ From DR. REID DIED TODAY; WAS SUFFERING FROM MORPHINE POISONING. (1912, December 11). *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 1.

²⁶² From DRANK LAUDANUM TO END HIS TROUBLES. (1913, January 7). *Montreal Star*, p. 21.

“Scott’s death due to drugs”²⁶³ (Saskatchewan, 1913)

The coroner’s jury who, acting under the direction of Dr. McLean, were assembled yesterday in the Police Court for the purpose of inquiring into the cause of death of John T. Scott, came to the conclusion that his death was due to the excessive use of drugs, administered by his own hand. The extraordinary quantity of cocaine and morphine which were found in the room where the deceased came to his end, also caused the jury to add to their verdict a recommendation that investigations should be conducted by the rightful authorities as to the source from whence these drugs were obtained.

John T. Scott’s death occurred in the Paris Hotel, [Regina,] on Monday afternoon under circumstances which could leave no doubt as to the manner in which he came to his end. The evidence of the medical men concerned, and the friends of the deceased who were called, made it clear that Scott had been addicted to the use of these narcotics for some time. He had, in fact, expressed the opinion on one occasion that the habit was growing upon him, and that he would have to give it up.

WAS SLEEPING HEAVILY

Mr. John J. Macdonald, who had been spending the Sunday with Scott at the Paris Hotel, was the first witness called. After leaving [the] deceased that night, [the] witness saw him next about half past twelve on Monday afternoon, and saw him in his room sleeping very heavily. Returning a second time, in the company of Mr. Dawson, Scott was in the same condition, and they turned him on his side in order that he might breathe a little more freely. On leaving the hotel, they met Mr. Pope, and knowing him to be an intimate friend, requested that he would have a look at Scott. Scott, however, by this time, was evidently in a serious condition, and Dr. Harvey was called. He found life extinct when he arrived. [The] witness had not believed medical assistance to be necessary before, as he was aware that Scott was accustomed to taking these drugs, and the natural result was heavy sleep.

INJECTED MORPHINE

Mr. W. L. Dawson, who next gave evidence, was staying at the Paris Hotel on Sunday when he was visited by Scott. They stayed together in the room of the witness until about one o’clock, when Scott went downstairs and had a room reserved for his own use. He then went back to the room of the witness, where he stayed until about six o’clock. During the night he frequently injected morphine into his arm, and occasionally inhaled the cocaine powder. Finally he announced that he would retire, and requested that he should not be disturbed until the afternoon, as he intended to have a long sleep. [The] witness had been to the offices of the brother of the deceased, Mr. James D. Scott, to inform him of the whereabouts of his brother, and was coming back when he met Mr. Pope, who informed him that John Scott was dead.

Mr. Dawson first saw [the] deceased use the syringe about a month ago. As far as [the] witness knew, Scott was not financially embarrassed. His health was also fairly robust, and there seemed no reason why he should seek his own end.

²⁶³ From SCOTT’S DEATH DUE TO DRUGS. (1913, July 9). *The Leader* (Regina), p. 8.

MR. POPE'S EVIDENCE

Mr. Wm. A. Pope, who was called by the other witnesses to give an opinion on the appearance of Scott, and who called in Dr. Harvey, also gave evidence. He had known Scott for about seven years, having first met him in Montreal. He had never known the deceased [to] indulge in alcohol or any other stimulants to excess, though he had become aware lately that Scott occasionally resorted to cocaine, though he did not know to what extent.

The evidence of Dr. McCutcheon, who performed the post-mortem on the body, was to the effect that death had been caused by the narcotics that were found by Sergeant Beale in Scott's room. As many as twenty-four punctures in the arms and legs, which had apparently been made within the forty-eight hours previous to the death, were found by Dr. McCutcheon. The quantity of morphine injected into the system was more than enough to have caused death, he said.

At this stage the jury decided that no more witnesses were necessary, and after an absence of about twenty minutes, brought in the verdict given above.

“Morphine caused death”²⁶⁴ (Quebec, 1913)

That the death of Desire Jacquot, a prisoner, who died in the [Montreal] jail on Monday, was due to an overdose of morphine, was the report made to Coroner McMahon by the physician who made an autopsy on the body, but the report did not explain how a prisoner confined in the jail could obtain a supply of morphine from the outside.

None of the guards in the jail could be got to admit that the prisoners addicted to the use of drugs can have a secret means of supply. They are not supposed to be able to obtain anything from outside without the proper authorities knowing of it.

CONDITIONS CHANGED

There used to be a time when tobacco, cigarettes and other small articles might be thrown over the wall from the outside to prisoners working in the yard, but that could only be done by a man who had left the jail and knew what part of the yard the man he was throwing the supply to was working in. It appears that Jaquot was not one of the prisoners employed in the yard, but was at work inside the prison.

During recent years there has been a strict watch kept on the men at work in the jail yard, so that there is small chance of their obtaining anything that would be thrown over the wall by their friends on the outside.

While the verdict rendered in the case of Jacquot was one of accidental death, it is said that the authorities at the jail are trying to discover how he obtained the drug.

²⁶⁴ From MORPHINE CAUSED DEATH. (1913, July 23). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 3.

Case Studies

Bridget Higgins

“Case of poisoning”²⁶⁵ (Quebec, 1859)

[Montreal –] Coroner Jones held an inquest yesterday on the body of one Bridget Higgins, cook in the family of [Aldis] Bernard²⁶⁶, Dentist. The following jury were empaneled:-

William A. Townsend²⁶⁷, Foreman; James Sculthorp²⁶⁸, Samuel Browning²⁶⁹, Joseph W. Coleman, Henry J. Shaw, David Moss, Edouard Himes²⁷⁰, A. W. Ogilvie, Simon Hart, Richard Macdonnell, Alexander M’Gibbon, Joseph R. Bronsdon²⁷¹.

The deceased appears to have been taken ill on the evening of the 24th; she felt very uneasy in her stomach; Mrs. Bernard attended her in her bed-room, and directed another servant to administer to her about half a teaspoonful of laudanum – about fifteen or twenty drops – which she took in one swallow. The girl, however, left the bottle of laudanum, which she had taken from Dr. Bernard’s laboratory,

²⁶⁵ From CASE OF POISONING. (1859, May 27). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 2.

²⁶⁶ Aldis Bernard (1810 – 1876) would eventually be mayor of Montreal. J. Lovell’s *Canada Directory* for 1857-1858 contains the following Montreal listing on p. 318: “Bernard, Aldis, surgeon and mechanical dentist, 128 Craig st.” An obituary reads: “Dr. Bernard was by birth a Canadian, having been born at Beebe’s Plains, County of Stanstead. He was educated in the United States. In this city [Montreal] he, for upwards of thirty-five years, practiced his profession as a dentist, of which he stood at the head, having been President of their Board, as well as having occupied the position of Chairman of the Board of Examiners. Between 1859 and 1873, he, we believe, continuously represented the Centre Ward in the City Council, in which he was looked upon as its ablest debater, having an excellent command of language and a vast acquaintance with the facts. On the retirement of Ald. Rodden from the Council, Ald. Bernard succeeded him as Chairman of the Finance Committee, a position which he filled in a very able manner. At the death of Mayor Cassidy he was appointed by his fellow aldermen to the vacant seat, and at the succeeding election was returned almost by acclamation. During his career as a member of the City Council the deceased gentleman succeeded in fighting through the City Passenger Railway Company’s by-law, the Sunday Liquor law, and was also instrumental in carrying through the million dollar grant to the Northern Colonization Railway. He also represented the city in the Board of Harbor Commissioners. The Doctor was a prominent brother of the Masonic organization, and had attained the position of Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada. He was a member of the Wesleyan body, had occupied several prominent positions in it, and was for many years a constant attendant upon the services in the Dorchester street Church. He leaves a wife and seven children to mourn his loss.” SUDDEN DEATH OF EX-MAYOR BERNARD. (1876, July 5). *Evening Star* (Montreal), p. 2.

²⁶⁷ “TOWNSEND, W. A., jeweller, 214 Notre Dame corner St. Joseph st. facing the French Church.” From Lovell’s *Canada Directory* for 1857-58.

²⁶⁸ “SCULTHORN, JAMES, commercial and general agent, and agent for Bevington & Morris, tanners, curriers, furriers and straw hat manufacturers, 67 Canno st. west, London, England; office and pattern rooms, 130 Craig st.” *Ibid.*

²⁶⁹ “BROWNING, SAMUEL, proprietor of Ottawa hotel, 78 and 80 Great James St.” *Ibid.*

²⁷⁰ “Himes, Ed., of Sternberg & Himes, 48 St. Gabriel St.” living with “Himes, Mrs. Edward [sic.], milliner and dressmaker, 174 Notre Dame st., house 48 St. Gabriel st.” *Ibid.*

²⁷¹ “BRONSDON, JOSEPH R., contractor, 91 St. Urbain st.” *Ibid.*

within her reach, upon the window sill. The bottle was marked “Tincture of Opium”. The girl was in the habit of assisting Dr. Bernard in his business, and knew perfectly well the nature and effect of the medicine, and every confidence was reposed in her by her master.

Mary Ann Dacey was this girl, and proved to the illness of [the] deceased, and to having administered to her the prescribed quantity of laudanum and some brandy. After she had given it to [the] deceased, she went to bed. [The] deceased sat up in her bed during the time [the] witness was pouring the medicine into the teaspoon and saw from whence she took it. They slept in separate beds. [At] about five o’clock in the morning [the] deceased spoke to her, saying she was no better. About six o’clock she was awoken by the loud snoring of [the] deceased, being at this time very heavy with sleep. She then apprised her master and mistress, who both went up, and the former aroused [the] deceased by sprinkling water in her face; she got up and went down to the kitchen, and the drowsiness still continuing, Dr. David²⁷² was fetched in. His evidence will be found subjoined. Dr. Macdonnell²⁷³ likewise immediately attended and, it will be seen, used every exertion to save her life.

Mary Ann Dacey, sworn:-

[She is] aged 18 years, [and] has lived with Mrs. Bernard about four years on and off. [The] deceased came to live with Mrs. B. in November last. [The] deceased made frequent complaints of pain in her stomach. [They] slept in the same room but in separate beds. [She] is not aware of her taking liquor. [The deceased] often complained of being very weak, but [she] should not think [this was] from the effects of liquor. [The deceased] was very distant in her manners. She was taken unwell on Tuesday, the 24th inst., between 6 and 7 o’clock with her usual complaint, pain in the stomach. About 11 at night [they] went up to their room together.

“Mrs. Bernard,” [continued the witness,] “asked me how Bridget was. [I] answered she was not any better. Mrs. Bernard then asked Bridget if she would take

²⁷² “David, Aaron, M.D., 146 Craig st.” *Ibid*.

²⁷³ “MACDONNELL, ROBERT L., M.D., corner Craig st. and Place d’Armes hill.” *Ibid*. Upon his death in 1878 he left an interesting collection of horses and carriages: “The Subscriber, instructed by Dr. Richard MacDonnell, will sell, on Wednesday, February 13th, at 1289 ST. CATHERINE STREET, the residence of the late Dr. Robert L. MacDonnell, all his Horses, Carriages, &c., comprising: Bay Gelding and Chestnut Mare, both excellent Family Carriage Horses. Phaeton with leather top. Ladies’ Phaeton, almost new. Open Family Carriage. Phaeton Sleigh, with Bearskin Robes. Box Sleigh, with Buffalo Robes. Set of McLaren’s best Silver-plated Single Harness (only been used a few times.) Set of Double and Single Harness. Saddles, Bridles, Horse Clothing, &c. Also a good Milch Cow, and the usual assortment of Stable utensils. Sale at 2.30.” Elwes, C. F. (1878, February 13). By C. F. Elwes [Advertisement]. *Montreal Gazette*, p. 3. This sale is perhaps not surprising given Dr. Macdonnell’s cause of death: “Mr. Coroner Jones held an inquest upon the body of the late Dr. Macdonnell, at the residence of Dr. Craik, last evening. The principal witness was a carter named Angus Carroll, who was on the stand at the time of the sad occurrence. He testified seeing Mr. Allan’s horse, which had taken fright, come running up McGill street, and one of the shafts to which the animal was attached [struck the] deceased on the side of the head, knocking him out of his vehicle. [...] [He] thought at the time that [the] deceased was very seriously injured, if not fatally. [...] Dr. Craik explained the nature of the wound, which extended about two inches behind the left ear. The cause of death was concussion of the brain. The verdict returned by the jury was ‘Accidental death by misadventure and not otherwise.’” Inquest on the Late Dr. Macdonnell. (1878, February 2). *The Star* (Montreal), p. 1.

some ginger tea. She answered no, that she had often taken it, and it never did her any good. Mrs. Bernard then asked her if she would take some brandy; she said yes. Mrs. Bernard then told me to go and get some brandy – I went to the pantry and poured out about a wine glass and put it into a tumbler and took it up. Mrs. Bernard told me, if the brandy did not relieve her, to give her 15 drops of laudanum. I then went to where I knew it was kept in the Dr.'s work-shop, and took the bottle up with me. I put what I thought [was] about fifteen drops in the tea-spoon. [I] asked her if she would like it pure; she said to put it into a tumbler with some water. I did so – about a mouthful – perhaps the eighth of a tumbler; she took it all at one gulp. I gave her about half an hour after she took the brandy. I offered to sit up with her. She said no, it was not necessary, but to leave the candle with some matches near her.

“I did not sleep soundly. [I] frequently heard Bridget moving during the night. About five, I should think, from having heard the bells before, Bridget asked me if I was awake; I answered yes. Bridget said no more; I went to sleep again. About six, I was awakened by her loud snoring. [I] tried to wake her, but could not. [I] went out and called Mrs. Bernard, who wakened the Dr., who went with Mrs. Bernard into our room. The Dr. shook her, and then dashed cold water into her face, which aroused her. He told her to get up, and go down stairs and walk about. She came down with me and sat on the steps of the porch in the yard, where we talked together – among other things – [she] said her father had taken a cupful of laudanum and slept for three days. I offered to make her some coffee, but she said she would prefer tea. We went into the kitchen and I made her some tea. She seemed drowsy. Between 9 and 10 o'clock, she fell off her chair, and I tried to wake her by throwing cold water into her face, but could not. I then went down to the Dr.'s room, and he immediately went down to the kitchen, and, on seeing her, ran out immediately and fetched Dr. David.”

Our reporter was not in attendance at the opening of the proceedings, and is indebted to the kindness of the foreman of the jury for the above synopsis²⁷⁴ of the evidence adduced.

The Coroner at an early stage of the proceedings stated that, as it was evidently a very serious case of poisoning, there should be held immediately an internal examination of the body; but some of the jurors being opposed to it, while others deemed it very desirable, it was postponed for the present.

Sarah Coutts, wife of Dr. Bernard, sworn:-

[The] deceased was my cook, and came into my employ on the 28th November last. She brought me a written character, recommending her as a good and trustworthy servant. She had some complaint during the winter – a pain in her stomach and side – and went to Dr. Macdonnell's for medicine. I did procure Dr. Gregory's mixture for her, at her own request. She complained, on the night before she died, of a pain in the stomach and a pain in the side. She said it was the old complaint.

The night before her death she was seriously indisposed. Between 6 and 7 o'clock on Tuesday evening she complained of being ill, and said she would have to

²⁷⁴ Below the synopsis of Marry Ann Dacey's evidence, I've transcribed the more detailed witness statements published in the *Montreal Gazette* of May 31, in the article that also reported the details of the second day of the Inquest.

give up her work. During the evening I asked the housemaid how she was, and she said she was not better. Between 10 and 11 o'clock Bridget told the housemaid to go to bed, and she would follow. [I] saw [the] deceased go into her room, and she then said she was very bad. [I] asked her if she had not better go and speak to Dr. Macdonnell, and she made me no answer. [I] understood she was to leave in the morning and go to the Hospital.

[I] went into her room at the suggestion of the Doctor, and asked her if she would take some ginger tea to relieve her. She said she had tried that, and it was no good. [She] said she might have some brandy, or some laudanum, if she preferred it. [I] told her to take fifteen drops. Dr. Bernard told me to be explicit, and I went back a second time to tell her the quantity to take.

[I] never saw [the] deceased the worse for liquor, nor under its influence. [I] believed her to be a sober, steady woman. She was never a cheerful girl – [she] would not speak till she was spoken to, and then only say a word. She always attended to her duties.

(The bottle of laudanum from which [the] deceased drank was produced. It will hold about three half pints, and was half empty. Dr. Bernard had not the remotest idea how much had been taken out of it. [The] deceased, he said, was a sort of assistant in his establishment.)

Jane Ross, sworn:-

[She] is out of place just now. [She] knew the girl who is dead, [and] made her acquaintance in town. She came from Ireland, [and] was in the habit of seeing her pretty often. She was a very steady girl; [the witness] never saw her the worse for liquor, but "[I] have seen her drink some whisky. [I] could not say if she was a married woman, but she told me she had a child in this country. She told me sometimes she was very down-hearted. She was occasionally in low spirits. She told me she felt very sick this winter; she complained of a pain in her stomach. [I] saw her on Tuesday night about eight o'clock. She was complaining then and throwing up off her stomach. She said she did not know the cause of it. She did not tell me she was in the family way now; [I] don't think she is, but can't tell. She never told me she would go to the doctor. [I] told her to keep up her spirits as well as she could. She said to me twice 'I'm tired of the world and I wish I was out of it.' She had a smile on her face when she said so; [I] did not think she wanted to make away with herself, [and] did not think she would have poisoned herself. She has a father living, and two brothers and sisters in Ireland. She was a sober woman, as far as I know – I am satisfied of this."

[In reply to a question] by the Foreman:-

"[I] have met [the] deceased away from the doctor's. [I] have seen her take a glass of beer often. [I] never saw her particularly intimate with any one; she used to go often to one John O'Brien's, in the Quebec Suburbs. She was not engaged to be married, to my knowledge. She was very fond of a man on board one of the steamboats, but [I] don't think he had any intention of marrying her. His name is James Walker; he was aboard the *Nova Scotian*, but he has not been here lately. It was a year last winter they were acquainted. He did not know she had a child, [and] she expressed no desire to see him on Tuesday evening."

[In reply to a question] by the Jury:-

“Her child was born before I ever knew her; it is in the Nunnery. She told me when she left Ireland to come to Canada her father never knew anything about it. She had a bad leg, and it gave her a great deal of pain; she was in the Hospital for it. [I] never saw her the worse for liquor. She never complained of any harsh treatment in the family here. On Tuesday night she told me she was sorry she had to leave the house because she could not stand the work.”

Aaron H. David²⁷⁵, [M. D.]:-

“Yesterday morning, about a quarter to ten, [I] met Dr. Bernard in the street, who asked me for God’s sake to come in. [I] saw her lying on the floor in the kitchen. It was a serious case. [I] sent for Dr. Macdonnell; he came, [and] tried the stomach pump. [I] heard from Dr. Bernard that the girl had taken the laudanum instead of the brandy. The contents of the stomach I produce; the woman was poisoned by a narcotic such as opium or laudanum. There is a great difference of opinion between toxicologists as to the quantity of laudanum to be taken to cause death; from fifteen to twenty drops is an ordinary dose, [and] there is a case on record where 120 drops did not kill. As far as external appearances go, I believe the deceased died from the opium, but I cannot swear positively until a *post mortem* is held.”

The Foreman here suggested that this examination should at once take place. The evidence went to show that the quantity of laudanum taken would not cause death, and yet there was the fact staring one in the face that the woman was dead.

The Coroner assented to this, and having given the jury permission to name the time of adjournment, the investigation was postponed until this morning at eight o’clock.”

“An examination of the body”²⁷⁶ (Quebec, 1859)

The Jury, having adjourned on Thursday, to allow time for a *post mortem* examination, re-assembled yesterday (Friday) morning, at 3 o’clock, at the residence of Dr. Bernard, 138 Craig street.

Dr. A. H. David, assisted by Drs. McDonnell and Craik²⁷⁷, had made an examination of the body. [...]

²⁷⁵ Dr. Aaron Hart David (1812 – 1886) is listed as living at 146 Craig Street, Montreal, in J. Lovell’s *Canada Directory* for 1857-58. A biography of this early Jewish Canadian physician is included at the end of this section.

²⁷⁶ From CASE OF POISONING. (1859, May 31). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 4.

²⁷⁷ Dr. Robert Craik (1829 – 1906). “Dr. Craik’s connection with the Montreal General Hospital dates back to 1851, when a medical student and dresser at the hospital. In 1854 he was appointed house surgeon, filling the position until 1860, when he became a member of the medical board. In 1873 he was elected a life governor and in 1882 he was elected a member of the Committee of Management. [...] [He] desire[d] that the hospital be well equipped and supplied in all departments with everything that could contribute to minimize suffering and result in effecting permanent cure. Especially were his efforts directed in helping and encouraging the sick poor.” THE LATE DR. CRAIK. (1906, July 13). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 4. “The prestige of Dr. Craik among the English element, which he represented on the [B]oard [of Health of the Province of Quebec], his excellent knowledge of sanitary science, his

Dr. David examined:-

He was decidedly of the opinion that death in this case was caused by congestion of the brain, produced by some narcotic. Neither the quantity of laudanum said to have been given by the girl to the deceased, nor double that quantity, would cause death. It requires from one to two ounces to produce death. In the cases published by our best authors on poisons, it is shown that generally three or four hours elapse after taking a poisonous dose before insensibility sets in, and that the person can move about, which corresponds with the evidence of the girl Mary Ann, that the deceased spoke to her about five in the morning, and then most likely took the drink out of the bottle of laudanum which killed her. [...] [He] should say [the] deceased took at least an ounce and a half, or two ounces. Private families often use laudanum. Medical men have always laudanum and other poisonous medicines on the shelves of their [premises].

Dr. Macdonnell's examination:- [...]

"The post mortem appearances were such as would be produced by a large dose of laudanum, and considered in connection with the testimony of the other witnesses, [they] lead me to believe that death was produced by a large dose of that drug. [...] There was not evidence of death being caused by any other disease."

Examination of Dr. Craik:-

"I yesterday assisted at the *post mortem* examination of the deceased. [...] From what I then saw, I believe the deceased to have died from the effects of a narcotic poison. [...] I have no doubt that opium was the poison taken in this case. [...] I cannot account for the death of the deceased in any other way than by poison."

It being suggested that the box containing the clothes of the deceased should be examined, the Jury proceeded to that duty. It was found to contain some very excellent books, good clothes, and other good articles, besides some money and letters. [...] The inquest was then adjourned till Friday morning next.

"Close of inquest"²⁷⁸ (Quebec, 1859)

The adjourned inquest upon the body of Bridget Higgins re-assembled this morning at Dr. Bernard's residence, Craig Street. [...] The Jury, after a careful investigation into the cause of death of Bridget Higgins, desire to accompany their verdict with the following observations:- [...]

"It has been shown by medical evidence, that the quantity of laudanum administered to the deceased [...] would not destroy life; at the same time it is proved by medical testimony, by *post mortem* examination, and by the analysis of the contents of the stomach, that the deceased died from the effects of that narcotic poison; it is, therefore, the opinion of the Jury, [...] the evidence leading to no other

life-long training for administrative affairs, his practical resources for dealing with difficult questions and finding adequate solutions to various sanitary problems, his broadminded views, his mastering the French language quite sufficiently to take part in all discussions, all made him a most useful member." The Late Dr. Craik. (1906, October 23). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 9.

²⁷⁸ From The Poisoning Case – Close of Inquest. (1859, June 4). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 2.

conclusion, that early on the morning of the 25th of May, the deceased, with the view, in all probability, of obtaining further relief of her pains, drank from the bottle so incautiously left within her reach, a considerable quantity of laudanum.”

The verdict of the Jury is therefore in accordance with this opinion:-

“That the deceased Bridget Higgins came to her death by congestion of the brain, caused by her having taken a considerable quantity of laudanum, from a bottle incautiously left by her fellow-servant Mary Ann Dacey, near the bed of the deceased, and within her reach; some time subsequently to the said Mary Ann Dacey, having administered to her the said Bridget Higgins, under the direction of her mistress, a dose of about fifteen drops of laudanum for the purpose of relieving [the] deceased from pains in her stomach. The Jury before separating feel it their duty to express their regret that more caution had not been used by all parties concerned in this unfortunate case, with such a deadly medicine, and desire to express a hope that it will operate as a warning to all families in future, in not exposing or allowing domestics to have access to such dangerous medicine.”

“The Late Dr. David”²⁷⁹ (Montreal, 1882)

An obituary and biography of Dr. Aaron Hart David, who was a witness at the inquest.

The late Aaron Hart David, M.D., Ed., L.R.C.S.E., D.C.L., &c., the second son of the late Samuel David, Esq., of Montreal, a leading merchant (who held the rank of Major in the 42nd Battalion, 3rd Division of Montreal Militia, Longue Pointe Division, and as such served during the war of 1812-1814 with the United States, doing duty with his regiment at Longue Pointe, Lachine and St. Luc, &c., receiving the medal from Her Majesty for his services) by his wife Sarah, daughter of the late Aaron Hart, Esq., of Three Rivers – was born at Montreal, on 9th October, 1812, and married on 12th October, 1836, Catherine, daughter of the late Henry Joseph, Esq., merchant, of Berthier-en-haut (and elder sister of our respected fellow-citizens J. Henry, Jesse and Gershom Joseph, Esqs., also of A. Joseph, Esq., of Quebec) who died on 29th May, 1876, in her 67th year of age; studied medicine under Drs. Caldwell and Robertson, and also at McGill College, then in its infancy, until 1831, when he proceeded to Edinburgh, Scotland, continuing his studies at James VI. College at the University of Edinburgh, graduating in honors, 24th in a class of 117 graduates, in August, 1835, the subject of his Thesis being a very cleverly written work, entitled: *The Medico-Legal Proofs of Infanticide*.

After traveling a short time on the continent, Dr. David returned to his native city and commenced the practice of his profession, marrying in the following year (1836). During the years 1837-9, Dr. David was assistant surgeon of the “Montreal Rifles,” Col. De Bleury’s regiment, and with which he served in this capacity during

²⁷⁹ From THE LATE DR. DAVID. (1882, November 6). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 5.

the whole of the rebellion, being present with his regiment at the battle of St. Eustache.

In the year 1841, he removed with his family to the town of Three Rivers, where he soon got into a large and lucrative practice; and whilst there, he frequently, during the long winter evenings, lectured before the then existing literary society upon various topics, and it was whilst an honored resident of the now *city* of Three Rivers, then a small *town*, but as at present, sending one representative to the united Parliament, that Dr. David was several times requested to “run” for the constituency, but invariably declined the proffered honor, preferring to stick to his chosen profession than to enter the political. In 1844 he returned to Montreal, and recommenced practice here, which he continued to do up till a couple of years ago, when his fatal illness compelled him to give it up. In 1852, with some others, he started the old St. Lawrence School of Medicine²⁸⁰ in this city, but it not succeeding – as was expected – the time not being then ripe for more than one school, the project, after a couple of sessions, was given up.

In the same year (1852) in conjunction with the late Dr. R. L. Macdonnell, he started and edited *The Canada Medical Journal*, which, for want of support, was discontinued after two or three volumes had appeared. During the building of the Victoria bridge, Dr. David was one of the physicians to the contractors; he was, from 1847 to its being done away with by Government, Secretary to the Central Board of Health, and a physician from May, 1849 to December, 1851, to the Montreal General Hospital, and from December same year (1851) until it was merged into the present Hotel Dieu Hospital, physician and clinical lecturer in medicine to the St. Patrick’s Hospital. In 1870 he, along with the late respected Dr. Smallwood and several others – present members of the Faculty – started a new school of medicine, which became the present flourishing Medical Faculty of Bishop’s College, of which he subsequently became the Dean, and taking the chair of the Theory and Practice of Medicine, which post he retained up to his death. In 1871, he received the degrees of M.D. (*ad eundem*) and D.C.L. *honoris causa* from his University, and in 1881 the Faculty, of which he was the head, founded in his honor the “David Scholarship,” which is given “to the student who obtains the highest number of marks in the primary examinations, and consists of one full course of the final branches delivered at the college,” thereby perpetuating his name with the college he worked so hard for in his later years.

²⁸⁰ “Whereas [...] Aaron H. David [...], [and other] Licensed Practitioners of Medicine and Surgery for the Province, have united for the purpose of giving Public Lectures and Instruction on the various Branches of Science connected with the exercise of their profession and have, for that purpose, established a Public Medical School, with suitable apparatus and convenience; [...] [they] shall be and are hereby constituted a Body Politic and Corporate by the name of “The Saint Lawrence School of Medicine of Montreal,” and [...] be it enacted, That the said Corporation shall yearly cause to be delivered at least one hundred and twenty Lectures of at least one hour’s duration, [...] to be given by competent Lecturers between the first day of November and the last day of April. [...] And be it enacted, That the Free to be demanded of any Pupil on his entry or matriculation in the said School, shall not exceed Ten Shillings currency”. From *An Act to incorporate “The Saint Lawrence School of Medicine of Montreal.”*, August 30, 1851.

In 1867 he joined the 6th Battalion of active militia in this city, now that splendid corps, the 6th Fusiliers, as surgeon, which post he resigned in July, 1878. During his tenure of this post he served on the frontier during the Fenian Raid of 1870, and was principal medical officer of the Montreal Brigade during the march from St. John's to Pigeon Hill and return, on 26th May, in that year, and during the time [he] did duty at St. John's afterwards. Again, in 1871, he held the same position, whilst with his regiment at Laprairie Camp, and in 1872, at the camp of St. Andrew's. He also served with his regiment in this city at various times in aid of civil power, notably the burial of Guibord, and the Orange troubles at the time of Hackett's death, and resigning his rank of surgeon he was granted the honorary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the militia for long and faithful services of forty-six years.

During the last two years of his life his sufferings from his disease were at times terrible, still he bore them with a fortitude beyond conception, trusting to his Maker to grant him relief in the end, for which he prayed so fervently, and it has come, and so has passed away from us the last link between the old school and the present of that noble profession he graced so well in this city, passed away, full of years, a good and conscientious Israelite, respected and honored by all who knew him, and truly may we say with Horace:

“Multis ille bonis flebilis occidit.”²⁸¹

Dr. David contributed at various times to the medical journals in this city, and his articles were always of the highest import, for he was a man of deep and earnest study. Dr. David had been President of the Natural History Society of this city, besides holding other offices in the same society, and at the time of his death was a life member thereof, elected September, 1859, also a trustee or warden of the Portuguese Congregation of Jews Synagogue in this city, in which congregation he has one time or another held every office it were possible for a layman to hold.

Among others he held the following degrees and offices:-

Life member [of the] Natural History Society; member by diploma, 1833, [of the] Medical Society of Montreal; Licentiate [of the] Royal College [of] Surgeons, Edinburgh, Scotland; extraordinary member [of the] Medical Society of Edinburgh; graduate [of the] University Lying-in-Hospital of James VI College Edinburgh (diploma); Doctor of Medicine (M.D.), James VI College of University of Edinburgh, Scotland; *commissioned* to practice as a physician, surgeon and *man-midwife*, signed by Earl of Gosford, Governor-General of Canada, 4th January, 1836; corresponding member [of the] Literary and Historical Society of Quebec; Licentiate [of the] College [of] Physicians and Surgeons of Lower Canada; member [of the] Canadian Medical Association from 1869 to 1881; corresponding member [of the] Gynecological Society, of Boston, Mass.; Governor of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Lower Canada; honorary member [of the] American Medical Association of the United States, 1880.

Dr. David was also possessed of the following military commissions:-

Ensign, 5th Battalion Montreal Militia, 15th October, 1830; Adjutant, 5th Battalion, Montreal Militia, 19th May, 1830-1; Lieutenant, 4th Battalion, Montreal

²⁸¹ Roughly, Latin for “Many good people mourned him.”

Militia, 29th October, 1833; Assistant-Surgeon, Montreal Rifles, 16th November, 1837; Surgeon, Montreal Rifles, 4th November, 1845, and was unattached from the 26th February, 1847, till he became surgeon of the 4th Battalion (6th Fusiliers), 22nd March, 1867; Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel in [the] Militia of [the] Dominion, per General Orders 3 of No. 14, for long and faithful services of forty-six years, 21st July, 1876, and resigned, retaining his honorary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, 5th July, 1878.

Dr. David obtained his 70th year of age on the 9th of October last, and upon the 12th of the same month had been 46 years married.

To his bereaved family we tender our heartfelt sympathies in their sad loss of a good and kind and indulgent parent and father.

Mrs. Maclean

“Sudden death”²⁸² (Ontario, 1869)

We deeply regret to record the awfully sudden death of the estimable young wife of Dr. Maclean²⁸³, daughter of James Riddell, Esq., of the Bank of British North America²⁸⁴. Mrs. Maclean, it would appear, was suffering from quinsy, and in order to procure ease and sleep in the night time has been accustomed to have administered to her doses of tincture of opium. Last night her husband gave her a dose of morphia, with a view to relieve the pain of her [affliction]. He weighed out the powder by taking a three grain weight, and dividing the quantity so weighed into six portions. [He] obtained in this manner a dose of half a grain. This half grain dose was administered at ten o'clock, but the primary stimulant effects of the narcotic kept her awake until twelve, when she fell asleep.

At two her husband awoke, and he found her in a comatose condition. He immediately sent for his neighbor, Dr. Day²⁸⁵, and for Dr. Yates and Dr. Dickson²⁸⁶. These medical gentlemen attended her until six o'clock this morning, and did everything in their power to bring about recovery, but the unfortunate lady died in spite of all their efforts. Her husband, as may be supposed, is distracted and receives much commiseration. Dr. Barker²⁸⁷, Coroner, proposed to hold an inquest, but Dr. Yates²⁸⁸ and Mr. Riddell, to whom he referred himself, considered an inquest unnecessary. The medical men state that from so small a dose as half a grain no such effects could have been expected, and ascribe her susceptibility to the influence of the drug to a peculiar nervous condition or idiosyncrasy. The city authorities have directed an inquest to be held in order to elicit the facts of the case.

[Note:] The above is correct, except that Dr. Barker did not propose to hold the Inquest until instigated by the City Authorities. It was held yesterday afternoon before a very intelligent Jury, at which the best medical testimony was given, and the result was a Verdict of Death from Natural Causes, one Jurymen alone dissenting.

²⁸² From SUDDEN DEATH. (1869, January 9). *Daily British Whig* (Kingston), p. 3.

²⁸³ Dr. Donald MacLean (1839 – 1903). “MACLEAN, DONALD, M.D., physician and surgeon, office and h 155 Princess.” *Sutherland's General Directory for the City of Kingston, for 1867*. An obituary is transcribed later in this section.

²⁸⁴ “*Bank of British North America* – Capital £1,000,000 stg., Head Manager, James Riddell”. “RIDDELL, JAMES, manager Bank of British North America, City Hall Buildings, h King bet Gore and Union.” *Ibid*.

²⁸⁵ “DAY, B. W., M.D., surgeon dentist, office 156 Princess, h same”. *Ibid*. A newspaper report from 1896 refers to him as “passed away”.

²⁸⁶ “DICKSON, JOHN R., M.D., physician and surgeon, 79 Johnson nr Sydenham”. *Ibid*.

²⁸⁷ “BARKER, DR. EDWARD JOHN, Editor and propr *British Whig*, Bagot, bet Brock and Princess, h Pittsburgh”. *Ibid*.

²⁸⁸ “YATES, HORATIO, M.D., physician and surgeon, office and h cor King and William”. *Ibid*.

“The inquest on Mrs. Maclean”²⁸⁹ (Ontario, 1869)

The Inquest was held under somewhat singular circumstances. There was nothing in the case at all incriminating the husband, Dr. Maclean, who was distractingly fond of his newly married wife, but the singular fact that another death from the use of Morphia had occurred in the house within the past year, in the Coroner’s opinion, rendered an Inquest imperatively necessary. Still he felt timid and anxious, knowing that the holding of the Inquest would give additional grief and annoyance to the family of the deceased lady. In this state of mind he consulted the Police Magistrate (Mr. Creighton²⁹⁰), who strongly advised the non-holding of any Inquest, as unnecessary.

Very shortly after, the Coroner met with the Mayor²⁹¹ and Recorder, and stated the case to them. Both then spoke of the necessity of an enquiry, the Mayor particularly so, inasmuch as a previous death from Morphia had occurred in the same house, and the Recorder recommended a compliance with the Mayor’s desire. As this accorded with the Coroner’s own opinion, he issued his precept, and a very intelligent Jury was summoned, and the Inquest was held the same afternoon in Dr. Maclean’s Drawing Room.

As the case depended entirely on medical testimony, the Coroner caused to be summoned Drs. Yates, Dickson, and Day, who had been in attendance on the deceased, and also Dr. Michael Sullivan²⁹², who might form an independent opinion of his own, from the facts elicited at the Inquest. Those facts are these:-

²⁸⁹ From The Inquest on Mrs. Maclean. (1869, January 10). *Daily British Whig* (Kingston), p. 2.

²⁹⁰ “CREIGHTON, JOHN, police magistrate, propr city book store, book and job printer, bookbinder and blank book manufacturer, King nr Brock, h George nr Stuart”. From an ad on the facing page: “The City Book Store, King Street, (Near the Market Square), Kingston, C. W. JOHN CREIGHTON keeps constantly on hand at the above establishment a large and well assorted stock of stationery, blank books, note, letter, copying, foolscap, folio post, tissue, colored and blotting papers. Demy, medium, Imperial, Royal, Surer-Royal, Laid and Wove blank book papers. Envelopes all sizes and in great variety. Hand-made paper, best quality. College Text Books, and Medical Books, school books and school stationery. Bibles, prayer books, psalm and hymn books, miscellaneous books. There is also in the City Book Store Building, and in connection with this Establishment, a first-class printing office and book-bindery, where all kinds of Letter-Press Printing and Book-Binding are executed in the very best and newest styles and on moderate terms. New Type and materials are regularly added as soon as they appear. Particular attention given to all orders for Blank Books, which are made and ruled to any pattern, and which in material and workmanship cannot be surpassed. Orders for Books from the United States, from England and the Continent of Europe executed promptly.” *Sutherland’s General Directory for the City of Kingston, for 1867*.

²⁹¹ William Robinson (1824 – 1912).

²⁹² Dr. Michael Sullivan (1838 – 1915) would eventually serve in the Canadian Senate. “The death occurred to-day of an ex-senator of Canada in the person of Hon. Michael Sullivan, M.D., aged 76 years. Two years ago the deceased was stricken with an illness which compelled him to resign his seat in the Senate, and he had been confined to his home ever since. He had been a resident of Kingston since he was three years of age, having been brought out by his parents from Killarney, County Kerry, Ireland. He served the city as mayor and alderman, and was one of the first graduates of Queen’s Medical College. He was appointed to the Senate to succeed the late Hon. John Hamilton in 1904. A family of one son, W. H., of Cornwall, and two daughters, Mrs. Crookall, of New York, and Miss Fannie, at home,

The deceased lady had been ill for some days previous to her death, and was suffering from loss of sleep and quinsy. Her husband had administered some opiates on two or three nights, without much effect, but on the night of the 7th inst. he gave his wife half a grain of Morphia, by dividing three grains into six divisions, carefully *measured*. This was at ten o'clock.

At twelve, [when] he went to bed, his wife was well, cheerful, and spoke to him a good deal before he went to sleep. At two o'clock he was awakened by his wife's stertorous breathing, and found her in a dying state. Alarmed, he sent for assistance, and soon had Drs. Day, Dickson and Yates with him, but all they could do was of no avail, and the poor lady died about six o'clock, never once having rallied. The servant maid swore that her mistress went to bed at nine o'clock, being unwell, and she did not know of anything unusual until called at two o'clock by Dr. Maclean, who was then quite correct, and had been so all the previous evening.

The medical testimony all went one way, Dr. Day, who came in late, corroborating in every particular the theory of the cause of death. They all agreed that half a grain of Morphia was an ordinary dose for an adult, and that it was right to administer it in Mrs. Maclean's state of health. They agreed also, that the Morphia did not cause the death, but that it might be the exciting cause, acting upon a diseased brain, of which her husband could know nothing, and so caused death by congestion. The theory advanced by Dr. Yates was extremely ingenious, and supported by his fellow practitioners present.

As we have said before, Dr. Day, who had not heard Dr. Yates's evidence, stated nearly the same thing in his own. Guided by these opinions, the Jury could do nothing less than deliver a verdict of death from natural causes. And so deeply did they feel their responsibility, that they did not separate without recording their sympathy with Dr. Maclean and his family as follows:

"The Jury cannot separate without recording their deepest sympathy with Dr. Maclean for the loss he has sustained by the death of his beloved wife, and also with Mrs. Maclean's father (Mr. Riddell), and his family for their heavy bereavement. [Signed,] Edwin Chown²⁹³, Foreman."

The Jury was composed of the following gentlemen:- Edwin Chown, Foreman, Wm. Massie²⁹⁴, W. McRae²⁹⁵, R. M. Horsey²⁹⁶, Robt. White²⁹⁷, S. P. White²⁹⁸, Thomas

survive. Mrs. Sullivan died about a year ago." EX-SENATOR DIES. (1915, January 27). *Ottawa Evening Journal*, p. 13. *Sutherland's General Directory for the City of Kingston, for 1867*.

²⁹³ "CHOWN & CUNNINGHAM (Edwin Chown and Henry Cunningham), proprietors Eagle Foundry, Princess, and manufacturers and dealers in stoves, tin, copper and sheet iron ware, Bagot, near Princess". *Ibid*.

²⁹⁴ "Massie, William, carpenter and builder, 54 Colborne, h same." *Ibid*.

²⁹⁵ Probably one of the two owners of "McRAE, W. R. & CO. (William R. McRae and Walter R. McRae) wholesale and retail grocers, &c., Brock nr cor King, and Princess." *Ibid*.

²⁹⁶ "HORSEY, RICHARD M., house furnishing, hardware, stoves, tin, copper and sheet iron ware, plumber, &c., 166 Princess, h 42 Bagot." *Ibid*.

²⁹⁷ "WHITE, ROBERT, wholesale and retail chemist and druggist, and proprietor of St. Lawrence Ice-houses, 42 Princess, h 24 Barrie." *Ibid*.

²⁹⁸ "WHITE, S. P., tobacco, cigars, fancy goods and toys, 22 Princess, h same." *Ibid*.

Moore²⁹⁹, P. R. Henderson, G. S. Hobart³⁰⁰, Wm. King³⁰¹, F. S. Rees³⁰², W. J. Percy³⁰³, W. P. Lacey³⁰⁴, and John Fraser³⁰⁵.

Although this Inquest was held in direct opposition to the wishes of Mr. Riddell and the family of the deceased lady, yet, after it was over, Mr. Riddell, on behalf of Dr. Maclean and the family of the deceased, expressed his thanks to the Coroner and the Jury for the Inquest, and the manner with which it had been conducted.

One little matter more. In the British Whig of Saturday, it was stated that the Inquest was held at the instigation of the City Authorities. This had simply reference to the Mayor and Recorder, but Mr. Creighton, thinking that he might be implied as a city Authority, has addressed to the Coroner the following note:-

(To the Editor of the British Whig)

Dear Doctor – Permit me to state through the Whig, that, as you are aware, I am not one of the “City Authorities” who instigated the holding of a Coroner’s Inquest on the body of the late Mrs. Maclean. That instead of instigating such inquest, I remonstrated against the holding of it, for, having had experience in my own family of Dr. Maclean’s professional skill and carefulness, I considered him incapable of administering to any one, much less that person, whom, of all others on earth, he was most tenderly and devotedly attached, anything that would prove injurious.

Truly Yours,

John Creighton,

Police Magistrate.

Kingston, 9th Jan., 1869.

“Testimony at the late inquest”³⁰⁶ (Ontario, 1869)

We have been requested to publish the evidence of Dr. Horatio Yates, which was mainly corroborated by that of Drs. Dickson, Day and Sullivan.

Received a note about 3 o’clock this morning from Dr. Maclean, stating that his wife was alarmingly ill. Repaired at once to the house. Found Drs. Dickson and Day already there. Found Mrs. Maclean in a comatose state. Her breathing was shallow and spasmodic – the respiratory sounds in the chest very feeble – almost imperceptible. Pulse rapid and very weak. Body and extremities warm, but not moist.

²⁹⁹ There are four Thomas Moores listed in the *Directory*. Two are tailors, one is a steward on a steamship, and the last one has no occupation listed. (Source: *Ibid.*)

³⁰⁰ “HOBART, GEORGE S., wholesale and retail chemist and druggist, Princess cor Bagot, h 35 Queen, next St. Paul’s Church.” *Ibid.*

³⁰¹ “King, William, clerk, Moore & Skinner.” “MOORE & SKINNER (James Moore and John Skinner) importers of British and Foreign Dry Goods, cor Princess and Wellington.” *Ibid.*

³⁰² “REES, FREDERICK S., grocer, Princess opp Sydenham, h same.” *Ibid.*

³⁰³ “PERCY, W.J., merchant tailor & clothier, 15 Brock, h same.” *Ibid.*

³⁰⁴ “LACEY, WALTER P., dry goods, Wellington nr Brock, h Brock nr Bagot”. *Ibid.*

³⁰⁵ “FRASER & GEORGE (John Fraser and Frederick J. George), importers of hardware, Princess bet Wellington and Bagot.” *Ibid.*

³⁰⁶ From The Medical Testimony at the late Inquest. (1869, January 14). *Daily British Whig* (Kingston), p. 2.

The pupils of the eyes much and equally contracted. Dr. Maclean explained that at 10 o'clock that night he had given her half a grain of morphia, to secure sleep, and relieve pain. That she had been suffering from quinsy, and also had severe neuralgia pains in the lower extremities. For several nights previous, he had also given her an opiate – at one time morphia, at another, laudanum, and at another, nitrous powder. He explained that upon this occasion he had carefully weighed the morphia – he weighed, to obtain greater accuracy, three grains of morphia, and administered one sixth part of the three grains. That he went to bed at 12 o'clock, finding her still awake; that they conversed for some time after, when he went to sleep. That at 2, he was awoke by her comatose breathing. Drs. Dickson and Day had already, with the stomach tube, injected strong coffee, and were applying the galvanic battery, when he (Dr. Yates) arrived, which application was continued for two hours longer. Other means were also assiduously employed till 6 o'clock a.m., but without avail. Witness left the house between 6 and 7 o'clock, when she was dying.

The symptoms most resembled those of poisoning by morphia, but many of them were common to those produced by natural causes. In the latter case the pupils are usually dilated, in the former, contracted. But this is not a necessary condition in either case. Dr. Wilks records two cases in which the pupils were contracted, and for this reason, death was supposed to have been produced by opium, when it was found to have been occasioned by apoplexy seated in the *Pons Varolii*, and it is possible that it was the case here. The morphia may have been an immediate cause, but half a grain could not have produced the symptoms in the healthy brain of an adult. If a poisonous dose had been administered at 10 o'clock, the patient, having an empty stomach, would not have remained awake till sometime after 12 o'clock. If half a grain only of morphia had been given, the coma should be attributed to other causes than the effects of morphia, and death might then be attributed to natural causes.

Horatio Yates, M.D.

Kingston, Jan. 8, 1869.

“A man of mark”³⁰⁷ (Michigan, 1903)

A short biography of Dr. Maclean, from an obituary. He died in Detroit, and this obituary does not mention the death of his wife, though it does attribute “failing health” to him in 1869.

Dr. Donald Maclean, physician and surgeon of reputation throughout America and Europe, died yesterday morning at his residence, 821 Woodward Avenue, and with his passing Detroit loses one of its most valuable and highly respected citizens. Dr. Maclean, as his friends have known, has been in poor health for two years or more, and during that time practically gave up medical practice. [...]

Donald Maclean was born Dec. 4, 1839, in Seymour, Canada, and was sprung of ancient Scottish stock on both sides, his father being Charles Maclean, an eminent

³⁰⁷ From WAS A MAN OF MARK. (1903, July 25). *Detroit Free Press*, p. 1.

lawyer, and his mother, Jane Jessie Campbell. Donald, through life, was always proud of his descent from the great clan Maclean, and, it is said, never ceased to love the sight of the plaid. When but six years of age, he crossed the ocean in order to attend school in Edinburgh and was for a time a pupil at Mr. Oliphant's, the most famous of the boys' schools of Scotland. At the age of 12, returning to Canada, he went at irregular intervals to nearby schools, including those of Cobourg and Belleville. Four years later he entered the freshman class of the arts department of Queen's College, Kingston, and during the following twenty-four months taught school, as he desired to supply something toward his support.

In 1858 he went to Edinburgh again, this time to study medicine, which he had already chosen for his life's work. He took rooms with his brother and two sisters in the house where his own father was born, and after four years of hard work, received the title of M. D. of the university, and licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. This was Aug. 1, 1862.

RETURNED TO AMERICA

In January of the next year the young doctor returned to America, entered the United States army as acting assistant surgeon, and worked in the general hospitals at St. Louis, Mo., Harrisburg, Pa., Louisville, Ky., and New Albany, Ind. In 1864 he accepted the position of professor of clinical surgery and medicine in the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Kingston, Ont. While there he developed a large general practice, and a wide reputation as a teacher and a writer on medical and surgical subjects. Failing health, however, brought about his resignation in 1869, and he went to Edinburgh for rest and study.

Three years later, at the suggestion of the late Dr. D. O. Farrand, Dr. Maclean was offered the position of professor of surgery at the University of Michigan. He accepted and for seventeen years remained with the institution. His resignation in 1889 was caused by a difference with the faculty, which could not be adjusted, Dr. Maclean contending that the clinical department should be removed from Ann Arbor to Detroit. In taking his stand he was supported by many eminent physicians, notably Dr. Frothingham, and by a large proportion of the citizens at large. His resignation in no matter interfered with his popularity, and in many ways the closing years of his life were the best. He removed to Detroit and built up a large surgical and medical practice that extended throughout the west and northwest. In 1893 Queen's university conferred on him the honorary title of L.L.D., a no mean distinction in view of the fact that during half a century the title had been given but to twelve others.

A HIGH HONOR

The next year he was president of the American Medical Association, the highest honor a doctor may receive from his brother physicians.

For twenty years he was surgeon-in-chief for the Michigan Central railroad, and the Grand Trunk railroad, and since 1883 had been consulting surgeon at Harper Hospital and the Children's Free Hospital. He was a member of the Michigan State Medical Society and was its president in 1884; of the Detroit Medical & Library Association, and its president in 1887, and an honorary member of the state medical

societies of New York and Ohio. He was also a member of the London Royal College of Surgeons and Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians.

During the late war with Spain Dr. Maclean's faithfulness to the country of his adoption was evidenced by his acceptance of a commission as chief surgeon in the army with the rank of major. He was assigned to duty at Old Point Comfort, thus re-entering the service of the United States army after thirty-four years.

For the closing twenty-four hours of his last illness the eminent physician was unconscious, recognizing only his daughter upon her arrival. His end was painless; he passed from a state of coma into that of a final rest.

He is survived by a widow, a daughter, Mrs. Alexander MacKenzie Campbell, of Grand Rapids, and a son, Dr. Donald Maclean, Jr., a practicing physician in the west. Dr. Maclean leaves also three brothers, all physicians, and his aged mother, who still lives at Kingston, Ont., but who will be too feeble to attend the funeral services of her son.

Richard Patton

“Mr. Richard Patton”³⁰⁸ (Quebec, 1878)

Mr. Richard Patton, the well-known³⁰⁹ plumber and gasfitter³¹⁰ of Craig street, [Montreal,] than whom no gentleman engaged in business in our city was more widely known, is missing from his home, and we regret to say had not been heard of since Saturday evening last. From an employee in the store we learn that on Friday evening he had been at the residence of his brother, and next morning walked to the establishment on Drummond street, but did not enter. When his disappearance had become known every effort was made to discover his whereabouts, but without success. A gentleman in the employ of the Pullman Car Company is positive that he saw Mr. Patton at the Bonaventure depot on Saturday, either in the morning early or in the evening, but took no notice of the circumstance. Mr. Patton’s son went west to London last evening, it being surmised that his father may have gone thither. Since Mr. Patton’s failure in business he has grown despondent; but his friends have much faith in his integrity, and believe that he will yet be heard from, and that at an early day – a hope in which all will cordially join. Mr. Patton is 6 feet 1¾ inches in height, wore a short, light sandy moustache, was sallow in complexion and had on a long, dark gray frieze overcoat, with velvet collar.

“The disappearance of Mr. Richard Patton”³¹¹ (Quebec, 1878)

It has been well known for some days past that Mr. Patton has been missing, but there were few who anticipated so sad an elucidation of the mystery of his disappearance, as we now have with deep regret to chronicle.

Yesterday morning Mr. Hughes³¹², manager of the deceased gentleman’s business, was informed by one of the men engaged in the search, that Mr. Patton had

³⁰⁸ From MR. RICHARD PATTON. (1878, December 17). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 2.

³⁰⁹ His final listing in *Lovell’s Montreal Directory* for 1878-79 reads, “PATTON Richard, plumber, gas and steam fitter and brassfounder, 745 Craig, h 9 Drummond.” As for notoriety, “Mr. Richard Patton, plumber and gasfitter, having been solicited by his employees to adopt the nine hours system, at once complied, and expressed the hope that the movement would become more general throughout the land. Good for Mr. Patton!” WHO COMES NEXT? (1872, March 6). *The Star* (Montreal), p. 2.

³¹⁰ “Lighting by gas was, not long since, a luxury only to be enjoyed by the dwellers in cities and large towns, but the inventive mind of man has given the world an apparatus whereby any householder can be his own gas maker. We refer to the Springfield gas machine, for which our townsman, Mr. Richard Patton, 742 Craig street, is the sole agent in the Dominion. This machine comes as near perfection as it seems possible to attain, and, naturally enough, is winning its way throughout the continent. The possession of one of these machines renders one independent of the whims, persecutions and extortions so characteristic of as companies now-a-days.” Gas! Gas! [Advertisement]. (1872, March 6). *The Star* (Montreal), p. 1.

³¹¹ From THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MR. RICHARD PATTON. (1878, December 20). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 4.

³¹² “Hughes, John W., plumber, 64 Crescent.” *Lovell’s Montreal Directory* for 1878-79.

been found in the stable. Mr. Hughes, together with several others, immediately proceeded to the premises, and in a sleigh which had been placed in the hayloft, found Mr. Patton's body covered with a large white cloth. It is needless to add that the discovery caused great grief and sensation. The hayloft had been searched a number of times previous to the finding of the body, and such a disclosure was on that account totally unanticipated. The body was lying on its left side, and from its position seemed as if the deceased had drawn himself together, as if cold, and in that position died.

Mr. Coroner Jones³¹³ was at once notified of the sad discovery, and promptly arrived at the scene, when the following jury was empaneled: Messrs. A. W. Ogilvie³¹⁴, A. C. Hutchinson³¹⁵, George R. Prowse³¹⁶, A. A. Murphy³¹⁷, John Murphy, Geo. Armstrong, John Allery, John Denis, Joseph Fulton, Alex Coultrey, George Graham³¹⁸, Cornelius Regan and W. E. Chester.

After the corpse had been viewed by the jury, it was removed to the workshop where an inquest was held. No evidence was elicited as to any possible cause of death, the only articles found on the body being business papers, a watch and \$20.10 in money. Arrangements were made for a post-mortem examination, the report of which will be submitted to the jury at an adjourned meeting to-day. Yesterday afternoon the post-mortem examination was performed by Doctors Osler³¹⁹ and Reddy³²⁰, and an analysis, the result of which will be known some time to-day, made of the contents of the stomach.

Mr. Patton was much respected by all who knew him, and his loss is keenly felt both by his employees – who found him in a kind and upright master – and by his many friends.

“The late Richard Patton”³²¹ (Quebec, 1878)

Mr. Coroner Jones continued the enquiry into the cause of death of Mr. Richard Patton, at 9 o'clock yesterday morning.

³¹³ “JONES, JOSEPH, coroner for the district of Montreal, 647 Ontario”. *Ibid.*Og

³¹⁴ “OGILVIE, A. W. & CO., Glenora flour mills, St. Gabriel locks; flour, barley and feed merchants; office, late Renaud's, 38 and 40 Foundling, mills 191 to 193 Seigneurs[.] OGILVIE, ALEXANDER W., M.P.P. of A. W. Ogilvie & Co., president National Insurance Co., 192 St. James, h Edgehill av, off 1160 Dorchester.” *Ibid.*

³¹⁵ “Hutchison Alexander C., of Hutchinson & Steele, Dorchester av, Cote St. Antoine”. *Ibid.*

³¹⁶ “PROWSE BROS., dealers in house furnishing hardware, stoves, iron bedsteads, refrigerators, baths, water coolers planished, japanned and plain tin ware; coppersmiths, plumbing, gasfitting, and manufacturers of hot air furnaces, French ranges for hotels and furnaces, 222 and 224 St James cor Dollard[.] Prowse, Geo. F., of Prose Brothers, 386 St Antoine[.] Prowse, George R, of Prowse Brothers, 174 Mountain. Prowse Henry L., of Prowse Brothers, 386 St Antoine”. *Ibid.*

³¹⁷ “MURPHY, A. A., (trade mark) CHEAPSIDE, FAMILY DRY GOODS STORE, 437 and 439 Notre Dame”. *Ibid.*

³¹⁸ “GRAHAM GEORGE, groceries, wines, liquors, &c., 36 St. Radegonde”. *Ibid.*

³¹⁹ Yes, *that* Osler: Sir William Osler (1849 – 1919). “OSLER, WILLIAM, M.D., physician and surgeon, 1551 St. Catherine”. *Ibid.*

³²⁰ “REDDY JOHN, M.D., L.R.C.S.I. &c., physician and surgeon, 1277 St Catherine”. *Ibid.*

³²¹ From THE LATE RICHARD PATTON. (1878, December 21). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 4.

Dr. John Reddy deposed that according to instructions, he had made a *post mortem* examination of the body of the late Richard Patton. [He] was assisted by Dr. Wm. Osler. He then submitted his report in detail, giving the condition in which he found the different members of the body. He recommended an analysis of the stomach, as its appearance did not warrant a conviction that [the] deceased died from natural causes.

To a juryman – The vital organs were all healthy. There was nothing about them to indicate insanity. Insanity can better be judged of by the acts while the person is living. In some cases of insanity there might be no changes whatever in the healthy structure of the brain. We did not examine the stomach because if we did we might interfere with the process of analysis. We tied the stomach up in such a manner that nothing can go amiss before it gets into the hands of an expert, who can give the exact cause of death.

Mr. Stephen Williams³²² testified to having found [the] deceased in his own hayloft in a sleigh on the morning of the 19th inst.; he was lying on his left side. [The witness] had known [the] deceased for seven years, and seen him alone last on Saturday morning last, [the] 14th inst.

Mr. Thomas Shaw³²³, merchant, deposed:-

“I have known [the] deceased for fourteen years. [I] saw him alive last on the same morning as the previous witness. He breakfasted with me at my residence on that morning. The deceased and I left the house together about 7:45 a.m., and walked down [the] street. We did not talk much on the way down. [I] did not notice anything uncommon. He left me at the corner of Dorchester and Stanley streets. He passed to the left. He did not, as on former occasions when he left me at his own lane, say that he was not going any further. I had previously noticed that he was low-spirited. I never spoke to him concerning his business troubles.”

To a juryman – He ate a very light breakfast on the morning in question – in fact, he [ate] scarcely anything.

Mr. Alex C. Cooper (foreman of the jury) deposed:-

“[I] am an architect. [I] have known [the] deceased for fourteen years. [I] could not make any statement as to the condition of the deceased’s mind at the time of his death. The last time I spoke to him – a few days before his death – he was very low-spirited. I attributed it to his business troubles.”

Herbert J. Patton, son of the deceased, deposed:-

“I acted as a bookkeeper for my father, but I have not resided with him since last March. I have resided in Outremont since that time in my own house. He (my father) was in difficulties, which made him despondent at times, but he always attended to his duties. [I] am sure that his depression was not attributable to domestic matters, but to business solely. The last time I saw him alive was at six on Friday night, the 14th inst. The last time he left Montreal he was quite high-spirited, but he returned very despondent. This was on account of some of his securities going

³²² “Williams Stephen, 121 Delisle”. *Lovell’s Montreal Directory* for 1878-79.

³²³ “SHAW, THOMAS, produce and commission merchant, 48 St Peter, h 112 Stanley”. *Ibid*.

back on him. I make this statement because the *Star* says³²⁴ his depression was owing to family matters. [I] am aware that some of his creditors treated him harshly.”

A juryman here asked the witness to enumerate the harsh creditors, but the Coroner disallowed the question.

The inquest was adjourned until Friday next, December 27, at 10 a.m., in the Mechanics’ Hall.

The Coroner will appoint an expert to analyse the stomach in the meantime.

“Continue its deliberations”³²⁵ (Quebec, 1878)

This morning the Coroner’s jury in the case of Mr. Patton met in [the] Mechanics’ Longroom to continue its deliberations.

The jury having answered their names, [they] were called to order by the Coroner, who opened the meeting with closed doors. The press were afterwards admitted, and Mr. A. W. Ogilvie asked if Dr. O’Leary³²⁶ was ready with the report.

Mr. A. A. Murphy – I should like to know why Dr. Osler is not here.

The Coroner said perhaps he had not been asked to be present.

Mr. Murphy thought it strange that Dr. O’Leary was not present. The fact of the matter was he had no confidence in Doctor O’Leary or in any man who was compelled to call in an associate in such a matter. Besides, he was an employee of the Aetna Insurance Company, an additional reason why he should not have been asked to make the analysis. He (Mr. Murphy) wished to have Mr. Christmas, of the Aetna Company, examined. In conclusion, he was at a loss to know what the Government had to do with the appointment of an analyst.

The Foreman – I do not know, perhaps the Coroner can tell something about this matter.

The Coroner said he had already explained who ordered the analysis to be given to Dr. O’Leary. If the jury wanted Mr. Christmas or any other witnesses they could have said so.

Mr. Ogilvie did not know there was going to be all this fuss about the matter.

An awkward pause for some moments.

IS THE ANALYST CAPABLE?

Mr. Ogilvie – Now, Mr. Chairman, I want to say one thing. It does seem to me most extraordinary that a man as well known as Dr. O’Leary should have been employed to make an analysis, when it is well known to everybody that such a thing

³²⁴ Possible a reference to this statement in the *Montreal Star*: “All sorts of rumors are afloat as to reasons and persons to blame for Mr. Patton’s despondency, but it is not in the public interest to retail these stories, and we can but hope for the best, and meantime unite in offering what consolation can be offered to the afflicted family pending the discovery of further traces of Mr. Richard Patton. *Later*. – At the last moment our reporter learned that all arrangements had been made for Mr. Patton’s securities, and the only reason given for his disappearance is extravagance of family expense, which was heavy.” MR. RICHARD PATTON. (1878, December 11). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 3.

³²⁵ From THE LATE MR. RICHARD PATTON. (1878, December 27). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 2.

³²⁶ “O’LEARY PATRICK, M.D., physician and surgeon, 1 Little St Antoine cor St Bonaventure” *Lowell’s Montreal Directory* for 1878-79. Dr. Patrick O’Leary died at Westmount on April 11, 1924.

is foreign to him altogether, and while in Montreal we have plenty of men who are practical analysts, known and acknowledged to be such. The best proof of his incapacity is that he was unwilling to proceed with the matter until provided with an associate to help him.

Mr. Murphy – He is notoriously incapable. It is well known that there are only two practical analysts in Montreal of any prominence – Dr. Girdwood and another.

THE REASON WHY – POLITICAL REWARD

The Foreman – I am at a loss to know why Dr. O’Leary was engaged. I know nothing about it, and never heard of Dr. O’Leary before until I was told by the Coroner.

Mr. Ogilvie – it was given to Dr. O’Leary simply because he is of the same party as the Government now in power – because he is a Grit – a Rouge – the same party as you belong to, I am sorry to say.

Another long pause ensued.

Mr. Ogilvie – Mr. Jones, you told us that if we were not present this morning at nine o’clock we were liable to a fine and penalty. Do you think there is any penalty to be meted to an M.D. for keeping waiting all this time a number of gentlemen who have business to attend to?

The Coroner – I cannot help it; I have sent for the doctor.

MORE LIGHT WANTED

Mr. Murphy – Mr. Coroner, is there to be another adjournment?

The Coroner – Well, yes, if you want more witnesses.

Mr. Murphy – Well, I want Mr. Christmas, of the Aetna, called, and Dr. Osler, the pathologist, who examined the body. I am rather astonished that that gentleman has not been called in the case.

THE OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Coroner Jones laid the official correspondence before the jury to show that Dr. O’Leary had been engaged through the Attorney-General of the Province of Quebec:-

QUEBEC, Dec. 20, 1878.

Joseph Jones, Coroner, Montreal:

Let him have an associate.

D. A. Ross, Attorney-General.

Doctors O’Leary and G. P. Girdwood³²⁷ having arrived at ten o’clock, Mr. Ogilvie³²⁸, one of the jurors, asked permission to make a few remarks. He thought that if Drs. O’Leary and Girdwood had been notified to appear at nine o’clock they should not have kept the jurors waiting. He did not think it was treating the jurors properly. The doctors explained the cause of their absence.

Drs. O’Leary and Girdwood testified to having analyzed the contents of the stomach and said that they had found the presence of morphia. No other vegetable poison was found. The stomach presented nothing abnormal.

³²⁷ “GIRDWOOD G.P., M.D., M.R.C.S.L., physician and surgeon, professor of practical chemistry McGill university, h 28 Beaver Hall terrace”. *Lovell’s Montreal Directory* for 1878-79.

³²⁸ Spelled ‘Ogilvy’ throughout in the original.

Coroner – Was the quantity of morphine found in the stomach of the disease sufficient to cause death?

Dr. O’Leary – I am not prepared to say that the quantity found in the stomach would have caused death.

Coroner – Dr. Girdwood, was the quantity of morphia found in the stomach sufficient to cause death?

Dr. Girdwood – What we found of morphia certainly could not have caused death, because what we found in the stomach had not been absorbed and therefore was only what was superabundant.

Foreman – Dr. Girdwood, do you suppose from the examination you have made that the deceased had taken sufficient to cause death?

Answer – I think had the deceased died from morphia that we should have found as strong evidences of the presence of morphia in the body. I have not yet seen the evidences of the *post-mortem* examination, and therefore simply from a chemical examination could not give an opinion as to the cause of death.

The Coroner placed in Dr. Girdwood’s hands the *post-mortem* examination.

Foreman – If the deceased had taken sufficient morphia to cause death, would traces of it be found in the intestines?

Dr. Girdwood – Traces of morphia would be found in all the tissues of the body supplied by blood. Within the cavities of the stomach and intestines would be found that which is not absorbed.

Foreman – After reading the report of the *post-mortem* examination, can you form an opinion as to whether death was caused by morphia?

Dr. Girdwood – The *post-mortem* appearances are all consistent with death from morphia, and its presence in the stomach indicates that it had been swallowed during life. I would therefore be of the opinion that [the] deceased died from the effects of morphia.

Mr. Ogilvie – Are you prepared to swear that the deceased, Richard Patton, died from the effects of morphia?

Dr. Girdwood – No; but I am prepared to swear it is my opinion.

Mr. Ogilvy – I want your answer. I don’t want your opinion. I ask a plain, simple question, and want a plain, simple answer.

Dr. Girdwood – You shall have it.

The question was again asked.

Dr. Girdwood – I am prepared to swear that no man can swear positively of what Mr. Patton died, but only to form an opinion as to the cause of his death from the facts as detailed.

Mr. Ogilvie – Is Dr. Girdwood prepared to state that the late Richard Patton died from morphia, or not?

Dr. Girdwood – No, but my opinion is that he did die from morphia. You cannot swear to a positive fact unless you see it.

Mr. Ogilvie – Then what is the use of medical evidence?

Juror – In your opinion or theory that Mr. Richard Patton died from the effects of morphia, do you base it on the fact of having found in the stomach some unabsorbed

morphia? You conclude from that, that a much larger portion had been absorbed, and how do you arrive at such a conclusion?

Dr. Girdwood – My opinion as to the cause of death was not formed until reading the results of the *post-mortem* examination. Finding that in every respect the body is healthy, and exhibits no cause of death from natural causes, and that there was morphine still unabsorbed, I am led to form the opinion that it had been the cause of death.

Juror – Is it possible that morphine could remain in the stomach of a living man unabsorbed for any length of time, and does absorption cease with life?

Dr. Girdwood – Absorption does cease with life. After taking a dose of morphia it would be absorbed until a sufficient quantity to cause death had been taken up.

Juror [...] – Did you know the deceased personally?

Dr. Girdwood – No.

Juror – I want you to state positively if under any circumstances a *post-mortem* examination would reveal the fact that death was caused by poison.

Dr. Girdwood – Not *post-mortem* appearances alone, but with chemical analysis there are cases in which you would have positive evidence of death from poison.

Juror – The case of the deceased Richard Patton is not one of those positive cases. Is morphia a vegetable poison?

Dr. Girdwood – It is.

Juror – Are traces of morphia not easily lost in the body?

Dr. Girdwood – Yes; it undergoes decomposition in the body after a time. [...]

Juror – Is there any suspicion from the fact of the morphine not having been absorbed that any portion of it was placed in the stomach after death?

Dr. Girdwood – No. [...]

Juror – I would ask Dr. Girdwood if morphine is the active agent of different drugs.

Dr. Girdwood – Morphine is the active agent found in the different varieties of the poppy. There are various preparations of the poppy, and which all contain morphia.

Juror – Can you state what preparation [the] deceased was likely to have taken?

Dr. Girdwood – I think a sort of morphia, because a peculiar acid or opium was not present.

Juror – Is not morphine frequently taken to tranquilize the mind?

Dr. Girdwood – Not that I am aware of. It is given in full doses to produce sleep, but in small doses it acts as a stimulant – in different ways on different persons.

Juror – What quantity of morphia would destroy life? Or does it require more in some cases than in others?

Dr. Girdwood – That would depend upon the state of the stomach – whether empty or full; the condition of the person, and whether or not they were accustomed to the drug. The smallest known dose for an adult that has caused death is half a grain. The largest quantity taken was thirty grains, and the party recovered.

The room was cleared, and the jury rendered the following verdict.

VERDICT

We, the jurors of the inquisition, holden and taken in view of the body of Richard Patton, do say and declare, that as the late Richard Patton had for some time prior to his death been in a weak condition of body and in a desponding state of mind, the jurors aforesaid are of the opinion that the death of the said Richard Patton was caused by exhaustion and grief, and that though morphia was found in his stomach, there is not sufficient to prove death from that cause.

“The Patton verdict”³²⁹ (Quebec, 1878)

A representative of THE STAR called upon Dr. O’Leary at his residence yesterday afternoon in regard to the verdict rendered at the inquest on the body of the late Mr. Richard Patton, when the following conversation occurred:-

Reporter – I have called, Doctor, to obtain your opinion in regard to the verdict. Do you think that it was rendered in accordance with the analysis of yourself and Dr. Girdwood as submitted to the jury?

Dr. O’Leary – I have my opinion in regard to that matter, but would not care to make it public for the present, as it is my intention to prepare a review of the whole case for next week.

Reporter – You are aware, of course, that the public are anxious to know what the analyst thinks about the matter, and that they have already formed their opinion as to the verdict.

Dr. O’Leary – My opinion is that juries, as a rule, are not sufficiently posted in medical matters, as regards an analysis especially, to render a verdict in accordance with its results. The jury came to the conclusion that Mr. Patton died from grief. Dr. Reddy and Dr. Osler both said that it was impossible for him to die from grief, and Dr. Girdwood almost positively stated that he died from the effects of morphia. In my testimony I stated that I was not prepared, from the quantity of morphia found in the stomach, to state positively that he died, from that, without knowing the facts and circumstances preceding the act of taking the poison.

Reporter – Mr. Murphy charges you with being an employee of the Aetna Insurance Company, and with being incompetent to make the analysis.

Dr. O’Leary – I am not an employee of the Aetna Insurance Company. Mr. Murphy, or any other man, should have made these charges to my face, and I would have been prepared to answer them. If the jury thought me incompetent to make the analysis, why did they not examine me? I did not want to make the analysis; I had not sufficient time to do so. When Coroner Jones came to me I told him to employ my brother-in-law, Dr. Rottot, whom he had always employed before. I said that if I accepted, I should require an associate. In regard to Mr. Ogilvie’s attacks upon me, they are purely political. We have been opponents in politics in this ward for twenty years, and I think that an inquest is the last place in the world to bring up politics. I

³²⁹ From THE PATTON VERDICT. (1878, December 28). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 1.

would say nothing against Mr. Ogilvie personally; the shots directed were meant for the Government solely.

NON-COMMITAL

Our reporter called on Dr. J. Baker Edwards, consulting chemist and food analyst, who considered it would be unprofessional and indiscreet on his part to offer any opinion as to the verdict returned in the case of Mr. Richard Patton's death. As to Dr. O'Leary, he was totally unacquainted with him. Owing to his own position as a public officer he would decline to state his views on the chemical analysis or the inquest.

ANOTHER OPINION – A THEORY

Our reporter met a prominent medical man this morning, who gave the following as the possible theory of Mr. Richard Patton's death:-

"The deceased gentleman, owing to his business troubles, suffered from loss of sleep. He no doubt took a dose of morphia, which did not act owing to the distressed state of the brain. After he left Mr. Shaw on the morning when he disappeared, he may have taken another dose, which, uniting with that formerly taken, may have produced delirium, and in that case his actions would be similar to those of a drunken man, and on passing the stable his idea may have been to sleep in the hay-loft, and not disturb his family. This," said the medical gentleman, who has a great deal of experience in cases of morphia poisoning, "is what may have led to Mr. Patton's death. I would also add that I think the verdict rendered a very inadequate one. It should have been 'died from the effects of morphia; whether administered by his own hands or that of others is unknown.' The verdict then would have been an open one."

STILL ANOTHER – A STRONG OPINION

A medical gentleman, well known in connection with analytical cases, said to a STAR representative:-

"My opinion is that the jury were indiscreet in rendering a verdict such as they did after an analysis such as had been submitted by Drs. Girwood and O'Leary, which left no doubt whatever upon the subject. If the jury had rendered even an open verdict, a possible lawsuit would have been averted between the insurance companies and the heirs of the estate."

"Coroner's Inquests"³³⁰ (Quebec, 1879)

The Government of Quebec having honored me with an appointment in connection with the inquest of the late Mr. Patton, I think it is my duty to inform the Government and the public of the way in which inquests are held in Montreal. [...]

Mr. Patton, a respectable and well-known business man, whose life is insured for a considerable amount – which is forfeited in case of suicide – fails in business. A few days after, he suddenly disappears. After five days of research he is found dead,

³³⁰ From O'Leary, P. (1879). CORONER'S INQUESTS. *Canada Medical and Surgical Journal*, 7(7), 329 – 335. Written by Patrick O'Leary (1836 – 1924). The letter transcribed in the article is dated January 17, 1879, from Montreal.

under the suspicious circumstances common in cases of suicide – that is to say, in a sleigh stored in a hay-loft of his residence. The Coroner empanels a jury, who take the following oath, which, with our present Coroner, is generally their only guide in coming to a conclusion:-

“You shall present no man for hatred, malice or ill-will, nor spare any through fear, *favor* or *affection*; but a true verdict give *according to the evidence* and the best of your skill and knowledge, so help you God.”

Here is, in substance, the evidence according to which only the jury was sworn to bring in a verdict. Mr. Williams merely swears to the finding of the body. Mr. Thos. Shaw knew [the] deceased for 14 years and had noticed for some time past that his spirits were considerably depressed. Two other witnesses, Mr. A. C. Hutchinson and Mr. H. T. Patton – the latter deceased’s son – testified to the same effect. But Mr. Shaw, having taken breakfast with [the] deceased on the morning of the 14th December, the date of his disappearance, found him much quieter than usual. He took very little breakfast, walked down to the lane in rear of [the] deceased’s residence, which [the] deceased entered without further remark. This was a little uncommon, as formerly he used to say that he was going no further, or something to that effect. Apart from the medical and chemical evidence, this is all that was submitted. However, to complete that part of the evidence upon which, or rather against which, the jurymen must have founded their finding, if they found it upon evidence of any kind, I will insert that part only of the medical evidence contained in the following question and answer:-

Question by a jurymen to Dr. Reddy – If the circulation of the blood of the deceased were weak, so as to cause partial numbness of his hands, would *excessive grief* and mental prostration, combined with this weakness, not imperil his life?

Answer by Dr. Reddy – It would not!

Dr. Reddy is a physician of great experience and learning – ranks among the first of this city – and I may say he has expressed on that point the opinion of the Faculty. Nevertheless, twelve jurymen, sworn to investigate the cause of the man’s death according to the evidence only, return the following verdict:-

“That Richard Patton had, for some time prior to his death, been in a weak condition of body and in a desponding state of mind: the jurors are of the opinion that the death of the said R. Patton was caused by exhaustion and grief.”

Now, any man may see that – 1st. There was not any evidence of a *weak condition of the body*; 2nd. Nor of any *exhaustion*; 3rd. As for despondency and grief, Dr. Reddy says emphatically that a man cannot die of grief under such circumstances, of course. [...]

We invited Dr. Reddy and Dr. Osler to present with us, in order to give them the opportunity to complete their “*post-mortem*.” Dr. Osler being out of town, Dr. Reddy alone came; and he will not object, I am sure, to my relating what otherwise he would doubtless have said himself before the jury, had he been asked to attend at its subsequent meeting. After giving us, from memory, a very graphic description of the “*post-mortem*,” he observed that:-

“What struck him most of all was the appearance of the deceased when he first saw him. He looked just as if he was sleeping, and, had he not known him dead, his first impulse would have been to give him a good push in the ribs, and [he] would have expected him to wake up suddenly and exclaim, ‘Hallo! What’s the matter?’ He was just like a man that had passed from life to death in a sound sleep.”

We conclude our analysis to find morphia in undoubted quantities, and report accordingly to the jury. The only question I am asked is whether [the] deceased died of the quantity of morphine found in the stomach. I am surprised that the Coroner should put such a question. From his long experience as Coroner, [Dr. Jones] should have known that it is not the quantity of poison found in a man’s stomach that causes death, but the quantity absorbed into the system, and it is impossible to ascertain the quantity which is absorbed.

Answering to what the Coroner probably meant by the question, rather than to its literal meaning, I said that he might or he might not, according to circumstances – and then I awaited the next question to explain my opinion of the cause of death. This, however, was not asked. [...]

The question put to me is asked of Dr. Girdwood, who answers in the same sense, and goes on to explain his opinion, when a juror orders him to cease. The Doctor endeavors to proceed, when he is again interrupted, in grossly uncomplimentary style, by such expressions as “I do not care for your opinion; I care for no M.D.’s opinion,” and so on. Nevertheless, after considerable difficulty, Dr. Girdwood contrives to give his evidence, to the effect that, having examined the *post-mortem* report and other circumstances, he is of [the] opinion that [the] deceased died from the effects of morphia.

To recapitulate, shortly – there was no external evidence, except that of the ordinary anxious state of a man in business troubles, nor any *natural causes* of death. But poison was found in the stomach, and the medical opinion, strongly expressed, was that the death was caused by poison, consistently with the *post-mortem* indications.

The novel theory of dying from grief was emphatically rejected by medical evidence, but [the verdict?] “Died of Grief!” After making the poor man die of grief, this most intelligent jury add: “He did not die of morphia!” Rather evident. After this, surely, they should apply for a patent. Suppose the following identical case: a disappointed lover is found dead with a dagger through his heart. The “Patton patented jury” would surely return the following verdict: “Died of love and grief – the dagger having nothing to do with the man’s death!!”

“An insolvent”³³¹ (Quebec, 1879)

INSOLVENT ACT OF 1875 AND AMENDING ACTS

In the matter of Richard Patton, of the City of Montreal, plumber and gas fitter, an insolvent. The undersigned Assignee will receive tenders at so much in the dollar

³³¹ From INSOLVENT ACT OF 1875 [Advertisement]. (1879, January 23). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 2.

for the purchase of the whole or any portion of the assets belonging to the above Estate, or an offer at so much on the dollar on the liabilities as they now exist, the purchaser assuming all responsibility.

The Estate comprises:-

1st.	Stock and Plant in Montreal	\$7,799.06
	[Stock and Plant] in London, Ont.	\$3,259.58
2nd.	Book Debts in Montreal	\$12,391.38
	[Book Debts] in London, Ont.	\$1,039.54
3rd.	Balance due on Contract in Montreal	<u>\$1,473.59</u>
		\$25,963.15

Full particulars and all information can be had at the office of the undersigned. Tenders addressed to the Assignee, and marked Tenders for the Patton Estate, will be received up to Noon, the 31st day of January current. The Assignee and Inspectors do not bind themselves to accept the highest or any offer.

JOHN FULTON, Assignee.

“Desirable property in Drummond Street”³³² (Quebec, 1879)

In the matter of Richard Patton, of the City of Montreal, plumber and gas fitter, insolvent. Desirable property in Drummond Street for sale

BY PUBLIC AUCTION

The undersigned Assignee will sell by Public Auction within the offices of Perkins, Fulton & Perkins, 60 St. James street, Montreal, on Saturday, the 19th day of April current, at 11 o'clock a.m., the following Real Estate:-

1st. That certain lot of land, with the buildings thereon erected, situate and being Nos. 11 and 13 Drummond street, in St. Antoine Ward, in the City of Montreal, known and distinguished on a certain plan of property, showing the subdivisions into building as lot No. 15, and on the official plan and book of reference for the said Ward, as part and portion of cadastral lot No. 610.

2nd. That certain lot of land, with the buildings thereon erected, situate in the St. Antoine Ward, and known as No. 9 Drummond street, in the City of Montreal, and distinguished in a certain plan of property showing the subdivisions into building lots as lot No. 11, and on the official plan and book of reference for the said Ward, as part and portion of cadastral lot No. 610.

JOHN FULTON, Assignee.

³³² From INSOLVENT ACT OF 1875 [Advertisement]. (1879, April 17). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 3.

“Annual dinner”³³³ (Quebec, 1880)

About forty of the employees of Messrs. Hughes and Stephenson³³⁴, successors³³⁵ to Richard Patton, plumbers, held their first annual dinner in Mount’s restaurant, Notre Dame street, last evening. Mr. James Young, of the Brass Department, occupied the chair. The usual loyal toasts were proposed and responded to, after which a pleasant evening of song was indulged in. Before dispersing Mr. J. W. Hughes proposed “Our late employer and friend,” which was drank in silence. “God Save the Queen” and “Auld Lang Syne” brought a most enjoyable evening to a close.

³³³ From ANNUAL DINNER. (1880, January 16). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 3.

³³⁴ “Hughes & Stephenson (Successors to Richard Patton), practical sanitarians, plumbers, gas & steam fitters, 745 Craig Street. We trust that strict attention to business and prompt discharge of all orders will ensure for us the support afforded our late predecessor.” HUGHES & STEPHENSON [Advertisement]. (1879, February 26). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 3.

³³⁵ “Messrs. J. W. Hughes and Stephenson have purchased the estate of the late Mr. Richard Patton, and will continue the business. Both gentlemen have been connected with the establishment, and the former is well known as an authority on ventilation.” NEW FIRM. (1879, February 3). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 4.

Peter Gillespie

“A strange death”³³⁶ (Quebec, 1879)

A young man named [Peter] Gillespie³³⁸, 21 years of age, boarding with his brother at 95 St. Bonaventure street, [Montreal,] died in a very peculiar manner at nine o'clock last night. As far as a GAZETTE reporter could learn, young Gillespie had been ailing lately and was taking medicine freely. At six o'clock last night his brother went to his room and found him breathing heavily, and was unable to awaken him. No time was lost in summoning Drs. Trenholme³³⁹ and Reed³⁴⁰. It was supposed that the young man had taken an overdose of his medicine, and a stomach pump, a galvanic battery and other medical appliances were speedily brought into requisition, but all without avail, as the young man breathed his last three hours after his brother discovered him. The Coroner was notified and an inquest will be held this morning. It is also probable that a *post mortem* examination of the body will be made, when the true cause of his demise will be made known.

“Peter Gillespie’s death”³⁴¹ (Quebec, 1879)

Mention was made in yesterday’s GAZETTE of the strange death of a young man named Peter Gillespie, which occurred at 92 St. Bonaventure street, at nine o'clock on Sunday night. Yesterday morning Coroner Jones empaneled a jury, composed of Messrs. Joseph Ashton³⁴², foreman, Alphonse Thomas³⁴³, John Crosbie, R. L. Woods³⁴⁴, Joseph Baissette, Benjamin Dubé³⁴⁵, T. J. G. Dawson³⁴⁶, Frederick Outram³⁴⁷, Charles Roy, W. J. Tabb, Patrick Dinahan, James Bronis, G. M. Beaudoin, [and] Wm. Scullion³⁴⁸, and proceeded to an inquiry into the cause of death.

³³⁶ From A STRANGE DEATH. (1879, March 11). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 4.

³³⁸ The original reads “William Gillespie”. *Lovell’s Montreal Directory* for 1878-1879 contains a listing for “Gillespie Peter, labourer, Island.” The confusion may have been due to a William Gillespie having been found dead a few months earlier. An account of that case is included later in this section.

³³⁹ “TRENHOLME, EDWARD H., M.D., C.M., physician and surgeon, 32 Beaver Hall Terrace.” *Lovell’s Montreal Directory* for 1878-79.

³⁴⁰ “REED THOMAS D., M.D., physician and surgeon, 33 St Antoine”. *Ibid.*

³⁴¹ From PETER GILLESPIE’S DEATH. (1879, March 12). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 4.

³⁴² “Ashton Joseph, saloonkeeper, 70 Bonaventure, h 72 St Bonaventure”. *Lovell’s Montreal Directory* for 1878-79.

³⁴³ “Thomas Alphonse, stonecutter, r 10 St Emery”. *Ibid.*

³⁴⁴ “Woods Robert L., clerk, 106 Drolet”. *Ibid.*

³⁴⁵ “Dubé Benjamin, carriagemaker and blacksmith, 134 St Bonaventure”. *Ibid.*

³⁴⁶ Probably “Dawson Ths. J., com traveller, 201 University”. *Ibid.*

³⁴⁷ “Outram Fred., of George Outram & Son, 71 and 75 Quesnel[.] OUTRAM G., & SON, manufacturers of all kinds of files; old files re-cut; Dominion File works, St Gabriel locks”. *Ibid.*

³⁴⁸ “Scullion William, jeweller, 115 St Bonaventure”. *Ibid.*

It might be here stated that the medicine which young Gillespie was taking was obtained upon a prescription furnished at the Montreal General Hospital Dispensary. He had complained of a pain in his side previously, but it appears he has been ailing for some time past with a lung infection.

THE INQUEST

Dr. T. D. Reed was the first witness examined, and testified to being called at 6 p.m. Monday night. [He] found [the] deceased suffering from the effects of narcotic poison. The bottle from which he had taken his medicine – according to the identification of a woman in the boarding-house – was labeled for a dose which, if taken, would not account for the young man’s symptoms. The prescription on the bottle indicates that it contains “dilute sulphuric acid, one and a half drachms; solution of morphia, two drachms; syrup, half an ounce; water to four ounces; take a desert-spoonful three times a day; 10-3-’79.” He was of the opinion that more poison was taken than that prescribed by the label, but he could not state the contents of the bottle, except that it was labeled as above. If two ounces of solution of morphia were contained in this phial, in place of two drachms, even then the written dose on the label, he was of the opinion, would not have proved fatal. Nothing was obtained from the stomach by the use of the stomach-pump. Morphia would produce the symptoms found in [the] deceased.

Dr. E. H. Trenholme testified to being called in connection with [the] previous witness on Monday evening. [A] diligent search was made in the room and around the house for other phials besides the one in which the medicine was, but none were found. He carefully examined the label, and found the writing to be such that an inexperienced person might possibly mistake the two *drachms* for two *ounces* of liquor of morphia.

“Acting on the opinion that we arrived at,” [said Dr. Trenholme,] “that it was a case of opium poisoning³⁴⁹, [I] at once returned home and got a hypodermic syringe and stomach pump. One-sixtieth of atropine³⁵⁰ was at once injected under the skin. The stomach pump was also used, but nothing obtained. A second hypodermic injection of one-sixtieth of a grain of atropine was given. The deceased being evidently failing in his vital powers, Dr. Reed hurried to the General Hospital for a galvanic battery. While he was away I injected six ounces of good strong coffee into his stomach by means of a stomach-pump, the deceased being unable to swallow. The feet were flagellated with wet towels and straps, [and] mustard applied to [the] feet, calves, thighs and pit of [the] stomach. Plenty of fresh air was also admitted from outside. The deceased continued to be more and more impressed with the poison, notwithstanding what had been done, and finally died about 9 o’clock p.m.

“I retained the bottle in my possession under lock and key until handed over to the coroner this morning with his initials on it. [He] corroborated Dr. Reed’s testimony as regards [the] contents of [the] bottle, but my taste inclines me to believe

³⁴⁹ Dr. Trenholme was involved in an opium poisoning case in December 1875, earlier, transcribed elsewhere in this collection.

³⁵⁰ The original reads “aptromi,” but from context and previous reports of Dr. Trenholme’s treatment of overdoses, it’s clear that “atropine” was intended.

there is more morphia than the two drachms indicated. I believe the deceased to have died from the effect of some narcotic poison, and that poison was most probably morphia. [I] cannot state positively the cause of death without a *post mortem* examination and chemical analysis of the vial shown, which is a six-ounce bottle. Supposing the bottle to have contained two ounces of liquid morphia, I believe the quantity taken sufficient to have caused death, provided the bottle was perfectly full. The quantity removed must have contained one grain of morphia, a sufficient quantity to destroy life under certain conditions of health, such as existed in the case of [the] deceased. If the quantity was taken at one dose the effect would be much greater than when divided.”

Dr. Wm. Alex. Molson³⁵¹, who was in attendance at the Montreal General Hospital on Monday, testified that he wrote and gave to [the] deceased the prescription on the bottle produced, to relieve him of a severe cough, profuse expectorations, night sweats and great pain in the right side from breathing, with all of which he was suffering. A student, Mr. Inksetter, made a physical examination of the deceased at the time, by order of the witness. The dose prescribed (one dessert-spoonful of the mixture) contained one-fifteenth grain of morphia, but as the whole mixture was apparently increased in quantity by adding two more ounces of water, and if the other ingredients were in the quantity prescribed, a dessert-spoonful of the mixture would contain only one-twenty-fourth grain of morphia. The whole quantity of the mixture prescribed, taken at one dose, could not cause death. An ordinary dose of morphia is half a grain, and sometimes, as in cases of insanity, even one and a half or two grains are administered.

A *post mortem* examination having been decided necessary by the jury, Drs. Reed and Trenholme are ordered to make one, and the inquest was adjourned until 9 o'clock this morning.

“Resumed before Coroner Jones”³⁵² (Quebec, 1879)

At nine o'clock yesterday morning the inquest on the body of the young man Peter Gillespie, who died at 92 St. Bonaventure street at nine o'clock on Monday night from a supposed overdose of medicine, was resumed before Coroner Jones.

Drs. Reed and Trenholme submitted the result of their *post-mortem* examination. The [...] examination revealed no such diseased condition of the body as would account for [the] death of [the] deceased. An analysis of the stomach had not as yet been made.

Dr. Trenholme, in cross-examination, said that no analysis of the contents of the viscera had been made by which poison could be detected.

Dr. Reed stated that not knowing the contents of the phial produced and spoken of on Tuesday, it was impossible for him to say whether or not the portion of the contents which had been removed would be sufficient to cause death. Supposing

³⁵¹ “MOLSON W. A., M.D., physician and surgeon, 61 Union av”. *Lovell's Montreal Directory*, 1878-79.

³⁵² From PETER GILLESPIE'S DEATH. (1879, March 13). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 4.

that the phial contained two ounces of solution of morphia, the quantity removed from it would have, in [the] witness' opinion, caused death in the condition in which [the] deceased was.

Dr. Wm. D. Oakley³⁵³, Apothecary of the Montreal General Hospital, deposed that he had no knowledge prior to Tuesday of having seen the vial now produced.

"The vial might have been issued without my knowledge," [he said]. "The House Surgeon, Assistant House Surgeon, and Attending Physicians have the power to issue the said bottle without my knowledge. I have one or more students to assist me in preparing prescriptions. [I] am responsible for their acts. I select those who assist me. I recognize the prescription as having been written by Dr. Molson. I left the Dispensary about one o'clock on Monday last and left it in charge of the Surgeon's man, but [I left] no person in charge to dispense medicine, as I concluded all medicine necessary had been dispensed. I understood, however, that medicine had been dispensed after I left by Mr. Dafoe, a medical student. I have not seen Mr. Dafoe since yesterday morning, when I questioned him relative to this case. I believe this is his second year as a medical student. I am inclined to think Mr. Dafoe is the party who made up the prescription."

In answer to further questions by the jury, Dr. Oakley stated that it was possible that a person might confound part of the sign in the uppermost line of the bottle with the sign on the middle line, thus making the quantity of solution of morphia ordered read as two ounces instead of two drachms, but [he] did not think that an experienced dispenser would make that mistake. There was no record of the person who made up this prescription. Mr. Dafoe had no authority from [the] witness to dispense.

Mrs. Marcoux³⁵⁴, who keeps the boarding-house at 92 Bonaventure street, where [the] deceased expired, deposed that Peter Gillespie came to the house on Monday, at 2 or 2:30 p.m., and went immediately up to his room. [The] witness called him down, and he took his dinner. He told [the] witness he had got some medicine at the General Hospital on recommendation of Dr. Hingston, and had taken a dose without measuring it. He was given a dessert spoon with which to measure the medicine. On going up the stairs to his room again, he put his hands up to his temples, saying that he had sharp pains in his head. After entering the room he closed the door, and [the] witness could not say whether he took any more of the medicine. [The] witness never saw the bottle until it was in the hands of the doctor in the evening. [The] witness did not think that [the] deceased had taken any liquor during the last time he was stopping at the house, and could say nothing against him. [The] deceased told [the] witness that four young medical men stood around him at the hospital, questioning him about his disease, and [they] gave him the bottle of medicine.

John Dohan, clerk, deposed that he had met [the] deceased in the street while he was returning from the General Hospital. [The] witness did not know what was in

³⁵³ "Oakley W.D., house apothecary Montreal General Hospital, 422 Dorchester," *Lovell's Montreal Directory* for 1878-79.

³⁵⁴ "Marcou Mrs. Emilie, wid Abraham, bdg hse, 92 St Bonvanenture". *Ibid.*

the bottle or the quantity it held. He boarded in the same house with [the] deceased. [The] deceased was always sickly.

Bernard Gillespie³⁵⁵, brother of Peter, deposed that [the] deceased had been suffering from a severe cough for eight or nine years.

“On Monday evening,” [he said,] “I came home and found my brother’s door shut. When going down stairs to supper I entered my brother’s room and tried to arouse him. Finding I could not do so I called Doran, and I immediately went for medical assistance. Dr. Lewis came into the room and had a conversation with Dr. Trenholme. He took a bottle from the bureau and said, ‘Sixteen times too much.’ He then took a candle, looked under the bed and opened a drawer of the bureau. Dr. Lewis was never alone in the room. Dr. Trenholme took the bottle away with him. I asked him to see the label on the bottle, when he replied, ‘You know nothing about medical matters,’ and refused to let me see it. Dr. Lewis, I believe, removed the bottle from the table in the room to the table in the passage. My brother was insensible when I saw him, and never spoke. He had previously had a bottle of the same prescription from the General Hospital.”

A Juror – “What did he do with that bottle?”

Witness – “I think he took it back to the Hospital.”

The Juror – It was probably the same bottle, for I see there are two labels on this bottle.”

The label nearest the bottle reads³⁵⁶ as follows:-

MONTREAL GENERAL HOSPITAL.

THE MIXTURE.

M. Pect. Chr.

DIRECTIONS:- *Table* spoonful 3 times a day. 6-3-79.

John Lewis³⁵⁷, druggist, deposed that Dr. Trenholme had called for him on Monday evening to go and see [the] deceased. He had looked for papers that might contain poison, but could not find any.

Dr. Molson volunteered in evidence that [the] deceased had come to him after he had received [the] prescription and had said that there was no one in the dispensary to prepare the medicine. Dr. Molson then left Gillespie in charge of the porter.

The inquest was then adjourned until Saturday morning at 10 o’clock, and in the meantime an analysis of the stomach will be made. The two medical students, Inksetter and Dafoe, and the porter at the Hospital will be examined.

³⁵⁵ “Gillespie B., machinist, bds at 92 St Bonaventure”. *Ibid.*

³⁵⁶ The characters in *italics* and the figures were written in ink; the remainder was printed. [Note in the original.]

³⁵⁷ “Lewis, John, of J. Lewis & Co., 154 Lusignan”. “LEWIS JOHN, & CO., chemists and druggists, Association building, 2 Radegonde cor Crag, aerated water manufactory, r 35½ St Antoine”. *Lovell’s Montreal Directory* for 1878-79.

“The inquest was resumed”³⁵⁸ (Quebec, 1879)

The inquest was resumed on Saturday morning before Coroner Jones at the Long Room, Mechanics’ Hall. This enquiry has created considerable excitement in the city, and below will be found the evidence nearly fully reported, of each witness.

The first witness called was George Hodges³⁵⁹, porter in the Montreal General Hospital.

“My particular duties,” [he began,] “are to attend the out-door physicians and keep everything in order. In the dispensary my duty is to assist the apothecary. I only wash bottles, but do not put up prescriptions. The name of the man I do not know, but a person called in the morning with the ordinary out-door patients, and having no certificate was refused medicine. Dr. Molson left and returned by the St. Dominique St. entrance, when all the patients had left the room; a patient accompanied him. Together they went into the consulting room, where he wrote a prescription and handed it to the man.

“Dr. Molson asked me to see the prescription made up. This man handed the prescription to a medical student that was present. He went into the dispensary and stood in front of the counter. The student went into the dispensing department. The name of that student is Victor Dafoe. He made up a bottle of medicine and handed it to this patient. There was no other patient present when Dr. Molson gave in the prescription. The medicine was contained in an ordinary six ounce bottle, similar to the one produced. I saw the man leave the premises. I did not see Dr. Molson make an entry in the register. I cannot say if this is the party who called in the morning and was refused medicine.

“On one or two occasions I received instructions not to allow students to go behind the counter. I received the last instructions about a week ago. It was intended for students who were not permitted to dispense. I had seen Dafoe dispense with Dr. Oakley; I therefore thought he had authority to dispense. I presume, from the fact of two labels being on the bottle, that the patient brought it with him.”

Victor Dafoe, medical student, deposed as follows:-

“I attend the Montreal General Hospital,” he said. “I have dispensed medicines there. I had authority to dispense medicines until the 15th of February last. Since that I have helped Dr. Oakley to make up the boxes for the wards and also helped to dispense medicine for out-door patients in his presence. During the doctor’s absence, I have been sent to dispense medicine by the orders of other medical men, that is, those who attend the Hospital. I have dispensed for the wards, but cannot say for out-door patients, as far as my memory serves me.

“On Monday afternoon I received a prescription from a man whose name I do not know. I did not know from whom the prescription came. As I was passing into the dispensary, it is like a vision that I received one, from a man. I feel that I did receive on, although it is very indistinct. I did not see this man come out of the consulting room or any other. To the best of my knowledge I did not see Dr. Molson in any of the

³⁵⁸ From PETER GILLESPIE’S DEATH. (1879, March 17). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 4.

³⁵⁹ Possibly “Hodge Geo., express cartage, 544 St Bonaventure”. *Lovell’s Montreal Directory*, 1878-79.

rooms immediately prior to receiving this prescription, after receiving which, I went into the dispensary.

“I do not think I made up that prescription. After I received this prescription from the man, I do not know where he went, and did not see him leave the building. To the best of my knowledge this man did not put into my hands any vial, or anything else, except the prescription. In the morning I made up one prescription for Miss Lacroix. To the best of my knowledge I made up two prescriptions in the afternoon; one was for a nurse in the hospital. I believe I obtained the prescription from the nurse. The second prescription which I made up, George Hodges told me was for Miss or Mrs. Fitzgerald.

“I did not remain any length of time after this when I went to dinner. Mr. Cuzner and Mr. Burland left at the same time. I left town Tuesday night at 9:45, at the request of a telegram from my father, which said: ‘Your sister is very sick; come home immediately,’ but she has since died. My parents live in Aultville.

“To the best of my knowledge, I have not seen this vial previously. I do not know the writing on the label. When I receive a prescription to make up, I do not record it in any book. Those who dispense medicine, to my knowledge, do not record them. I took some morphia and opium, mixed, as a stimulant, during the week. I have taken none since.”

Q. “Did you use any liquor or stimulant on Monday last?”

[A.] “No, I did not. I do not remember having returned or refused to dispense any prescription handed me that day. The out-door patients had all left before I went to dinner. I did not leave any students there.

“The prescription on the bottle now presented, reads thus:- Dilute sulph. acid, 1½ drachms; liquor morphia, it may read either 2 ounces or 2 drachms; syrup, ½ ounce; water 3 to 4 ounces. If I had compounded this preparation, I would have put in 2 drachms, because it is the quantity usually put in vials of this size. It would not be possible for anyone to be behind the counter without my knowledge. Dr. Oakley never told me not to go into the dispensary during his absence.”

Mark Richard Cuzner, Benjamin William Burland, and David Gibson Inksetter, medical students, were also examined at some length, but nothing more was elicited from their testimony.

The jury having deemed it necessary that an analysis of the medicine in the bottle and of the contents of the viscera should be made, the Coroner adjourned the inquest until the 28th inst. To-day he will telegraph the Quebec Government acquainting them with the wish of the jury, and no doubt the Government will immediately appoint an analyst to perform the duty. Dr. O’Leary was the last one named by the Government, in the case of the late Richard Patton.

“Brought to a close”³⁶⁰ (Quebec, 1879)

Coroner Jones re-opened the inquest in the case of the late Peter Gillespie, at the Long Room, Mechanics’ Hall, yesterday morning, when this protracted enquiry was brought to a close, and the verdict rendered by the jury. The only witness to be heard was Dr. J. Baker Edwards³⁶¹, Public Analyst for the district of Montreal, who had been instructed to make a chemical analysis of [the] deceased’s stomach, and of the contents of the bottle which the young man had obtained at the dispensary of the General Hospital. After being duly sworn, the doctor deposed as follows:-

“I received on the 19th day of March last, from Mr. Coroner Jones, two phials which I have marked A and B, A containing medicine with the prescription on the label. [...] The medicine bottle A contains, when filled half way between the shoulder and the neck, 6½ fluid ounces. The medicine contained in it when received measured barely six ounces. Assuming the bottle to have been filled up without measuring, the probable quantity of the medicine removed from the bottle may be fairly estimated at ½ a fluid ounce.

“I have analyzed three separate ounces of the medicine and have obtained morphia and crystals equal to 18½ grains muriate of morphia in each ounce of the contents of the phial. This quantity would equal 110.4 grs in the 6 oz remaining, and allowing ½ oz as [a] deficit, therefore I find morphia equivalent to 119.6 grains of muriate of morphia. I arrive at the conclusion that 2 drachms in 120 grains have been dispensed in mistake for 2 fluid drachms of liq. morphia prescribed. The morphia is not present as muriate of morphia, but as sulphate of morphia, the salt having been changed by the chemical action of the sulphuric acid, which is also contained in the prescription. A dessert spoonful equal to ¼ of a fluid ounce would contain 49.10 grains of muriate of morphia, which would, in my opinion, prove a fatal dose under the ordinary circumstances, and as more of this quantity is missing, it seems probable that [the] deceased may have swallowed a quantity equal to 5 or 6 grains of muriate of morphia. [...]

“[I will next provide] an analysis of the bottle marked B, liq. morph., mur., which, I am informed, was taken from the dispensing bottle at the hospital. I find it contains muriate of morphia in the correct proportion of four grains to the fluid ounce, and, therefore, the mistake could not have occurred from the use of this solution, or by such an error as the misinterpretation of the symbol of drachms for ounces. As an old dispenser myself, I do not consider such an error likely to occur, as the sign for drachms is very distinctly written, and no competent dispenser could, I think, mistake it. It would appear to have been correctly interpreted by the dispenser of the medicine, but misapplied to drachms by weight of the solid morphia mur., instead of fluid drachms of the liquor morph. mur.

“An analysis of the contents of the stomach [of the deceased], and the washings of the coating of the stomach, showed crystals of morphia, equal to nearly two grains

³⁶⁰ From PETER GILLESPIE’S DEATH. (1879, March 29). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 4.

³⁶¹ “EDWARDS DR. J. BAKER, Ph.D., analytical and consulting chemist and food analyst, office 51 St Radegonde, h 1694 St Catherine”. *Lovell’s Montreal Directory for 1878-79*.

of crystalized muriate of sulphate of morphia. This represents the unabsorbed morphia in excess of the quantity absorbed in the blood to produce fatal results. This confirms the assumption that the quantity taken was an excessive dose. [...] From the above results I consider that the body of the late Peter Gillespie exhibits the presence of a large overdose of morphia.”

The room was then cleared, and the jury commenced their deliberations for a verdict. After nearly two hours had elapsed, they returned the following verdict:

VERDICT

“That the deceased, Peter Gillespie, came to his death by taking a fatal dose of morphia taken from a prescription dispensed in the Montreal General Hospital by one Victor Dafoe, and that *gross negligence*³⁶² is manifest in the dispensing of the said prescription, as shown by a report of the same made by Dr. J. R. Edwards.”

Signed by Joseph Ashton, Foreman, and 12 other jurymen.

“Mysterious death”³⁶³ (Quebec, 1878)

At least one newspaper account initially printed Gillespie’s name as ‘Peter’, rather than ‘William’. The following case, from a few months earlier, is probably the reason Why. Charles H. Briggs, foreman of the jury at this inquest, may be a different person from Charles A. Briggs, who would serve on the jury at the inquest on the body of George Flint (detailed below). Since no ‘Charles H. Briggs’ is listed in the Montreal directory for 1878-79, it may also be a case of an ‘A’ being read as an ‘H’ by the typist.

The body of the unfortunate man William Gillespie, who met his death³⁶⁴ [...] [recently,] was removed, by the order of the Coroner, to the morgue, where the inquest was opened this morning, Mr. Charles H. Briggs being foreman of the jury. Dr. Lanctot, who examined the body, swore that the only wounds were bruises on the face and a cut on the left side of the head, which latter did not seem to have broken the skull, and were not sufficient to cause death. He gave it as his opinion that death was caused by congestion of the brain, from the way in which [the] deceased fell with his head downwards and his feet up.

George Rolland, hotel-keeper, [...] did not know the deceased, but saw the prisoner often last winter, when he was always drunk. While [the] deceased was in his saloon, Charles Picot and Pierre Charlebois, from Lachine, came in to the bar, but

³⁶² The two words “gross negligence” were underlined by the foreman. [Note in the original.]

³⁶³ From THE MYSTERIOUS DEATH. (1878, September 24). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 3.

³⁶⁴ “Our reporter was informed late last evening that some time during the afternoon, a man named William Gillespie, a file worker at Cote St. Paul, had been foully dealt with, [and] that his dead body had been found at the foot of a bank of earth near Rolland’s saloon. [...] Gillespie had been drinking in Geo. Rolland’s saloon, at St. Henri, with one Charlebois, an hotel keeper at Lachine, and Thomas Rourke, formerly a laborer on the Lachine Canal. It was after these men had left the place that the body was found in the rear of the saloon.” TERRIBLE MURDER AT LACHINE. (1878, September 24). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 3.

no words passed between them. These men he saw distinctly get into their buggy and drive towards home, while Gillespie was sitting quietly on a bench in the room.

William Ramage, saloon-keeper, corner Seigneurs and St. Joseph streets, swore that [the] deceased came to his house perfectly sober, about two o'clock yesterday afternoon, with a friend named Arian Beaver. He seemed perfectly sober and refused to take a glass of stock beer, as he said he was only used to lager beer in the States. He had been in town, he said, to send five dollars to his wife, who was sick in her confinement at Biddeford, near Portland, Maine. [He] was pretty sure that the hat found with the deceased was the one worn by the prisoner, whom he knew well by sight. As Gillespie was leaving his house to get on the cars, he asked him to lend him ten cents, as he had no money; this he did.

A young lad, named Isidore Labelle, swore that he had heard a lot of boys who were playing near the toll-gate say, "There is the drunken man falling down the hill, into a hole, upon the stones." He himself saw another man who was drunk go by the hill after the man referred to by the boys; this man wore a white hat, and corresponded with the prisoner.

Chief Benoit, of the St. Henri police, said he had [the] prisoner arrested because he was last seen with [the] deceased; there was no other charge.

THE PRISONER BURNS

The real name of the prisoner is Thomas Burns, not O'Bourne, as previously stated. Burns is an elderly working man, with his hair slightly tinged with gray; his wife has been in the Beauport Asylum at Quebec for years; he has two grown-up sons, one of whom is a shoemaker in the town, and the other lives at Prescott. Last winter he was employed on the Davis section of the Lachine Canal. Before the jury he pleaded ignorance of the whole affair. All day yesterday he said he had only two drinks, one of which was given him by the deceased, and the other by Mr. Charlebois. He swore that he did not follow Gillespie, but went to go by the road leading to Cote St. Paul. This directly contradicts Rolland's evidence. The hat he affirmed the deceased had was not his, whatever had been said to the contrary. He was innocent of everything, and did not see the deceased from the time he left the house until he saw him dead in the police van.

Henry Welfoot, file grinder, knew the deceased for some 16 years; he had been working at Hutchins & Kilby's factory for six weeks; yesterday morning he borrowed \$5.00 from the foreman to send to his wife.

Napoleon Marechal, brickmaker, sworn:-

"I and Joseph Cadieux were coming down the hill in rear of Rolland's Hotel, yesterday afternoon, when Mr. Rolland came out and told me and Cadieux to lift up the deceased; his head was down and his feet upward; we saw no hat; he was lying on a stone.

The inquest was adjourned³⁶⁵ until four o'clock this afternoon. In the meantime Dr. Lanctot will make a post mortem examination, and the jurors will inspect the place where [the] deceased fell.

³⁶⁵ "The jury after deliberation returned an open verdict to the following effect: "That the said William Gillespie came to his death from a congestion of the brain, but whether the said William Gillespie

George H. Flint

“Died in the night”³⁶⁶ (Quebec, 1879)

On the first of March last, a young American, about 30 years of age, registered at the American House, [Montreal,] as George H. Flint. He stated that he was on his way to Milwaukee to sell a patent for a ventilator, which he had bought from a German named Free, but had lost his pocketbook on the cars, and could not proceed until he had received money from his mother, living for the winter in Boston.

The young man appeared intemperate in his habits and did not seem to be sober when he retired last night with his board bill, amounting to \$58.15, in his pocket. This morning he did not come down to breakfast, and on sending to his bedroom at eleven o'clock he was lying dressed on the top of his bed, dead.

The coroner viewed the body and caused it to be removed to the Morgue, where an inquest will be held at 5 o'clock. Death is supposed to have resulted from poison, and a *post-mortem* will be made.

Mr. George Sweanor, who knew the deceased in the States, says that about seven years ago he was doing a large business in the dry goods³⁶⁷ line at Lewiston, Me., where he at one time kept five stores. He had a brother who went to California, but no father, and the deceased and his mother kept the Belmont House, at Old

came to his death in an accidental manner or otherwise the jurors aforesaid cannot determine.” That Mysterious Death. (1878, September 25). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 2.

³⁶⁶ From DIED IN THE NIGHT. (1879, April 3). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 3.

³⁶⁷ “Special announcement in dry good! George H. Flint has just returned from New York Market with a full line of all kinds of dry goods, now making his stock larger and more attractive than ever before, and *one of the best in the city*. Nice silk! In black[,] blue, green, brown, steel, drab, and in all grades at lowest prices. (Having been entirely out of all kinds of silks when gold went down, I am prepared to sell at extremely low prices.) We also have a full line of cashmere shawls, in scarlet and black centres. Wool shawls, linens and housekeeping goods, and a large variety of fancy goods. N.B. I keep the celebrated Hogg, Brown & Taylor Kid Glove, which are the best in the market. Call and examine them. I have made arrangements to import them myself for this season, therefore can give reduced prices on them. I came here some years ago an entire stranger, and my success has been beyond my most sanguine expectations. Therefore, thankful for the many favors extended to me by the ladies of Lewiston and Auburn, I hope they will still continue their liberal patronage, for I guarantee my prices to be at the bottom. My pique stock is very full and cheap, also parasols. Call and see for yourself. George H. Flint, in Tracy and Flint’s New Block, Lisbon St., 3d door below Pine St., Lewiston.” Dry Goods [Advertisement]. (1870, May 10). *Lewiston Evening Journal*, p. 3.

Orchard Beech. He is said to have failed³⁶⁸ in the dry-goods business several years ago for \$45,000, and his mother³⁶⁹ is reputed wealthy.

A friend named Norris was on with him in this city for a few days, and it was through this gentleman that Mr. Swenor, who has been resident in this city for some years, renewed his acquaintance with [the] deceased, who had altered very much in appearance.

“A sad story”³⁷⁰ (Quebec, 1879)

The suicide of the young man, Geo. H. Flint, at the American House, a few days ago, was investigated yesterday by Coroner Jones. Dr. Trenholme, who was visiting a patient at the hotel, was called in, and the two gentlemen made an examination of the body, pockets, and room. They found 60 grains of sulphate of morphia, a most deadly poison, in a small phial in one of the deceased’s vest pockets.

An inquest was opened at 5 o’clock last evening, by the following jurymen being sworn in by the Coroner: Messrs. Gilbert Mireault³⁷¹, Camille Lippé³⁷², David Labonté³⁷³, Joseph Bouchard, Berthilme Lefavre, James Shea, Wm. Cunningham, Chas. Wilscam³⁷⁴, Chas. Arch. Briggs³⁷⁵, Zotique Deschamps, Wm. Wilscam³⁷⁶ and Ferdinand Cherlebois³⁷⁷.

John Costigan, the bell-boy, testified to having found the dead body of Flint on the bed, and to giving the alarm.

³⁶⁸ A fire appears to have been the start of a sharp decline. “There was a fire in George H. Flint’s dry-goods store, in this city [Lewiston], at midnight, Sunday. About half the stock was saved, and the remainder badly injured by fire and water. It was valued at \$12,000 and insured for \$8000 in the Phoenix of Brooklyn, and Narragansett of Providence.” FIRE AT LEWISTON. (1872, August 20). *Boston Daily Evening Transcript*, p. 4. By 1879 he was out of the business: “George H. Flint, formerly a dry goods dealer in Lewiston, has been arrested in Portland for swindling hotel keepers, and the best security he could give was a quid of spruce gum. The Argus says rum is at the bottom of the trouble.” CONDENSED STATE ITEMS. (1879, February 22). *Lewiston Saturday Evening Journal*, p. 3.

³⁶⁹ “George H. Flint was arrested in this city, on Saturday, on the charge of forgery in Saco. He was taken to Saco, where it was found that he signed his mother’s name with her consent to a \$65 check. He was discharged, as the mother confirmed his statement.” CONDENSED STATE ITEMS. (1878, December 14). *Lewiston Saturday Evening Journal*, p. 3.

³⁷⁰ From A SAD STORY. (1879, April 4). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 2.

³⁷¹ “MIREAULT, GILBERT, advocate, 203 Notre Dame, h 307 Richmond”. *Lovell’s Montreal Directory* for 1878-79.

³⁷² “Lippé Camille, grocer, 413 St Joseph”. *Ibid.*

³⁷³ “LABONTÉ DAVID, merchant tilor and clothier; all orders punctually executed at very moderate rates, 255 St Joseph”. *Ibid.*

³⁷⁴ “Wilscam Charles, turner, r 306 Amherst”. *Ibid.*

³⁷⁵ “BRIGGS CHARLES A., hatter and furrier, 253 St Joseph, h 251 St Joseph”. *Ibid.*

³⁷⁶ There are two directory entries for William Wilscam. Both were butchers. “Wilscam Wm., butcher, 512 Craig[.] Wilscam William, butcher, 38 St Lambert, h 90 Turgeon, Town of St Henry”. *Ibid.*

³⁷⁷ Probably “Caharlebois F. C., of M. C. Charlebois & Co., 317 St. Joseph”. A police court report from 1883 notes that “Ellen McDermottt was convicted of stealing a roll of flannel from the door of Ferdinand Charlebois’ dry goods store, on St. Joseph street. She was sentenced to six months’ imprisonment, with hard labor.” POLICE COURT. (1883, January 18). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 3.

Mr. Wells, manager of the American House, testified as to other matters of detail.

Dr. Trenholme, who had been ordered by the jury to make a *post mortem* examination of the body, testified to having found all the organs in a perfectly healthy state, and could assign no cause of death; to determine if poison was in the stomach, an analysis would have to be made. The bottle found on [the] deceased's person contained 60 grains of sulphate of morphia, but it was not full.

Mr. George Sweanor³⁷⁸, a boarder of the American House, was the principal witness. He testified that some seven years ago the deceased had been a successful dry goods merchant in Lewiston, Maine, controlling several branch stores in different parts of the State, [and] that his mother lived in Boston in the winter, keeping the Belmont House at Old Orchard Beach in the summer. He had a brother living in California. [He] did not know that he was addicted to drink. From information gathered it seems that he belongs to a most respectable family, that he at one time made large sums of money, and that there was nothing mysterious about his failure in business.

The jury decided that an analysis of the viscera was necessary, and this was accordingly ordered. The inquest then adjourned until the 16th inst., to await the results of such analysis.

“Morphia and drink”³⁷⁹ (Quebec, 1879)

Mr. Coroner Jones continued and concluded the inquest on the death of George H. Flint, who was found dead in his bed at the American House on the 3rd instant, at the morgue last night at 7 o'clock. The only evidence taken was that of Dr. Baker Edwards, Official Analyst for the District of Montreal, who submitted the result of his analysis of the contents of the bottle found on the person of the deceased, and also of the viscera, as follows:-

He had been handed [by] Coroner Jones [...] the remains of the deceased, and a bottle containing about one pint of wine, taken from said deceased, also a bottle marked “Sulphate of Morphia, 1/8 ounce, marked A (and containing crystals) poison,” found on the person of the deceased. This he had submitted to a careful analysis, with the following result:- From the stomach and contents, he obtained morphia equal to about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a grain of sulphate of morphia. [...] He concluded that a considerable dose of morphia had been taken within a few hours before death. [...] The bottle labeled “Sulphate of Morphia” contained 81½ Troy grains of that salt, although marked to contain 1/8 ounce avoirdupois, that is, 54½ Troy grains. The bottle, therefore, contained more than the original quantity sold, leaving the inference that the deceased may have been in the habit of replenishing this bottle. Such a fact would

³⁷⁸ Probably the Montreal inventor: “George Sweanor, of Montreal, claims to have discovered a method of dividing electric light by which it is adapted to household use. The inventor asserts he can supply light for domestic use at one-third the price of gas.” *Foreign News*. (1880, October 22). *The Poultney Journal*, p. 3. An accounts of one of his invenstions is given below.

³⁷⁹ From MORPHIA AND DRINK. (1879, April 17). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 4.

relieve the case of any suspicion of foul play on the one hand, or of intentional suicide on the other.

At the conclusion of this report the jury, after a short deliberation, returned the following verdict:

VERDICT

“That the said George H. Flint came to his death from suffocation, the result of intemperance, combined with the use of the drug morphia, which the said George H. Flint was in the habit of using.”

George Sweanor’s Electric Light Machine³⁸⁰ (Quebec, 1880)

The history of electricity is a brilliant record. It treats of a brilliant subject, is full of brilliant surprises, discoveries, inventions, successes and even brilliant failures. Hence it cannot be wondered that the study of its nature and of science in connection therewith has always been one of profound fascination. The more so because the study is, further, one of brilliant possibilities. He would be a bold prophet indeed who would dare to limit the progress of electric science for even the very near future. What future electric marvels could be more marvelous to the present generation than would the exciting wonders of electric science be to Theophrastus and Pliny, who are generally credited with having made the first steps in electrical discovery? It would be presumptuous to claim exceptional ingenuity for the present age in connection with electric science, because the present generation in this, as in everything scientific, reaps where it has not sown, and even the intellect of an Edison or a Bell would be at fault without the successes and the failure of the Franklin, Faraday, Davy, Volta, Wheatstone, etc., of a bygone day to assist them.

It is an open question which is the more remarkable [phenomenon] in the present day – our knowledge of electricity, or our ignorance of the same. Nevertheless, if exceptional ingenuity may not be proven, beyond all question exceptional progress in electric science may safely be claimed for the last few years. The reason is not far to seek, so long as glory was the only reward of untiring patience and research, the study was naturally somewhat limited, but since recent discoveries and inventions have revealed a tangible and practical utility in the matter, the study of electrics has become all but a universal craze.

From being sceptical on the subject the world had become credulous, and no wonder. Nothing emanating from Menlo Park would be too marvelous for credence; in fact, the prevalent feeling is something akin to impatience because Mr. Edison is not yet prepared to illuminate our residences at prices calculated to reduce gas “stock” at least a hundred per cent. Recent important discoveries have stimulated people to enquire into the study of electricity who formerly took no interest in it whatever. Thousands have fallen in love with the science at first sight, and recognizing in the electric spark created by an infinitesimal breach in the contact of the conductor of a

³⁸⁰ From THE ELECTRIC LIGHT. (1880, October 13). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 2.

current the germ of a golden possibility, have thrown themselves heart and soul into the pursuit of further knowledge concerning the coy science. [...]

We have it on no less than Imperial authority that the Anglo-Saxon race have a weakness for shop-keeping. We admit [to this] impeachment, for the scientific possibility and feasibility of obtaining an electric light was no sooner declared, than a cry was raised: "What about the cost? Will it pay?" The cry proved fatal to the light, for the time being, and once more the electricians were at work, seeking, this time, to devise some means to sub-divide the light. Pending the announcement of this important discovery gas stock has held its own. Mr. Edison has kept the scientific world on the tip toe of expectation the while, by proclaiming ever and anon "Eureka," but still the twilight lingers on.

Last evening a representative of THE STAR was invited to examine a new electric light machine, the invention of a Montreal engineer, Mr. George Sweanor. The invention was nothing less than a method of dividing or multiplying the electric current without appreciable diminution of strength in any branch of the so divided current. On entering the room where the experiments were being made, our representative found an ordinary dynamo electric machine calculated to feed a two thousand candle power lamp, which was supplying not one thousand candle lamps, but four such lamps simultaneously. The number of lamps in use, however, is no indication of the extent of the dividing or multiplying power of the invention. They were simply a proof, a convincing proof, that division of the current had been accomplished.

The essential part of the invention consists of a stationary cylinder to which the wires connecting with the lamps are attached. Each wire is attached to a separate metallic plate, the plates being insulated from each other by a perfect but infinitesimal breach. The current of electricity is conveyed to the metallic plates by means of a metallic brush attached to the dynamo machine and revolving at the rate of about two thousand five hundred revolutions per minute. The effect is that for the time the brush touches either of the plates, the whole strength of the current is thrown into that plate and the wire connected therewith. In the two thousand five hundredth part of a minute the brush again returns to the charge and the break in the current is imperceptible to the human eye. The divided current, having been conveyed through four positive wires to as many lamps, is returned through one negative wire to the dynamo machine to complete the circuit. The inventor claims that if the cylinder were furnished with a hundred plates instead of four, that the result secured would be a hundred currents without any appreciable diminution in the strength of either.

The invention has been patented in the United States and Canada by Messrs. Sweanor and Whitney, and one or more companies will be floated forthwith to work the patent. They claim that they will be able to furnish the electric light for domestic purposes at less than one-third the price of gas.

George C. Clary

“Melancholy suicide”³⁸¹ (Ontario, 1879)

Windsor, April 15 – On Sunday a well-dressed stranger registered at the American House as Chas. Davison, of Philadelphia, and was assigned room 57. On Sunday afternoon he called upon Dr. Coventry, stating that he was accustomed to the use of morphine, and was given a prescription for two grains in six powders, which he had dispensed at Leslie’s drug store.

Yesterday he deposited \$85 with the proprietor of the hotel. He retired about 10 o’clock, asking to be called at 7 o’clock this morning. When called he gave no answer, and when his room was entered by the proprietor about 9 o’clock this morning, the guest was found in a dying condition.

Dr. Casgrain³⁸² was called, and pronounced the man dying from a heavy dose of morphia. The usual antidotes, emetics and stimulants were immediately administered, but the poison had done its work, and the man died shortly before noon. On the bureau was found a drachm phial of morphia, from which about ten grains had been taken.

A couple of letters were also found, which show that the suicide had been planned with peculiar care. The larger letter, dated Sunday night, stated that the deceased was George C. Clary, of Birmingham, Erie County, Ohio, where his father, of the same name, lived. The deed he was about to commit [was meant] to prevent greater crime. He was a man of ungovernable appetite and passions, who had brought shame and untold trouble upon his family, his pure, noble wife and two sweet children. His life had been a failure, and he sought rest, so that no more crime and disgrace might arise through him. The letter, which is couched in touching language, makes deep appeals for pity and forgiveness, and is evidently the production of one suffering the deepest remorse. In the second letter, dated yesterday, he asked that the Masons will take charge of his body, and telegraph to his father. Should his father send instructions, he asks the Masons to bury³⁸³ him, and provide a good coffin and suit of black out of the \$85 deposited in the hotel safe.

“Haunted by crime”³⁸⁴ (Ontario, 1879)

Sunday morning last a neatly dressed man, wearing a full beard and apparently 38 or 40 years of age, stepped into the American House at Windsor and registered as “Charles Danson, Philadelphia.” He was assigned room 57 and retired

³⁸¹ From MELANCHOLY SUICIDE. (1879, April 16). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 3.

³⁸² Almost a decade later, Dr. Casgrain would run into issues surrounding the introduction of telephone service to Windsor, as detailed in an article transcribed below.

³⁸³ George Chandler Clary (1848 – 1879) is buried at Birmingham Cemetery in Birmingham, Ohio.

³⁸⁴ From HAUNTED BY CRIME. (1879, April 16). *Detroit Free Press*, p. 1.

to it, where he remained until late in the afternoon, when he went out. The stranger stayed at the hotel and retired about 10 o'clock Monday evening, leaving orders with the clerk to be called at 7 o'clock Tuesday morning. The night watch rapped on his door at the hour mentioned, but failed to arouse the occupant of room 57. About 9 o'clock landlord Barrett sent a bell boy to the room, and the boy reported that he could not awaken the sleeper.

SOMETHING WAS WRONG

Mr. Barrett being convinced that something was wrong inside, [he] told the boy to climb over the transome, which he did. The man was found sleeping heavily, and the boy, failing to wake him, became frightened and reported at the office. Dr. Casgrain was immediately sent for and arrived shortly afterward. Dr. Coventry was also called and emetics were administered, but it was soon found that the stranger was beyond the reach of medical skill, and the physicians and frightened household could only watch and wait for the death so much desired by the sleeper.

The patient breathed his last at 11 o'clock. That he was a suicide, letters on the table near the bed were proof, and the doctors soon discovered that the means used was the deadly drug to which so many unfortunates result – morphine.

MAKING ARRANGEMENTS

Sunday afternoon the stranger, whose real name was George C. Clary, visited Dr. Coventry and told him that he was in the habit of using morphine, and that he must have some. The doctor made a prescription for two grains divided into six powders. Of course these were not sufficient to produce death, but on the bureau was found a small phial of morphine, from which nearly ten grains had been taken, and in conjunction with this the suicide had swallowed the six powders.

Two open letters, written with pencil, were found upon the bureau, besides two or three others which were sealed and directed to persons in Ohio. One of the letters is dated Sunday, and reads as follows:

THE FIRST LETTER

Windsor, April 13, 1879 – My name is George C. Clary; my home and family are at Birmingham, Erie Co., O., U.S.A. My father, George W. Clary, also lives at Birmingham, O. The deed I am about to commit is to prevent a greater crime; my life has been a complete failure. I am possessed of passions and appetites that I am unable to control, and all through life I have caused all my friends untold trouble.

CRIMES GROWING GREATER

I find my sins or crimes growing greater, and these damnable passions of my flesh more hard to control; and to prevent greater crime I have resolved to seek rest in oblivion and death. I have a wife and two sweet children as pure and undefiled as any work of God, and my last prayer is that they will forgive me and that Heaven's choicest blessings may rest upon them through life. You who know a father's love, I claim your tenderest consideration in this my hour of greatest sorrow. And can you wonder that, knowing how unworthy I am to teach them or to be loved by them that I should seek to prevent them being deeper disgraced by me. And I think even now I can hear my little ones saying: "I want to kiss papa good night!" Oh, what sorrow! How I long once more to clasp them to my heart and bless them for their pure love.

But no, I cannot; I have brought too much disgrace upon them and I feel it my duty to terminate so miserable a life as mine.

A LEAP IN THE DARK

I am about to take a leap in the dark – to plunge in the great eternity. What there is in store for me I know not; but I feel that my spirit will be better freed from this tenement of clay that is so burdened with debasing and ungovernable passions.

UNGOVERNABLE PASSIONS

I ask forgiveness of all whom I have wronged, and ask God, our Heavenly Father, to forgive my sins and have mercy on my spirit, and give it a better place and more favorable opportunities to be better. I have wanted to do right, and have struggled to reform; but I could not and I am resigned to die. And now, farewell all who have loved me; forgive me and forget the bad and remember only my few good qualities. And my children – God care for them and bless them, for their poor heart-broken father could not do his duty. And my dear wife – she has been to me everything that a pure, noble minded woman could be; forgiving sin after sin and trying to lift me above my degrading passions, but all in vain! And now I must terminate this miserable life to prevent greater crime. And my mother, Heaven bless her! My last breath shall bless you all. Oh! my dear wife and children, to God's care and the terrible miseries of this cold, cruel world I leave you, and with my last breath I bless you and ask your forgiveness.

GEORGE C. CLARY.

[P.S.] Telegraph my father and ask what shall be done with my body. If he does not come or send for it, as the Masons to see it buried respectably. I leave \$85 to pay expenses with.

The second letter was written on Monday and reads as follows:

THE LAST REQUEST

Windsor, April 14, 1879

My last request is that the Masons take my remains in charge and telegraph my father, Geo. W. Clary, Birmingham, O., via Western Union line, care Wakeman Station, asking what shall be done with my remains: and in case he does not send for it or come for it, I wish the lodge of Masons here to see me decently buried and send [the] certificate of my death and burial to Gibson Lodge No. 301, Birmingham, O. Please send my few effects to my children at [Birmingham], and think of me as favorably and charitably as possible, for I have suffered much, and die hoping to be forgiven.

Fraternally,

GEO. C. CLARY.

On the back of this sheet was written:

To whom it may concern:

Please mail what letters I have prepared to mail.

GEORGE C. CLARY.

I have deposited in [the] safe in this hotel office \$85. Please get me a good coffin, and a suit of black clothes in which to bury me.

GEORGE C. CLARY.

Magistrate Bartlet says that Clary, the deceased, came to him on Monday afternoon and asked if a warrant could be issued for a man in Canada who had committed rape and embezzlement on the other side of the river. Mr. Bartlet told the man that a warrant could not be issued. "Then," said Clary, "I may as well go back, although I have traced the man there."

The landlord at the American House says that Clary did not take a drink while he was in the house, and that he neither looked nor acted like a drinking man.

Dr. Coventry noticed that Clary was somewhat excited and nervous on Sunday afternoon and consequently prescribed the morphine asked for in very small doses. What Clary's crime is can only be conjectured from the question he addressed to Magistrate Bartlet.

THE INQUEST

Coroner Casgrain summoned a jury and held an inquest yesterday afternoon, at which a verdict was rendered in accordance with the above circumstances. No disposition had been made of the remains at a late hour last night.

"The Windsor suicide"³⁸⁵ (Ontario, 1879)

George W. Clary, father of George C. Clary, who committed suicide in the American House at Windsor Tuesday, arrived from Birmingham, O., yesterday morning in company with G. H. Barnum, of Toledo. Mr. Clary is a fine looking old gentleman, well to do in the world, and his son's act has caused him great sorrow. "There was scarcely an excuse for it," said the father. "George got into a woman scrape, but it could have been easily settled."

The deceased was a commercial traveler for the tobacco house of W. S. Isherwood, of Toledo, and he traveled through the country with a wagon and team. In his early days he was rather wild, but for seven years past the father says he has been steady and has abstained from strong drinks.

He had a comfortable home with his wife and two children in Birmingham, O. He, however, entered into illicit relations with a German servant girl in his family, and when his wife accused the girl she charged Clary with having committed rape upon her. The charge was evidently a blackmailing operation, for although Clary confessed his dishonor he denied the allegation of the girl, and his wife forgave him. The girl threatened to arrest Clary, and as the scandal came out Clary bade his wife and children good-bye on Saturday last, and told them they would never see him again. He left his horses and wagon somewhere near Toledo and came on to this city, when he wrote a letter to his friends saying that when they received it he would be dead. The letter arrived at Birmingham two hours before the receipt of the telegram informing the family of the consummation of the unhappy man's intent.

Great Western Lodge No. 47, F. and A.M., of Windsor, sent a detachment of brothers of the mystic tie to accompany the remains to the Central depot yesterday

³⁸⁵ From THE WINDSOR SUICIDE. (1879, April 17). *Detroit Free Press*, p. 1.

afternoon, and the father and his friend left with the body on the 3:10 train for Toledo. Clary will be buried at Birmingham.

Dr. Casgrain and the Telephone³⁸⁶ (1898)

The telephone franchise is still in the air, and it has all the appearance of staying there. It is scarcely probable now that this council [Windsor's city council] will have the credit of disposing of the matter.

The obstructionists are remarkable either for their luck or expedient, for each recurring meeting seems to furnish them with a further pretext for hindering a settlement. Last evening there appeared to be no less than two disturbing elements, and a deputation from the local Surgical and Medical association were the authors of one of them. At an early stage of the proceedings Drs. Casgrain, Coventry, Cruickshank, Aikman, Bell and Prouse filed into the chamber and took their seats with the solemn air of men who had come to hold an autopsy. Dr. Coventry was asked to state the reason of their appearance, so far of their orbit, and he did so, making the extraordinary claim that the new schedule of rates submitted by the Bell Telephone Co. discriminated against the medical profession, inasmuch as it placed them in the commercial class, whereas they ought to be in the house class. The argument advanced was that under the old schedule, which charged business men \$30, the doctors had paid only \$25. To the reasonable mind this would appear to have been a species of discrimination in favor of the doctors and against the commercial men, but the doctors do not so regard it. When a schedule was adopted which wiped out this apparent inequality, the doctors at once had a grievance, and determined on a public ventilation of it. Dr. Coventry apologized for what he described as a "Coxey" invasion, and said the Medical association had no desire to delay a settlement of the telephone question. He understood, he said, that under the new arrangements there were rates running as low as \$10.

Dr. Casgrain was asked to speak and he showed no maiden hesitancy in accepting the invitation. He regarded the new schedule as a kind of persecution and denounced the Windsor telephone service as the worst in the country.

Mr. Sutherland, the legal representative of the Bell Co., endeavored to convince the doctors that their use of the telephone was as much of a business use as was that of a druggist, merchant or lawyer; it was never fair for the doctors to get a cheaper rate, and the doctors of no other town in the Dominion were so favored. Not only do doctors use the wire during the day, but also at night, when men in other businesses are sleeping. Much more to the same purpose did Mr. Sutherland say, but the doctors hardened their hearts and would not hearken with any degree of patience to his logic.

Dr. Aikman also got up and stated the grievance of the medical men.

"Does anybody get a telephone for ten dollars?" asked one doctor.

"Yes," said a voice, "the newspapers do."

³⁸⁶ From PAST FINDING OUT. (1898, November 22). *Evening Record* (Windsor), p. 4.

“Ah,” groaned Dr. Coventry.

“Ah,” groaned the rest of the delegation in sonorous and sympathetic chorus.

“As that comes in my department,” said Mr. Scott of the Bell, “I will explain it. The newspapers pay \$10 in cash and the rest in printing.”

“Couldn’t you take some pills in trade?” asked Dr. Coventry.

“Well,” replied Mr. Scott, “I used to consume pills, but one day I decided to quit, and now you see that I have become sleek and well favored by the deprivation.”

The laugh was at first on Scott, but now it was very much on Coventry.

“I know,” said Dr. Casgrain, “that Mr. Robins, of Walkerville, gets a second telephone in his house for \$10, and you charge me \$50 for two.”

“You are wrong,” said Local Manager Eckert; “Mr. Robins pays \$50.”

“I know better,” said the doctor. “He pays \$35.”

“I say he pays \$50,” said Mr. Eckert, with a quiet insistence that closed the argument.

Mr. Sutherland expressed a wish to know why a telephone which is in the business category should be classed as a house phone, and his remarks closed this very diverting episode, which had lent a pleasing variety to the usually uneventful proceedings.

Peter William Near

“Sad case of poisoning”³⁸⁷ (Quebec, 1880)

A very sad case of poisoning occurred last evening, and which, by the time the public read this notice, may have resulted in depriving three young children of their father and a wife of her husband and only support.

At about 6 o'clock yesterday evening a man was seen to stagger and fall on one of the streets leading to the Windsor Hotel, [Montreal]. At first it appeared to those who witnessed it an ordinary case of drunkenness. The helpless man was put into a sleigh which happened to pass at that moment, and driven down to the Chaboillez Square Police Station. On examination at the station the police discovered that he was not only intoxicated, but moreover seriously ill.

Medical aid was at once summoned, and the patient removed to Notre Dame Hospital. Drs. Rottot³⁸⁸, Brousseau, and House Surgeon Desrosiers³⁸⁹ were soon in attendance, and discovered that the man's life was nearly at an end. Everything that science could suggest was brought into requisition to save [him], but, seemingly, without success, as the man remained senseless.

The victim is named Peter William Near³⁹⁰, aged 36, residing at 52 Fort street, and is a married man with a family of three children. He is an American, and has been residing in Montreal for one year, and has been occupied as a book-keeper and insurance agent. In conversation with his wife, who seemed unconsolable, we learned that he was in the habit of taking morphine, and that yesterday, being under the influence of liquor, he took an overdose, some five grains. Near has always lived on good terms with his wife since the time of their union, some sixteen years ago, and it is in every way probable that the deed was committed by mere accident, and not otherwise. At one o'clock this morning the patient was still insensible, so much so that the electric battery was nearly without any effect on him. No hopes were entertained of his recovery.

LATER

The unfortunate man died between half-past one and two o'clock.

³⁸⁷ From SAD CASE OF POISONING. (1880, November 20). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 5.

³⁸⁸ “ROTTOT JEAN PHILIPPE, M.D., physician and surgeon, president Société de Construction St Jacques, 10½ St James, surgery 100 Berri, h 758 St Catherine”. *Lovell's Montreal Directory* for 1880-1881.

³⁸⁹ “DESROSIERS H. E., M.D., physician and surgeon, house surgeon Notre Dame hospital, 221 St Lawrence”. *Ibid.*

³⁹⁰ “Near P. W., bookkeeper, 49 Fort”. *Ibid.*

“The poisoning case”³⁹¹ (Quebec, 1880)

The inquest on the body of Peter William Near, the unfortunate victim of an overdose of morphine, who expired at the Notre Dame Hospital, was opened at that place at 10 a.m. on Saturday, by Mr. Coroner Jones.

The following jury were empanelled:- Euclide Matthieu, foreman; Gilbert Wanless³⁹², P. Camille Brosseau, Samuel Richard Clendinneng, Antoine Racicot, Olivier J. Munday, Edouard Lefebvre, Gilbert Marcelais, Samuel S. St. Jean, Chas. Lamoureux, Alfred Dion, Joseph Bolduc *dit* Germain, Henry Flannagan, Wm. Crawford and James Matthewson³⁹³.

Dr. Rottot and the House Surgeon Desrosiers, who attended the deceased, were requested to make a *post mortem* examination, and report at the next sitting of the *enquete*, which takes place this morning.

To the particulars already given, we may add that Near formerly resided in Watertown, N. Y., which he left for this city, being, it is said, employed for some time in Mr. W. Clendinneng’s³⁹⁴ office.

“The inquest”³⁹⁵ (Quebec, 1880)

The inquest on the body of Peter William Near, which was adjourned on Saturday for a *post mortem* examination, was resumed yesterday morning at the Hospital of Notre Dame.

Alphonse Gauvreau, carter, deposed that on Friday at 5 p.m. he saw [the] deceased on Dorchester street, near Stanley, being supported by an old man, and took him to Chaboillez Square police station.

The clerk at the Windsor Hotel drug store deposed to selling morphia to [the] deceased at 5 o’clock on Friday evening. [The] deceased purchased two packages, one containing 10, the other 5 grains. Before leaving the store, [the] deceased opened one packet and took a portion of its contents. He had been in the habit of purchasing morphia there for the last twelve months, the first time bringing a certificate from a physician in the States. [The] deceased was perfectly sober on Friday evening and suffering great pain.

Sergeant Thos. Hilton³⁹⁶ said [the] deceased was brought to Chaboillez Square police station at 5:30 p.m. on Friday; he spoke to [the] deceased, but obtained no

³⁹¹ From THE POISONING CASE. (1880, November 22). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 5.

³⁹² “WANLESS GILBERT, trussmaker and dealer in fancy goods, paper hangings, &c., 43 Notre Dame”. *Lovell’s Montreal Directory* for 1880-1881.

³⁹³ Possibly “MATHEWSON J. A., Importer and Wholesale GROCER, 202 McGill, h 625 Sherbrooke near St Famille”. *Ibid*.

³⁹⁴ “CLENDINNENG WILLIAM, founder and manufacturer of stoves, builders’ and general castings, iron bedstands, &c., cor Craig and Victoria sq and 532 Craig; works 145 to 179 William, h 731 Lagauchetière cor St Monique”. *Ibid*.

³⁹⁵ From THE POISONING CASE. (1880, November 23). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 3.

³⁹⁶ “Hilton Ths., acting police sergeant No. 6 Station, 17 Chaboillez sq, h 19 Mayor”. *Lovell’s Montreal Directory* for 1880-1881.

answer. He breathed very heavily, and appeared to be suffering from poison. [The] witness sent for Drs. Carriere and Leduc, and searching [the] deceased found from his pocket book that he lived at 49 Fort street, to which place he sent for [the] deceased's wife. He found also two packages of morphia, and that [the] deceased had been used to buy drugs at the Windsor drug store, and he sent a constable there to see if the clerk had sold any that evening. It was discovered that from the 5-grain package three grains were missing. By order of one of the doctors, [the] deceased was put to bed and every means used to counteract the influence of the poison, six men being employed to keep him awake, &c. At 8.30 he was sent to Notre Dame Hospital.

Lucy Rowe, wife of [the] deceased, deposed that her husband had been used to take morphia for 8 or 10 years. She did not know that he was suffering from any disease, and he was not under medical treatment. He used to take the morphia in water. He left home on Friday morning at about 11 o'clock quite sober, and she did not see him again 'till she saw him in the evening at the Chaboillez Square Police Station, when he was unconscious. He had lived in Montreal a little more than a year, having previously resided in New York and Watertown³⁹⁷. In Montreal he had been employed by Mr. McGibbon, Mr. Peterson and Mr. Clendining as an accountant. They had three children, aged 9, 15 and 16. [The] deceased used to drink to excess occasionally. He had been out of employment a week or two, and was rather despondent.

Dr. Rottot deposed that he had made a *post mortem* examination with Dr. Desrosier, and found that [the] deceased died from congestion of the lungs and brain. This might be caused by morphia, alcohol, or naturally, without any particular agent. The stomach had not been analysed, as the discovery of three grains of morphia there, which it proved had been taken, would not certainly decide the cause of death, as a person regularly accustomed to take morphia might take three grains without serious injury, though to another person one grain might cause death; but even with [the] deceased, three grains might have caused death, if taken when in a weak state.

Dr. Desrosier confirmed the evidence of Dr. Rottot as to the *post mortem* examination, and said when he saw the deceased on Friday night he appeared to be suffering from narcotic [intoxication]. He did not smell of liquor. [The] deceased expired at 1.35 on Saturday morning.

The jury returned a verdict that "Peter William Near came to his death from congestion of the lungs and brain, after taking, by mistake, an overdose of morphia."

³⁹⁷ Peter Near deposed to that effect in regard to 'The Goff Case', in Montreal, in 1878. A report of his testimony is transcribed below, along with additional articles for context.

The Canada Agricultural Insurance Company³⁹⁸ (1877)

John William Near worked as a book-keeper for a Watertown insurer closely tied to this insurance company, which entered liquidation³⁹⁹ in December of 1877. He would later testify regarding the conduct of E. H. Goff, as transcribed in another article below.

HEAD OFFICE
180 ST. JAMES STREET, MONTREAL.
CAPITAL - \$1,000,000.

OFFICERS

WM. ANGUS, President.

A. DESJARDINS, M. P., Vice-President.

EDWARD H. GOFF, Managing Director and Secretary.

J. H. SMITH, Chief Inspector.

J. P. CONSTABLE, Assistant Secretary.

ADVANTAGES OFFERED

It is confined by its Charter to insure nothing more hazardous than Farm Property and Residences.

It pays all losses caused by fire or damage done by lightning, whether fire ensues or not.

It insures Live Stock against death by lightning, either in the building or on the premises of the assured.

It refuses Mills, Shops, Tanneries, Stores, Hotels and other extra hazardous property, and makes a specialty of Farm Property and Dwellings. It is not subject to heavy losses by great conflagrations, and affords a certain guarantee to those it insures.

It is a purely Canadian Institution, its business is confined to the Dominion, and is under the management of men who have devoted many years to this peculiar branch of insurance and understand thoroughly the requirements of the Farmers as a class.

N. B. – People desiring Insurance in this Company should be careful about giving their risks to Agents of *rival Companies*, who claim the Company they represent to be the same as ours. We hear of a great deal of this kind of dishonesty being practiced on the public.

³⁹⁸ From CANADA AGRICULTURAL INSURANCE COMPANY [Advertisement]. (1877, January 24). *The Montreal Gazette*, p. 4.

³⁹⁹ “The Canada Agricultural Insurance Company has gone into liquidation. The insolvency of the President, Wm. Angus, is said to have precipitated the action.” MISCELLANEOUS. (1877, December 20). *Holton Recorder*, p. 2.

Insurance Supervision⁴⁰⁰ (1877)

The Insurance Department at Ottawa cost the country a good deal of money when the legislation which brought it about, and the annual expenditure to sustain it, are considered. The public expected that it would be a wise expenditure, that it would serve to protect insurers against loss by the failure of Insurance Companies. Now that we are from time to time becoming accustomed to the shocks which the failure of Canadian Insurance Companies produce, the question might well be asked, what is the Department about, that it gives insurers no warning till too late?

Taking the last failure as an example – the Canada Agricultural – the public had no official warning from Ottawa as to its true condition. Insurances were being offered by the [company] with the usual freedom up to the very hour the public were made aware of its condition.

Probably the Government only designed that the Insurance Superintendent was to collect statistics given to him by the officers of each company, and publish the same annually to lay before Parliament and for distribution to the insurance companies and agents, without interfering in any manner with the general make-up or management of any particular company; if so, the Government must now see that something more real than this will be necessary. Thousands of capitalists in Canada are the poorer to-day for having the patriotism to lend their hard earnings in helping to build up Canadian insurance companies, which would not have been the case if the duties of the superintendent permitted of a thorough overhauling of a company, not founded or conducted upon proper principles.

The disasters which have recently befallen Canadian insurance companies are to be deplored in another sense than that in which the insured merely are interested. Canadian capitalists viewing the sending away of several millions of dollars annually out of the country to enrich the stockholders of foreign insurance companies, began to invest in the capital stock of home companies, with the view of sharing in the profits arising from the business transacted in Canada, so much so that quite a number of new insurance companies were chartered. The sudden collapse, however, of more than one of these new companies, while entailing a loss more or less upon the insured, has effected a far greater, a more far reaching loss by creating a widely diffused lack of confidence amongst the stockholders in Canadian companies; thereby retarding in a most serious manner the growth and development of home companies, besides affecting the reputation of Canadian interests generally.

In view of the serious damage which the failure of a Canadian Insurance Company may inflict upon the country, the Government supervision ought to be more effective, so as to provide a preventive. A supervision that allows a large corporation to collapse like the burst of a thunder-clap is not the kind of supervision that this country should have.

⁴⁰⁰ From CANADIAN. (1877, December 27). Insurance Supervision. *The Star* (Montreal), p. 1.

Peter Near and the Goff Case⁴⁰¹ (1878)

The deposition of Mr. P. W. Near taken in this case is as follows, and the cross-examination follows:-

[TESTIMONY OF PETER W. NEAR]

I live at Watertown, Jefferson county, in the State of New York. For the past few years I have been bookkeeper of an incorporated company having its head office at Watertown, known as the Canada Agricultural Insurance Company. I know the accused, Edward H. Goff, and he was in the employ of the said company four or five years as Manager or Agent for the Province of Quebec. He had to account to the company at certain fixed rates, and all he made over these rates was in his own profit. He also had an allowance for stationery and advertising.

On the 1st of January, 1872, the above terms were entered into, as a modification of the previously existing connection. This connection continued until the Canada Agricultural Insurance Co. agreed to take the business of the Canada Agricultural Insurance Company of Watertown, in accordance with an agreement entered into between the two Companies on the 25th of April, 1874.

Mr. Goff sent in his reports for the months of January and February, 1874, in the regular manner. He also sent the applications for insurances taken in the month of the following March, but failed to send in a report of the same. I wrote to Goff several times, demanding a report, but received no reply. I then explained the affair to the manager of our office, and requested him to demand a report from Mr. Goff; he did so, and in reply we received a statement of accounts, leaving out the business of the said month of March now produced in paper "S," and taking credit for various items, which offset his previous indebtedness, ignoring the March business, with the exception of \$16.16, for which he enclosed his cheque.

I refused to accept his statement of account, as I made it, and the said cheque in settlement, and returned him his cheque, and sent him a statement of the account as I made it, including the \$1,500 March business. The matter was then put before the executive committee of our company, and I was appointed a committee, in connection with one of the secretaries, to go to Montreal and get a settlement with Mr. Goff.

I came to Montreal with Dr. M. H. Stevens, assistant secretary of the company, in the early part of November, 1871. We demanded of Mr. Goff a settlement of the account, which included the March premiums, as from the total of the applications sent from his office he claimed as an offset to this charge against him that he transferred the business of the month of March to the new company, the Canada Agricultural, and that he had issued their policies for the notes, and consequently our company was not liable for any losses on that month's business; and that the forwarding of the application for insurance written in the month of March to the Watertown office was a mistake of one of the clerks, who did not understand the nature of the matter. This statement appears in the letter of the said Goff, dated

⁴⁰¹ From THE GOFF CASE. (1878, August 1). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 4.

October 20, 1874, which letter is filed as paper "R" in another proceeding before the Court.

On this statement of Mr. Goff the other member of the committee was disposed to settle on the basis that Mr. Goff claimed. I had, however, obtained information in the office from Mr. Goff's clerks, that no policies had been issued by the new Company until about the first of the preceding June. I proceeded to find out if the policies issued in March were issued by the Watertown Company or by the Canada Agricultural Assurance Company, and found that they had been issued and that they were all Watertown policies.

We then explained to Mr. Goff that we had found out that the Watertown Company was liable for any losses that might arise from the March business, as we found our policies had been issued, and demanded of Mr. Goff the payment of the March premiums. He then excused his former statement, that the new Company's policies had been issued, by saying he had given notice to have all our Company's policies taken up, and the policies of the new Company substituted, and he supposed that it had been done.

We proceeded then to settle on the basis that the March premiums belonged to the Watertown Company. Mr. Goff claimed that he had represented to the new Company that the March premiums should belong to them, and that if he paid us for them in full it would create trouble between him and the company, or to that effect, and desired that we should make a discount. He also claimed certain counter charges, and that a note of one Smiley for \$500 had been a loss to him in consequence of its not having been forwarded in time. We therefore effected a settlement on the basis of discounting half the March premiums, provided he retained the Smiley note, letting it stand against him as a charge in the account, as shown in our books, and made no further claim for credit from our company.

On the 8th November, 1874, a settlement was effected on that basis. At the time said settlement was effected with Goff, I had the statement with me, now produced as the paper "B," and I added to this statement, in his presence, the various additional credits which were allowed to him. This paper is in exactly the same condition as when we closed the interview, and it shows that we reduced our claim on the March premiums by \$752.56 and fixed the final balance due by Goff, \$3,805.88.

Mr. Goff, on the 11th of November, 1874, wrote a letter in his own handwriting, and signed by him, addressed to, and in due course received, by our office. This letter I now produce as paper "C;" the pencil memoranda thereon are in my handwriting. The settlement therein spoken of is the settlement referred to, and said balance of \$3,805.88 was arraigned to be, and in fact [was] paid as described in this letter.

The only sum received by our office, for the March premiums from Goff or any other source, was \$791.53. During all these negotiations it was the pretension of Mr. Goff that the Canada Agricultural Insurance Company was to receive the benefit of the month's business in dispute, and that this discount was substantially made in their interest, and to enable him to account more easily to his directors than if he had paid over the full amount. I had no idea it was for his personal benefit. In consequence of the agreement between the two companies to which I refer to, two policies were issued

by the Canadian Agricultural Insurance Company in favor of the Watertown Company, copies of which, excluding the conditions, I file as papers "D," [and] "E."

[CROSS-EXAMINATION OF PETER W. NEAR]

This case was continued yesterday morning, when Peter William Near was cross-examined⁴⁰² as follows:-

Q – You state in your examination in chief that Mr. Goff was in the employ of the Agricultural Insurance Company of Watertown. Please state if you understood him to have been in the employ of the said company after January the 1st, 1872.

A – I understood that you were in the employ of the company at that date, and after that as agent and manager.

Q – Have you a copy of the said agreement entered into between the Agricultural Insurance Co., of Watertown, and Mr. Goff? If so, please refer to the clause in it by which he was held to be in the employ.

A – The said clause commences as follows: "The said party of the first part hereby appoints the said party of the second part sole agent and manager of the business done by the said Agricultural Insurance Co.," etc.

Q – Is it not true that Mr. Goff simply entered into an agreement with the Watertown Co., by which he agreed to pay the company a certain fixed rate of premium for carrying his risks, and managed all the details of the business independent of the said company?

A – It is not true. The reports of the Manager Goff were subject to the Home Office.

Q – Is it not true that Mr. Goff had exclusive control and management of his own business under said contract, in accordance with the first condition of the said agreement, which reads as follows: "The said party of the second part (meaning Mr. Goff) to have the exclusive appointment and control of all sub-agencies, it being hereby agreed that all agencies are to communicate and report all the business and monies received, direct to the said party of the second part, at his office in Montreal?"

A – Yes, but it is not true that you had exclusive control.

Q – Did the said Watertown Company control Mr. Goff's business in any other manner, than accepting or rejecting the risks which he sent them, and the collection of the premiums he was to pay?

A – Yes; we also controlled Mr. Goff's business in the manner of expense.

Q – Refer to said agreement, and say if there is any clause in it making a modification of any previous agreement, and state if it is not, according to its own reading, without any reference whatever to any other.

A – Yes, it is an independent agreement, without any reference to any other. In using the word "modification" in my examination, I meant that it was a change of previous existing agreements.

Q – State how long the agreement of January first remained in force.

A – It continued in force as long as Goff did business for the Watertown Company.

⁴⁰² Apparently by E. H. Goff, presumably acting as his own counsel.

Q – Was it not continued until the notarial agreement mentioned in your examination in chief, under date of “April 25th, 1874,” which was to come into force the May 1st following, which was entered into between the Canada Agricultural Insurance Co. and the Watertown Co.?

A – It was continued because the April premiums were allowed to the Canada Agricultural Insurance Co. I have no personal knowledge of the contract being canceled.

Q – Did the Watertown Company have any transactions whatever with the Canada Agricultural Co., prior to the said agreement of April 25th, 1874, to re-insure the Canadian risks of the Watertown Company?

A – Not that I am aware, but they actually took the business from the 1st of April.

Q – Is it not true that the Watertown Company held Mr. Goff responsible, and him only, under his agreement with them for the aforesaid fixed rate of premium until the Canada Agricultural commenced business?

A – No; it is not true, for they held Mr. Goff and his bondsmen.

Q – Had he not the right to transact business under the said agreement until it was canceled?

A – There is no question about that, to my mind.

Q – Have you any personal knowledge that the said contract was ever canceled?

A – I have not.

Q – Had the Watertown Company any legal claim against the Canada Agricultural Insurance Co. for premiums previous to the 1st of May, 1874?

A – In my judgment, I think they had. When Dr. Stevens and myself settled with Mr. Goff, it was claimed by Mr. Goff that the March business should go to the Canada Agricultural, and there was no dispute nor any question raised but what the April business was to go to the new company. Although this matter was not mentioned in the agreement, it was understood privately between the two managers of the company.

Q – Please state by whom Mr. Goff’s account was settled with the Watertown Company, and how [it was] paid.

A – Mr. Goff settled the account and paid in \$55.88 in money to Dr. Stevens, and gave his note for \$1,000 at three months, and another note for \$2,000, payable in six months, and sent endorsed in the letter marked “C” a gold draft on New York for \$748.13, which with the exchange, \$1.87, making together \$750, settled the indebtedness, as per [the] agreement between Dr. Stevens and Mr. Goff.

Q – Please state if the notes and checks were not given by Goff personally, and afterwards paid in full to the satisfaction of the Watertown Company.

A – They were.

Q – In reducing the claim of your Company against Mr. Goff, \$752.56, was it not an allowance made him personally as [a] compromise in the disputed account?

A – I did not so understand it.

Q – Please state to whom the premiums were charged in this disputed account in the books of the Watertown Company.

A – To Mr. Goff, as our agent; and we looked to him for payment.

Q – Please state if Mr. Goff's transaction with the Canada Agricultural Insurance Company was anything in which the Watertown Company was interested.

A – Not anything; only with the exception of the business of last year, personally, had anything to do with it.

Q – Please state if Mr. Goff did not pay the Watertown Company in full for all claims rising out of contract and receipt in full of all demands against him from Dr. Stevens or the settlement of [the] balance [of] \$3,805.88.

A – We settled the account. I have no knowledge of Dr. Stevens giving a receipt.

Q – In speaking of [a] discount allowed Mr. Goff, in the settlement of March premiums, you say, "I had no idea it was for his personal benefit." Did you consider he was conducting business for pleasure or profit?

A – For profit.

Q – You say there was a misunderstanding about the issue of the Watertown policies for March 1874. Please state how long Watertown policies were issued after March.

A – Canada Agricultural issued a three months' policy for all policies issued by the Watertown Company from May 1st to July, 1874.

Q – Refer to [this] letter of said Dr. Stevens, and the date of May 12, 1874, and say if Watertown policies were not issued until July 1st following, by his special request, which I now style as paper "G."

A – They were.

Q – Is it not true that while conducting business under said agreement Mr. Goff assumed all risk of agencies, losses, commissions to agents, salaries to agents and clerks in his employ?

A – It is true.

Re-examined – While our Company was doing business in Canada, we had the deposit required by statute and had our license from [the] Government to do business here.

The case was then adjourned⁴⁰³ until 10 o'clock today.

⁴⁰³ Mr. Goff eventually ran away to Boston. "Judgment in this case was to have been rendered yesterday afternoon by Mr. Desnoyers, but neither Mr. Goff nor his lawyer put in an appearance." THE GOFF CASE. (1878, September 28). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 4. "It is said that E. H. Goff, the absconded insurance agent, has turned up in Boston. He has written to a friend in this city [Montreal] for aid, saying that he was completely 'busted.'" THE ABSCONDED GOFF. (1878, December 30). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 4. Once in Boston, he soon found a new line of business: "Mr. E. H. Goff and Gen. M. T. Donohoe [sic.] have organized a Bureau in Boston for the purpose of promoting settlement in the West." NEW ENGLAND EMIGRATION BUREAU. (1879, March 18). *The Star* (Montreal), p. 3. A Kansas newspaper referred to him as "E. H. Goff, north-eastern agent of the C. B. U. P., and of the firm of Goff & Donahue, New England Emigrant office, Boston". *Daily Capital* (Topeka), p. 4.

Mrs. Selig

“Pulled thirteen teeth”⁴⁰⁴ (Nova Scotia, 1888)

Halifax, Sept. 24 – A story of horrible cruelty comes from the Malaga mines. A woman named Selig went to a dentist to have her thirteen teeth extracted. The doctor put her under the influence of ether, but by the time he had drawn three teeth she recovered consciousness and told him to desist. He refused and went on extracting her teeth, while the woman was held down by her husband. After the whole thirteen had been pulled the woman became insensible and died two hours later.

“The sad fate of Mrs. Selig”⁴⁰⁵ (Nova Scotia, 1888)

The inquest on the exhumed body of Mrs. William Selig⁴⁰⁶, at Caledonia corner, Queens [County], resulted in the recital of a sad narrative of the death of that lady. The inquest was held by Dr. Harlow, the *post mortem* was made by Dr. Jacques, and the stomach is to be analysed by Dr. Lawson. John Naylor watched by the case for S.P.C.

In the course of his evidence, William Selig, husband of the deceased, said:

“I asked Dr. Andrews⁴⁰⁷ if he thought my wife was strong enough to take ether. He replied, ‘It won’t hurt her to take ether.’ While he was preparing a piece of paste board in the shape of a funnel, which he afterwards used to administer the ether, I again asked if it would hurt my wife to take ether. He answered, ‘No, but I would rather take her teeth out without the ether.’ He told me to hold my wife’s hands. I stood on the left side of my wife, a little to the front, and took hold of her wrists so that they could turn in my hands. It was my wife’s wish to take the ether. She struggled very hard before she went under it or went to sleep. She was perfectly under its influence before Dr. Andrews began to extract the teeth. I think he had about

⁴⁰⁴ From PULLED THIRTEEN TEETH. (1888, September 26). *Victoria Daily Times*, p. 1.

⁴⁰⁵ From THE SAD FATE OF MRS. SELIG. (1888, October 5). *Morning Herald* (Halifax), p. 3.

⁴⁰⁶ Probably Mary Hannah Selig, nee Cameron (b. 1853), wife of William Selig (1842 – 1925), who re-married in 1889.

⁴⁰⁷ Dr. Charles Tremaine Andrews (1842 – 1896). “Dr. Andrews was at one time inspector of schools for Queens county and discharged his duties with much credit. His growing practice, however, compelled him to resign the inspectorship and devote his whole attention to his profession. He resided for many years in Caledonia, but his ability as a physician was so well established that he was called all over the counties of Queens and Lunenburg. Latterly the doctor made this town his headquarters, and his services were sought far and wide. Dr. Andrews was a natural born healer of men. Medicine was his forte, and his success, in his palmy days, was prodigious. Many a poor and afflicted family will bless his name for gratuitous attendance and nursing. While charitable and easy, to positive carelessness, in his charges for professional work, he exacted every penny that was due him from those whom he believed were trying to evade payment of just debts.” DEATH OF DR. ANDREWS. (1896, March 19). *Halifax Herald*, p. 8.

seven out when she began to struggle. About that time she said, 'I am awake now. Don't take any more teeth out.'

DON'T TAKE ANY MORE TEETH OUT

"I then let go of her hands. The doctor told me to hold her hands again. I did so and I think he took out two or three more teeth. When he told me to take hold of her hands at this time he said, 'Damn it, hold her hands,' in an angry tone, and then in a mild tone, 'if you please.' After he had taken out these two or three teeth my wife showed him with her finger where there were more teeth or parts of teeth to come out. He took out two pieces. My wife said there was still one back tooth remaining. The doctor felt and said that there was not. She then said her gums hurt her. The doctor said, 'I think I can give you something to ease the pain.' He then got a small case like a pocket book, from which he took an instrument composed of glass and metal. Water and a teaspoon were brought and he poured some of the contents of a small glass bottle into a teaspoonful of water. What he took from the bottle appeared to be a white powder. He then took some of the water out of the spoon, put it into the instrument, ran the needle into my wife's left arm and injected the fluid. This operation he repeated. I forgot to say that when the doctor said he could give her something to ease the pain, he hesitated and said, 'Why do I have it if I don't use it?'

WHY DO I HAVE IT IF I DON'T USE IT?

"This was before he injected the liquid. With the exception of complaining about the soreness of her mouth, my wife was perfectly sensible and all right. When the doctor ran the needle into her arm, she said, 'Is there no other place you can hurt me?' Just before the doctor injected the first fluid I said, 'Doctor, do you think that will hurt her?' He said, 'No; it is only to ease the pain.' My wife nor I did not ask the doctor to give her anything to ease the pain. The doctor never said at this time that he feared there was an internal hemorrhage.

"In about fifteen minutes my wife went into the bedroom and lay down. In about ten minutes she felt sleepy. I told [the] doctor and he said to let her go to sleep. In about an hour after the injection was given she went to sleep. After she had been sleeping a while she began to sweat about the temples and forehead and commenced to sigh – a heavy sigh. The moaning and sighing increased and I called the doctor's attention. He said she was weak. The sighing and moaning continued and about 9 o'clock the doctor went into the bedroom and tried to wake her, but could not. He shook her, then asked me for a pin, saying he wanted to prick her flesh so as to arouse her. I gave him a needle and saw him have the hand with it against my wife's arm, and [I] suppose he was pricking the arm. He went to look for ammonia, as he said, but had none and asked me if I had any. I said no, but sent out and got part of a bottle of Minard's liniment, which has a great deal of ammonia in it. The doctor applied it by rubbing it across the face under her nose. It had no effect except that the moaning became louder.

THE MOANING BECAME LOUDER

"The doctor was to and fro from the kitchen to the bedroom until about 11 o'clock, when the moaning ceased. The doctor said, 'She is all right now.' She was still

laying unconscious, and breathing easy. The doctor said, 'We can go to bed now; when she wakes up she will be as bright as a button. The doctor then went to bed upstairs.

"My wife continued to be in the same state till about 2.30 next morning, when I noticed a change. She gasped. I felt her pulse and found it weak. I ran upstairs and told the doctor. He said he would be right down. I went down ahead of him. When I got to the bedroom I went over to the bed, looked at my wife and found she was not breathing and was dead. The doctor was right after me and I said to him, 'My God, doctor, Minnie is dead!' He replied, 'Oh, no!' felt her pulse and said, 'Well, I believe she is.' The doctor then dressed himself and left the house about 3 o'clock, immediately after knowing that she was dead. I went out and got the assistance of the neighbors. When I called the doctor he listened at her heart and said, 'It is too bad.' He did not try to resuscitate her.

To Mr. Naylor – "When the doctor was taking out my wife's teeth I said, 'Oh, doctor.' He said sympathy and extracting teeth don't go together. It was at this time that I said [to the] doctor, 'Don't be so rough'. Before the doctor gave my wife ether he did not examine her lungs or heart in any way. Dr. Andrews has been attending my wife more or less for the past two years. He attended her for lung trouble – bleeding of the lungs. I did not hear the doctor tell my wife that she was not in a fit state to take ether, and I do not know of his ever having done so. I never heard that he had told her that."

To the jury – "My wife, at the time that the teeth were extracted, was apparently in better health than I had seen her for three years past."

The following letter was read and put in as evidence:

Dublin Shore, Sept. 18th, 1888.

Mr. Selig, Sir – No one person sympathizes with you more than I do, because I always regarded you as one of my best friends and would do more for you than for any man that I know. Now to suppose that I would do anything to injure you would be to suppose that I was a most ungrateful and selfish man. You know better than that, because you know how I have used you in years past. Now, to think that the greatest injury and wrong that I ever suffered should come from your house; it is too much to bear. You know I would not injure you. You know that I would do more for you than for any other doctor in the county; I always spared you, and you know it.

TO HAVE MY REPUTATION RUINED

Now to have my reputation ruined from your house – it is too hard. I told your wife while you were at your work that she was not fit to take ether – that she had serious trouble with her lungs. She replied that she was determined not to have her teeth out without ether – that she had taken ether and was not afraid of it. I was afraid, and all the time I was preparing to give her ether I was cross at myself for doing what I felt was risky just to please my patients. I felt that I was doing wrong; still I did not give a full portion of ether because she came out of it before the teeth were all out, but I am afraid she struggled too hard and ruptured some lung blood vessel and bled internally because she sank so fast and gradually, and I know that I gave her nothing to produce it. Why, man, I will take before your eyes six times as much as I gave your wife and it will have no effect.

SHE SHOULD NOT HAVE TAKEN ANY

If your wife took too much of anything, it was ether, because she should not have taken any, and I tried to persuade her to do without it, but she was obstinate and I wanted to please and satisfy her and do all I could for you. Now I get my pay for it – my reputation ruined by false reports that could have come from no one but yourself. I told you that I gave something to counteract the effects of the ether, but I could not foresee an injury or probable rupture of a lung blood vessel during her struggle with you. I cannot account for her sinking in any other way. Do you suppose for one moment that I do not know the dose to give a patient at this time of life? Where have I been all this time? Death comes in many different ways, and when a lung is gone, what can you expect but a rupture of a lung blood vessel? How much more charitable and Christian-like to attribute her death to a cause like that, than to blame me for her death.

I GAVE NO DOSE STRONG ENOUGH TO KILL, SO HELP ME GOD

I gave no dose strong enough to kill, so help me God. It takes repeated doses to take life. Do you know that? Is there no other way for life to cease but by a dose of medicine? You know that your wife struggled hard enough to rupture a blood vessel. How ready you were to blame me for your wife's weakness. I told her alone and in earnest the day that I left your house for the Malaga mines not to take ether, but she was obstinate, and in order to please [her] I gave it against my own convictions, and now I am reaping my reward for my effort to please all parties concerned. I know what I will do in future. My sad experience teaches me how much faith to place in friendship. Just as long as some advantage, pecuniary or otherwise, is gained, so long I can depend on friendship. I am sorry, Will, that such damnable reports should have sprung from your house, because I know that they could not have originated without your assistance. I told you that I gave no opium or morphia and I trusted that you would believe me.

DO YOU THINK THAT DEATH CANNOT COME WITHOUT POISON?

Do you think that death cannot come without poison, and do you think that I gave your wife poison? You said as much. God help me to look out in future upon whom I place my affections.

(Signed) C. T. ANDREWS.

P.S. – Since writing the enclosed I learn that a clique at Caledonia Corner has been trying to make a fuss, and talk of holding a *post-mortem* examination. Now, so far as I am concerned, I would just as soon they would as not, because they can do nothing, but if I were you, as the husband, I would not allow them to go one step farther, nor allow them to desecrate the grave of your wife with their malicious purposes. If you even wanted to repay me for my kindness to you all through life, now is your time. Exert yourself and show some gratitude, and I will bear all that has been already done. C.T.A.

“The taking of evidence”⁴⁰⁸ (Nova Scotia, 1888)

The taking of evidence at the inquest on the remains of Mrs. Selig, of Caledonia, was concluded last week. [...] At the last meeting of the Coroner and Jury, the following were examined:-

Dr. C. T. Andrews (the physician who extracted Mrs. Selig’s teeth), Dr. Hartley S. Jacques, who made a *post mortem* examination of the remains, Elizabeth McLeod, who assisted in laying out the deceased, Berton Louis Selig, son of [the] deceased, and Wm. Selig, the husband, who also asked some few questions.

Dr. Andrews in his evidence swore that he was averse to taking out the teeth all at once; [he] wished to take out one or two at a time and without administering ether. He finally concluded to give ether, owing to fear of offending the husband and wife. [He] said he only intended giving enough “just so she would lose herself,” but she required a large quantity. [He] said he persisted in extracting the teeth after she came out of the influence of the narcotic and requested him to desist, because it was his usual custom, as patients don’t know what they are doing when they first come out. In regard to the hypodermic injection, he stated that he used Wyatt’s preparation of ergot, which was for the purpose of arresting hemorrhage. [He] said he had no idea of any morphine being in the woman’s system. [...]

Dr. Jacques in his evidence after describing condition of body and brain, said that in the chemical analysis made by Prof. Lawson, in which he assisted, [...] in the tissue of spleen [they] found results consisting with the presence of morphia. The following is the conclusion of his evidence.

“To Mr. Naylor – From the symptoms previous to death given by Dr. Andrews, [and] of the *post mortem* examination made by myself, and the chemical analysis, I am of the opinion that morphia caused the death of Mrs. Selig.” [...]

The jury, after five hours’ deliberation, brought in the following verdict:-

“That Mary H. Selig, on the sixth day of September, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and eight-eight, came to her death at her house at Malega, in the county of Queens, by congestion of the brain and lungs, caused by an overdose of morphine, administered to her by Dr. Charles T. Andrews, of Bridgewater, in the county of Lunenburg, on the evening of the fifth of September last past, without intent of causing death, and from such overdose of morphine the said Mary H. Selig came to her death, and not otherwise.”

⁴⁰⁸ From The taking of evidence. (1888, October 31). *Weekly Monitor* (Bridgetown), p. 3.

The Couillard-Jeannotte-Devins poisoning case

“A fatal mistake”⁴⁰⁹ (Quebec, 1889)

Mistakes do happen now and then, but it is not often, fortunately, that they are followed by consequences such as attended one which is said to have been made lately by a doctor in town. This gentleman, a well-known East End practitioner, [Montreal,] was called in the other day to attend a sick child, and duly prescribed for the little invalid. His intention was to order bisulphate of quinine in the form of quarter grain powders, but by mistake he wrote morphine instead of quinine. The prescription was taken to a well known druggist and handed to the clerk in charge. He was surprised to see bisulphate of morphine ordered, there being no such preparation known, and thinking the error was in the word bisulphate, he dispensed the prescription, using sulphate of morphine. A quarter of a grain of morphine is not a very large dose for an adult, half a grain being frequently given. Such a quantity is a dangerous one for a child, however, and in this case the infant, [who] was only one year old, died after the second powder had been administered. It is further reported that a leading lawyer, who was absent from his office to-day, has been entrusted with the case and that proceedings will be taken shortly.

A number of prominent druggists were interviewed in reference to the above, and their opinions asked as to whether it was a frequent occurrence or not for physicians to make a mistake in their prescriptions. Nearly all were unanimous in saying that it was a very rare occurrence indeed for them to receive a prescription wrongly made out. All, however, are unanimous in thinking that the age of the patient should be inserted in the prescription, as they then would be able to tell when an overdose was being given, and could correct it.

“A second child”⁴¹⁰ (Quebec, 1889)

Further inquiries into the case of accidental poisoning, reported in yesterday's STAR, bring to light the fact that a second child was very nearly a victim to the same carelessness. It seems that the infant [who] was poisoned was suffering from whooping-cough, and on the doctor being called in, he prescribed quinine pills. He also advised that the child be sent to the country for a few days, and Chambly was the place decided upon. Even grown up people sometimes have difficulty in taking pills, and it was found almost impossible to make the child swallow them. The doctor was appealed to and said he would give the quinine in the form of powders. He thereupon wrote a prescription, of which the following is a copy:

“R, morphine bisulph, 3 grains, divid. In pulv. No. 40, une poudre dans une cuillerée d'eau sucrée de deux heures en deux heures, — — M. D.”

⁴⁰⁹ From A FATAL MISTAKE. (1889, August 3). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 4.

⁴¹⁰ From A SECOND CHILD. (1889, August 9). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 4.

The prescription was taken to the druggist, who dispensed it in the manner described in yesterday's STAR. Two of the powders were given and the child died, but the parents little dreamt that the medicine that had been administered to relieve the little one's suffering, was really the cause of death.

THE CAUSE OF DEATH

They have another child, five years old, and some days afterwards, as it was also suffering from whooping-cough, one of the powders was given to it. Instead of doing good it made the child worse, and on a second powder being given the next day with a similar effect, the parents' suspicions were aroused, and it was decided that the doctor should be consulted before any more were given. The doctor, on being told that the powders seemed to make the child very ill, asked Mrs. — if she had brought any of them with her. She replied in the affirmative, and handed him one. He tasted it and said that it was all right, and that she might with safety keep on using them. As she still seemed rather doubtful, he told her that to satisfy herself she might get a copy of the prescription. This was obtained from the druggist, and on being shown to the doctor he was horrified to find that the prescription read morphine in place of quinine. He told that lady what he had discovered, but said that the druggist and not himself was to blame, as he had ordered a preparation that was not known. The druggist, he said, had not disposed what he ordered and he had no right to give anything else without consulting him.

THE PHYSICIAN'S STORY

Dr. Jeannotte⁴¹¹, the physician who attended the child, was interviewed to-day and holds that the druggist is to blame for its death. He says that he ordered, by mistake, bisulphate morphine, and as there is no such thing, it was impossible to put up the prescription. The dispenser took it upon himself to substitute something else, and although very similar, it was not what was ordered. He also says that any druggist with experience might know that it is a very unusual thing to order as many as forty morphine powders.

With reference to the certificate of death, he says that he presumed the child died of whooping-cough, as he had no idea that there was anything wrong with the medicine. The child died at Chambly and was brought up here, and buried informally, and he consequently did not see the body. It was only when the powders were given to the other child that he realized what had been the cause of death, and by that time the certificate had been made out and the infant buried. Dr. Jeannotte says he has no objections to an action being brought against him, as it will show whether a druggist has a right to alter a prescription.

⁴¹¹ Dr. Herminigilde Jeannotte (c.1850 – 1914). He “was born at St. Mark, on the Richelieu River, where he received his primary education. He took his medical course at Victoria College, Montreal, and took a post graduate course at Paris, being admitted to medical practice in 1874, since which time he has always resided in Montreal.” OBITUARY RECORD. (1914, February 28). *The Montreal Gazette*, p. 5.

The manager at R. J. Devins's⁴¹² drug store, where the prescription was put up, was also seen. He claims that although the clerk may be guilty of carelessness, the doctor is to blame for having made the fatal error. He thinks if the case went to law that the physician would be held responsible.

“Doctor and druggist”⁴¹³ (Quebec, 1890)

The Couillard-Jeannotte-Devins poisoning case came up for hearing in the Superior Court before Mr. Justice Jette⁴¹⁴ this morning. Mr. Thomas Couillard, it will be remembered, sued Dr. H. Jeannotte and Mr. R. Devins, druggist, for \$1,500 each for damages from his child's death caused by Doctor Jeannotte giving a prescription of a quarter grain of “bisulphate of morphia,” and Mr. Devins' clerk giving “sulphate of morphia” instead. What the physician had intended was bisulphate of quinia.

Mr. Devins, for thirty years a druggist in this city, when examined said he was sick at the time of the occurrence. He refused to taste or smell the powders produced in court as the *corpus delicti*. It would take him two days to find out what the drug was.

Mr. L. A. Bernard, the druggist's clerk who dispensed the prescription, when shown the prescription and the box of powders, said that he had faithfully dispensed the prescription which called for “morphia bisulph,” by giving “morphia sulph,” because, he said, it was clear to him that the physician wanted morphia, as he wrote out that word in full. Bisulphate of morphia, he said, could be made in a low enough temperature and it was kept as a chemical curiosity, but it was not commercial; it was very difficult to keep. He denied that he committed an [unusually grave] error in the prescription; [he considered it] no greater than what he had seen in other prescriptions before. “A slight error,” he concluded.

“The doctor and the lawyer”⁴¹⁵ (Quebec, 1890)

A warm discussion took place in the Superior Court between Mr. H. St. Louis, advocate, and Dr. Norbert Fafard, Professor of Chemistry in Laval University, about the right of Mr. R. J. Devins' clerk to substitute *morphiæ sulphas* for *morphine*

⁴¹² “R. J. Devins was the senior partner of the firm of Devins and Bolton, druggists, whose store was on the corner of Notre Dame street and Court House Square. The building has been leased by the Local Government, the upper stories being used for the Circuit Court. The old firm was dissolved in the [18] nineties, and for a few years Mr. Devins carried on a wholesale business alone, when he gave up further work, and took up his residence as a boarder at the Grey Nunnery. He died the 19th February, 1892, and by his will left his large estate for missions and other charitable works.” THIS DATE THIRTY YEARS AGO. (1903, October 5). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 4. An obituary explains that at the time of his death, he “had been a widower for about eight years and has been boarding at the Grey Nunnery, where he has a sister a nun, since the death of his wife.” The Late Mr. Devins. (1892, February 20). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 8.

⁴¹³ From Doctor and Druggist. (1890, June 12). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 4.

⁴¹⁴ “JETTE, HON. L. A., judge Superior Court, 97 St Hubert”. *Lovell's Montreal Directory* for 1888-89.

⁴¹⁵ From THE DOCTOR AND THE LAWYER. (1890, June 17). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 2.

bisulphas, which Dr. H. Jeannotte prescribed for Madame Couillard's infant, and from the effects of which the latter died.

"Was the prescription properly dispensed, or dispensed at all?" asked Mr. St. Louis.

"Absolutely speaking, it was not filled," replied the expert.

"But it was intelligently made up?"

"Do you mean to say that a druggist has a right to alter a prescription such as it comes to him from a physician?" asked Mr. St. Louis.

"I mean that a physician sometimes makes errors in his prescriptions, and is very glad to find that the druggist corrects his errors. I was a druggist myself for a good many years."

"Do you mean to say that bisulphate of morphia and sulphate of morphia are the same, and that there was not sufficient indication of error in Dr. Jeannotte's prescription to cause the druggist to hesitate and consult the physician first?" insisted counsel.

"I have often received prescriptions reading simply 'Morph.,' and still any druggist would give *morphiæ sulph.* on such a prescription. What must particularly have confirmed the druggist's clerk in the conviction that *morphiæ sulph.* was required is the dose, a quarter grain, just the dose generally given of that drug, and a most unusual dose of *quinine bisulphas*. From all this, I conclude that Mr. Devins' clerk intelligently dispensed the drug."

"An appeal from a judgment"⁴¹⁶ (Quebec, 1894)

Present: Justices Bosse, Blanchett, Hall and Wurtele.

THE PRESCRIPTION CASE

Jeannotte (defendant in court below), appellant, and Couillard (plaintiff in court below), respondent. Mr. H. St. Louis appeared for the appellant, and Messrs. Geoffrion, Q.C., and Brodeur for the respondent.

This is an appeal from a judgment which condemned the appellant to pay \$250 damages. The appellant defendant in the court below is a physician, and the action claimed damages on the ground that [the] respondent's child, 21 months of age, had been poisoned by a medicine prescribed by [the] appellant, and compounded by Mr. Devins, druggist, and delivered to [the] respondent.

The defence was to the following effect:-

That bisulphate of quinine pills had previously been prescribed to [the] respondent's child, who was suffering from whooping-cough, but the mother having informed the physician that the child would take the medicine more easily in powders, he gave [the] respondent another prescription for the same medicine in powders, but by mistake wrote the word "morphine" instead of "quinine;" that the medicine thus prescribed, viz., bisulphate of morphine, does not exist in pharmacy, and, therefore, a manifest error appeared on the face of the prescription, which should

⁴¹⁶ From LEGAL INTELLIGENCE. (1894, January 17). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 2.

have attracted the attention of the druggist and impelled him to communicate with the physician before compounding it, which would have prevented the accident; that instead of taking this precaution the druggist prepared the prescription, notwithstanding the error, and was obliged to change it and substitute one ingredient for another; that it was this fault and negligence on the part of the druggist which was the cause of the accident, and consequently the defendant, now appellant, was not responsible.

The court below found the facts to be as follows:-

That Dr. Jeannotte's prescription was for morphine powders instead of quinine powders; that this prescription, viz., a quarter of a grain of a powder to be taken every two hours, must necessarily be fatal to a child of twenty-one months; that the mother administered, on the evening of the 6th July, 1889, three of these powders to the child, who, notwithstanding frequent vomitings, retained a sufficient quantity of the poison to cause death, which occurred on the following morning at 8 o'clock; that the symptoms observed after the child had taken the medicine were those of poison by morphine, and that there could be no doubt that this drug was the immediate cause of its death. It was further proved that when the prescription was handed to the druggist the latter was not informed that the medicine was for a child; that the dose of morphine prescribed was not at all extraordinary in the case of an adult; that bisulphate of morphine does not exist in pharmacy, and the prescription could not be filled by giving sulphate of morphine and not bisulphate; that supposing bisulphate of morphine could have been given, the result would have been precisely the same. On these facts, the court below held, as regards Dr. Jeannotte, that he was absolutely responsible for the result of the error, and \$250 damages were allowed. The sum of \$50 was also awarded against the druggist, who had not appealed from the judgment.

The pretensions of the appellant were, in brief, as follows:-

That the evidence was insufficient to show that the death of the child was caused by poison; secondly, that the appellant was not responsible for the accident, which occurred through the act of a third party for whom he was not responsible; thirdly, the judgment was not justified as to the amount of the damages.

On the part of the respondent it was submitted that the evidence clearly showed that the death of the child was caused by the medicine administered on [the] appellant's prescription, and, therefore, the latter was responsible. As regards damages the amount awarded was extremely moderate and the judgment should be confirmed.

The hearing was not closed when the court adjourned at 4 p.m.

“Legal intelligence”⁴¹⁷ (Quebec, 1894)

Mr. Justice Bosse concurred in the judgment of the court below as regards the question of responsibility. The appellant had made an error of which he could not give any explanation. The court was unanimous that there was responsibility on his part

⁴¹⁷ From LEGAL INTELLIGENCE. (1894, March 30). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 2.

for the damages resulting from such error. But another important question arose – what was the measure of the damages? The sum of \$250 was awarded by the court below as exemplary and punitive damages. This court was unanimous that damages could not be inflicted as a punishment. Could they be awarded as a *solutio*? The decisions were conflicting upon this point. His Honor considered damages could be given as a *solatium* and that the judgment should be maintained.

Mr. Justice Hall reviewed the jurisprudence on the question of awarding damages as a *solatium*, and stated the conclusion of the majority of the court was that under the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of Robinson and [the] Canadian Pacific Railway Company, damages could not be awarded in such a case as the present except as compensation for injury established. His Honour remarked that it was extremely desirable that there should be a settled rule upon the subject. The judgment would therefore be reduced to five-sixths of \$50, amount of damages proved equal to \$41.67. Judgment reversed, each party to pay his own costs in appeal; costs in the Superior Court against [the] appellant.

Annie Powers

“Overdose of morphine”⁴¹⁸ (Manitoba, 1890)

Rumors were flying around the city last evening that an inmate of one of the brothels on the western outskirts of the city [of Winnipeg] had committed suicide, but the particulars so far gleaned would indicate that it was a case of accidental poisoning. During Monday evening Annie Powers, better known as “Jessie,” an inmate of Lottie Merrit’s bagnio, indulged pretty freely in liquors and became boisterous, and while in that condition visited the house of Flossie Burns, just across the street, where she snatched a package of morphine powder from a sister of shame and swallowed the entire contents. She soon became very sick, and medical aid was called. The unfortunate girl lingered till the morning, when the hand of death was laid upon her and drew the mantle of charity over the past. Inmates of the house say the deceased did not take the powder in a manner that would indicate an intention to commit suicide, as it is a practice among them to regularly take morphine.

Annie Powers had been in the city a little over two years, and it is said she has relatives residing there. She came to Winnipeg from North Dakota. [The] deceased was a young woman of about 18 years. Before her death she expressed a desire to see a priest, and one was immediately sent for.

Soon after her death Coroner Benson⁴¹⁹ was notified, who had the body removed to Hughes & Co.’s⁴²⁰ warehouse, and decided to hold an inquest to inquire into the cause of death. The police are now summoning a jury, and the inquest will be conducted at the police station this evening.

“Was it a case of suicide?”⁴²¹ (Manitoba, 1890)

The police court was crowded last night by men and youths in the hope that some startling and interesting revelations would be brought out in the evidence given in the inquest into the death of Annie Powers. They were to some extent disappointed, as nothing of a startling nature occurred, though the mention of the name of the young man with whom [the] deceased had quarreled made the proceedings more interesting than they otherwise would have been.

Coroner Benson was on hand promptly, but it was nearly 8 o’clock when the last of the jury turned up. The following gentlemen were sworn in as jury: A. C.

⁴¹⁸ From OVERDOSE OF MORPHINE. (1890, March 12). *Winnipeg Daily Tribune*, p. 4.

⁴¹⁹ Dr. Edward Benson (1843 – 1904). An obituary is transcribed below.

⁴²⁰ Probably “Hughes M., & Co., furniture and undertaking, carpets and house furnishings, 315 Main. Tel 413.” *Henderson’s City of Winnipeg Directory* for 1891.

⁴²¹ From WAS IT A CASE OF SUICIDE? (1890, March 13). *Winnipeg Daily Tribune*, p. 4.

McRae⁴²², J. K. Wright⁴²³, J. Haverty⁴²⁴, W. Scott, J. W. Cleverly, C. W. Huffman⁴²⁵, F. W. Rimer⁴²⁶, A. Bright⁴²⁷, R. C. Hickson⁴²⁸, R. McKiechan⁴²⁹, E. H. Taaffe, A. H. Mogridge, A. R. Christie⁴³⁰, S. Hewson, J. H. Howden⁴³¹, [and] D. Bawlf. Mr. A. R. Christie was chosen [as] foreman.

VIEWING THE BODY

[...] [The] deceased was a girl of medium height, rather fleshy, with [a] plump, round face. The body was encased in a plain black casket. [...]

FLOSSIE BURNS

Flossie Burns⁴³², keeper of the bagnio in which Annie Powers died, was the first witness called. She had known the deceased for one year and eight months. During Monday afternoon and evening [the] deceased had been drinking heavily, and was very “full” at midnight. Annie Powers had been boarding at Lottie Merrit’s house, across the street from [the] witness’ place, but came to the latter’s house during the evening. During the night [the] deceased left the house on three occasions, each time remaining out a sufficient length of time to visit another place. The last time [the] deceased went out was between 3 and 4 o’clock Tuesday morning, and on returning [the] witness laid her on a sofa, thinking she was drunk.

About half an hour after [this, the] witness aroused Annie Powers and took her into an adjoining bedroom, when [the] deceased told her she had taken morphine, but the latter did not believe her, as she had frequently told them previously she had

⁴²² “McRae A. C., carriage tops and trimmings, 181 King, N 2nd, h 407 William, 3rd av N”. *Henderson’s City of Winnipeg Directory* for 1891.

⁴²³ “Wright Justice K., of Wright & Wright, [grocers,] 549 Main”. *Ibid.*

⁴²⁴ “Haverty John, cab driver, 66 Charlotte”. *Ibid.*

⁴²⁵ “Huffman C. W., fruits, 211 6th av N”. *Ibid.*

⁴²⁶ “Rimer F. W., of Kilgour, Rimer & Co., h 225 Smith, S 3rd”. “Kilgour, Rimer & Co., boots and shoes, 498 and 541 Main. Tel 554”. *Ibid.*

⁴²⁷ “Bright A, grocer, 274 Logan, 8th av N, h 261 King, N 2nd”. *Ibid.*

⁴²⁸ “Hickson, R. C., agent Hickson, Duncan & Co., 416 Main, h 499 4th av N”. *Ibid.*

⁴²⁹ Robert McKiechan (1857 – 1903), of Banfield & McKiechan, dry goods merchants. The partnership (with his brother-in-law) dissolved in December, 1891. According to his obituary, he “was a resident of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, where he was engaged in the dry goods business. About twelve years ago [1891] he married Miss Stella Roblin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Roblin, of this city, [Salem, Oregon] and the issue of the happy union were two daughters and one son.” DIED. (1903, September 8). *Weekly Oregon Statesman*, p. 6.

⁴³⁰ “CHRISTIE ALEX. R., grocer, 556 Main, h 131 Lilly. Tel 399”. *Henderson’s City of Winnipeg Directory* for 1891.

⁴³¹ Howden “Jas. H., of Howden, Howden & Curran, room 210 Portage av”. “HOWDEN, HOWDEN & CURRAN (Alex. Howden, J. H. Howden, Joseph J. Curran), barristers, 205 Market. Tel 566”. *Ibid.*

⁴³² Her house would be raided a few days after this testimony. “Monday the police raided two of the infamous houses which adorn the western boundary of the city, one of them, the bagnio kept by Flossie Burns, and the other the house inhabited by colored women. In all seven women were captured and brought to the police station. They were promptly bailed out. In the morning they made their appearance at the police court. Flossie Burns, charged with keeping a house of ill-fame, was fined \$40; and Lillie Ross and Nellie Dunn, who were inmates of the same, contributed \$20 each to the exchequer. Freddie Brumsell, Mamie Campbell and Blanche Smith, inmates of the other house, were also fined \$20. Ruby Sinclair, another colored damsel, pleaded not guilty amid many tears, and was remanded until Friday morning.” MONDAY. (1890, March 19). *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 6.

taken the drug. [The] witness did not see [the] deceased with or take morphine. When [the] deceased got up from the sofa she walked into the next room, but staggered slightly.

[A young man,] — —, was in the house all night and slept on a sofa, and when [the] witness retired to bed he asked her to leave the door open, as he wanted to see Annie Powers before he left in the morning. About 7 o'clock — came into [the] witness' room and endeavored to arouse [the] deceased, but without avail, and raising the blind he saw something was the matter. [The] deceased had also told him she had taken morphine. [The] witness went over to where [the] deceased lay, but could do nothing, and at once sent over for Lottie Merrit, who said the deceased must have got the drug from Cora Heist.

A messenger was then dispatched for Dr. Pennefather, and when he arrived it was thought [the] deceased had taken morphine. The doctor said she was too far gone, and there was no hope of saving her.

During the night there were angry words between [the] deceased and —, and the former had thrown some things at the latter, but [the] witness saw no blows struck.

CORA HEIST

Cora Heist⁴³³ lives in the house kept by Lottie Merrit, and had seen [the] deceased twice on Monday. The last time she saw [the] deceased was about 4 o'clock Tuesday morning, when she visited [the] witness' room. [The] witness left her there alone for a few minutes while she went down stairs. She did not give [the] deceased morphine, nor did she know [the] deceased had taken any.

About 7 o'clock the cook of the house went to [the] witness and asked if she missed any of her morphine, and on examination she could not say for sure. [The] witness was in the habit of taking morphine, and bought it in quantities of \$1's worth at a time, about twice a week. The drug was done up in a paper package, labeled "Morphine – poison," and was generally bought at —'s drug store. When [the] witness first got the drug she took a doctor's prescription, and had to sign a book, but since then had always got it without signing. She frequently sent an errand boy to the drug store with an order, and the powder was always given him.

[The] witness had heard that [the] deceased was in the habit of taking morphine, but did not know [this] for a fact. She thought Annie Powers must have taken the powder when left in the room alone.

In answer to Mr. Christie, [the] witness said she purchased her last package of morphine on Monday.

⁴³³ She would soon suffer an opium overdose of her own: "There came near being another case of morphine poisoning at the same bagnio of which the unfortunate Annie Powers was an inmate. Cora Hurst [sic.], from whose room Annie Powers obtained the morphine which caused her death, accidentally took an overdose on Thursday, and had a narrow call. She was removed in an insensible condition to the General Hospital, where, after many exertions, she was brought back to consciousness." CITY AND COUNTRY. (1890, March 18). *Manitoba Free Press*, p. 6. A more detailed account is transcribed below.

The paper and remaining portion of the powder was produced in court, and [the] witness identified the same as that purchased by her on Monday.

The witness, in reply to questions from Mr. Cleverly, said the druggist would not give [the] deceased morphine without an order from her. Annie Powers had purchased it on one occasion. [The] witness got the prescription from Dr. Howden.

LOTTIE MERRIT

Lottie Merrit told how Annie Powers had lived in her house up to Monday evening, when she left. She did not see [the] deceased again till about 4 o'clock Tuesday morning, when she was in the house for only a few minutes. At that time she did not hear [the] deceased ask for morphine, nor had she any knowledge that [the] deceased then got any.

DR. PENNEFATHER

Dr. Pennefather⁴³⁴ testified to being called to attend [the] deceased about 9 o'clock Tuesday morning, and described her condition at that hour. She was beyond recovery; her muscles were almost paralyzed, and she was suffering from unmistakable symptoms of morphine poisoning. She was unconscious when he got to the house, and continued in that state till her death, shortly after 12 o'clock noon on Tuesday. [The] deceased must have taken a large dose, and death was unquestionably caused by morphine poison. He did not believe she intended to commit suicide, but merely took it to frighten the friend with whom she had a row. The girls in the house told him [the] deceased had taken a large quantity from Cora Heist and swallowed it.

DR. HOWDEN

Dr. Howden related how he had given Cora Heist the prescription. She went to him about a year ago and represented that she was a married woman who had just undergone an operation and wanted morphine, as she was in the habit of using it. He gave her a prescription on the Central drug store for a small quantity. About seven months ago he was called up by telephone from Mitchell's drug store, and he then told them to use their own discretion, but he gave no prescription.

Flossie Burns was recalled, and stated that [the] deceased did not tell her from whom she got the morphine.

EDWARD ERASMAS

Edward Erasmus, a youth that runs errands for the keepers and boarders of the Nellie street houses, said he frequently purchased morphine for Cora Heist. He got \$1 worth on Monday, but did not sign a book. The drug was not always received from the same clerk.

HERBERT ELSON

Herbert Elson, a clerk at the drug store where the poisonous drug was obtained, said he was authorized to sell poisons, and understood the law governing the sale of the same. He always fully complied with the provisions of the law. Wilson had sold morphine to Cora Heist on a prescription, which was produced. It was the original prescription, calling for 2½ drams. When Cora Heist first came to the store she wanted an ounce, but was refused unless she could get a doctor's certificate. He

⁴³⁴ "Pennefather John P., M.D., 196 Rupert". *Henderson's City of Winnipeg Directory* for 1891.

telephoned to Dr. Howden, and that gentleman replied in the affirmative, and he also asked if he should repeat the prescription, and the doctor again replied yes. When the prescription was first filled, on the 20th of October, Cora Heist purchased \$3 worth, but since then the quantity bought at one time was \$1 worth.

THE VERDICT

All the evidence being in, the room was cleared of all but the jury, and while by themselves they prepared a verdict that Annie Powers came to her death through taking an over-dose of morphia while under the influence of liquor.

The parents of [the] deceased were at one time residents of Winnipeg, and left here for the south a little over a year ago. The father and a brother [are] now in Vancouver, and a sister is living in Minneapolis. The relatives were notified of the death, while the father is expected to-morrow.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR BURIAL

After the jury had examined the body last night it was handed over to Flossie Burns, and conveyed to one of the houses on Nellie street. The women of the "colony" take the death of Annie Powers very much to heart, and have subscribed a considerable sum to meet the funeral expenses. The corpse has been dressed in elaborate shrouds, and the coffin is covered with floral offerings.

"Annie Powers' funeral"⁴³⁵ (Manitoba, 1890)

The funeral of Annie Powers, the unfortunate girl who committed suicide by taking an overdose of morphine, took place from the western houses yesterday afternoon to Brookside. The girl was a Catholic, but the clergy of that church refused to perform the funeral rites of the church. The news was communicated to Rev. Hugh Pedley, and that gentleman accompanied the undertaker to the cluster and held a brief funeral service.

The rev. gentleman said he had attended many funerals, but none of them could be compared to the one of yesterday. The unfortunate girls from all the prairie houses were gathered together, and there were present also the father and sister of the deceased.

Mr. Pedley read a portion of the scripture from Luke, seventh chapter, commencing at [the] 36th verse⁴³⁶. He addressed the twenty or thirty hearers, including the cabmen. He blamed men even more than the women for the sin in which they are living. He said the man very often accompanied the woman to certain disgrace, and then cast her off as a waif upon the world.

After offering up a prayer the remains, encased in a coffin, covered with beautiful floral wreaths, were removed to the hearse, and the solemn procession

⁴³⁵ From ANNIE POWERS' FUNERAL. (1890, March 17). *Winnipeg Daily Tribune*, p. 1.

⁴³⁶ From the King James version, Luke 7:36-50: Jesus "went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat. [...] [A] woman in the city, which was a sinner, [...] brought an alabaster box of ointment and stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet[...] [...] And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven. [...] Thy faith has saved thee; go in peace."

formed, coming east as far as Young street, and from thence to Brookside. All the women of the west attended the funeral.

Mr. Pedley was obliged to be at his church before 3 o'clock; consequently no service was held at the grave.

Cora Heist's opium habit⁴³⁸ (1890)

Since the death of Annie Powers, the young woman, Cora Heist, who is addicted to the habit of opium eating, and from whose room the deceased is supposed to have procured the powder that caused her death, has experienced some difficulty in purchasing the drug. She was in the habit of buying the powder in quantities sufficient to last three or four days, and her last purchase was made a week ago, so that she suffered greatly for a couple of days since Wednesday in consequence of not being able to replenish her supply. On Friday night, however, a party of young men visited Lottie Merrit's bagnio, and Cora pleaded so piteously that one of the party sent the hack-driver to a drug store for fifty cents' worth of the drug, giving him an order purporting to be from a well-known physician.

On the messenger's return the victim of the opium habit was so anxious to ease the cravings of her system that she took a rather large dose. The reaction was too much, she became stupefied, and lay in a critical condition for hours. Antidotes were given the young woman, and every means taken to revive the unfortunate girl.

After several hours of laborious work and anxious watching, signs of sensibility were noticed. However, the victim continued weak, and was soon after removed to a private ward in the general hospital, where she still is, and will remain there some weeks, her physician endeavoring to cure her of the habit.

The life and death of Coroner Benson⁴³⁹ (1904)

Dr. E. Benson, coroner, died last evening and in his removal from time to eternity Winnipeg loses one of her best respected and most prominent citizens, one who had been identified with the progress of the city from the time it was a mere village. It might have been expected that the doctor would have been spared for many years yet as he attended to his usual work on Wednesday, but paralysis, which had attacked him even as a young man, and recurred two years ago, laid its fatal grasp upon him yesterday. He passed away at his late residence on Bannatyne street about six o'clock last evening in the presence of a number of his sorrowing family. Two of his sons, however, Cam. And Robert, were absent in British Columbia at the time, but have been telegraphed for and will be here in time for the funeral.

Dr. Benson was a most public spirited citizen. Soon after arriving in Winnipeg to practice his profession he was made coroner, a position which he filled until his death. He was one of the founders of the general hospital, an institution to which he

⁴³⁸ From CORA HEIST'S OPIUM HABIT. (1890, March 17). *Winnipeg Daily Tribune*, p. 1.

⁴³⁹ From CORONER BENSON CALLED. (1904, August 31). *Weekly Free Press* (Winnipeg), p. 5.

devoted much of his time and ability as a physician. Dr. Benson had a high ideal of his profession, a fact which is evidenced by the sorrow with which the news of his demise is received by all and particularly by the many poor people to whom he had extended a helping hand in their hour of trouble. Besides his private practice he has been, for the last quarter of a century, the jail surgeon, and was also appointed to attend the Deaf and Dumb institute.

Dr. Benson also took an active interest in educational matter. He served as public school trustee from the '80's up to the close of the century and during that time had the honor to be chairman of the school management committee. In these capacities he exerted an especially strong influence, and was able, by virtue of his long continued tenure of office, to help in giving continuity to the policy of the board. Among other prudent lines of action undertaken during his service, was the securing of large school sites in suburban districts which were likely to become thickly settled. The wisdom of this course has been amply proven. Another point upon which the doctor insisted was upon having well-built, well-equipped school buildings, and that Winnipeg is pre-eminent in Canada to-day for this is largely due to his steady persistence.

The doctor had always been prominent in the Conservative party, although he would never accept nomination for a political office. He was one of the trustee board of Grace Church at its inception, with which institution he always remained identified.

BIOGRAPHICAL

The late Edward Benson, M.D., was born in Peterborough, Ont., on April 22, 1843, being a son of Colonel J. R. Benson, of the same place. At an early age his taste for the medical profession developed and he was sent to Louisville, Ky., at about the beginning of the Civil War, to study with an uncle of his, a distinguished physician of that place. During the war his uncle was taken prisoner, and the young man acted as protector of his uncle's family during the troublous times which followed. After the release of his relative he journeyed to New York and attended the prescribed lectures at Bellevue Hospital, passing his final examination before having reached the age of twenty-one.

On returning to Canada he practiced his profession after taking a Canadian diploma at Toronto, first at Peterborough, the place of his birth, then at Lindsay, Ont., but hearing of the possibilities of the great West from his brother John, who said preceded him to Manitoba some five years, he came to this country in 1874. After making arrangements for his work here, he returned after several months to Ontario, where he was married. He and his wife, whose maiden name was Annie Campbell, were compelled to drive in sleighs from Moorhead, Minn., the terminus of the railway, to Winnipeg.

Locksley Lucas

“Two attempts at suicide”⁴⁴⁰ (Alberta, 1892)

Quite a sensation was created in the Royal Hotel, [Calgary,] between 6 and 7 o'clock last evening by an attempt on the part of Mr. Locksley Lucas, the anti-Chinese⁴⁴¹ lecturer, to commit suicide. About that hour Mr. W. R. Hull was handed a letter addressed to him by Mr. L. Lucas, informing him, among other things, that the writer had decided to commit suicide, by taking ten grains of morphia, and that by the time Mr. Hull received this letter the aforesaid writer would be in another world.

Mr. Hull, alarmed, handed the letter to Mr. Archer, hotel clerk, who immediately proceeded to Mr. Lucas' room, No. 8, and found the door locked. The door was without delay forced open and Mr. Lucas was found lying on the bed in a semi-conscious condition. Dr. McKid was immediately sent for and arrived promptly on the scene. An injection was administered in the arm which caused Lucas to vomit freely and relieved his stomach of the poison.

Lucas was not removed from the hotel, owing to his condition, until later in the evening, when he was taken to the police station and locked in one of the cells. His reasons for this rash act he set forth in the letter he left for Mr. Hull. This letter is now in the hands of Crown Prosecutor Costigan, who prefers not to give it out for publication at present. It is said that in this communication Lucas states that he is a martyr to the cause he has been lately espousing in Calgary. Nothing was found on his person that would give an inkling to his past history, but among his effects were found a number of large cards setting forth that he was a phrenologist and reader of character. The cards bear no mark to show where they were printed and are of inferior workmanship. When arrested he had several pills of morphia on his person.

Yesterday morning Mr. Lucas called at THE HERALD office with a letter which he wished published, a copy of which appeared in the Tribune last evening. Across the envelope was the word “URGENT”. A little later in the forenoon he brought in a letter signed by W. J. Compton, which was intended to corroborate the

⁴⁴⁰ From TWO ATTEMPTS AT SUICIDE. (1892, August 19). *Calgary Daily Herald*, p. 4.

⁴⁴¹ “Mr. Locksley Lucas, Secretary of the Anti-Chinese League, whose head quarters are at Vancouver and with branches at Victoria, New Westminster, Nanaimo and other points, is in town in the interests of the League. The League at the coast is a strong one, and by the system it has adopted, that of boycotting, is rapidly compelling the Chinamen to seek new fields of labor. The City Council of Vancouver have recognized the efforts of the League by inserting two clauses in the city bylaws, one prohibiting the employment of Chinamen on any contract under penalty of having the contract rescinded, the other prohibiting the employment of Chinese on any corporation work. Many of the large labor unions have agreed to boycott any establishment wherein Chinese labor is employed. It is claimed that this is having the desired effect, and Mr. Lucas states that the Chinamen are leaving duly in large numbers for eastern points. Mr. Lucas will give a series of lectures on this and other subjects at the opera house, the first, tomorrow, being free, when Mayor Lucas will preside, after which a small admission fee will be charged. He will also attempt to establish a branch of the league in Calgary, though, as he says, that rests entirely with the people.” The Anti-Chinese League. (1892, August 15). *Calgary Daily Herald*, p. 4.

statements contained in the first communication. These letters did not appear to be of such pressing importance as Mr. Lucas imagined, and were laid aside. In fact, while the manuscript of both letters, in Mr. Lucas' own hand, was neat and regular, the contents conveyed the idea that the writer was laboring under some hallucination.

Lucas would be brought before Justice Lucas at 2 p.m. today to answer to the charge of attempting suicide.

May Buchanan, the keeper of a house of ill-fame, and who was lately warned by Mayor Lucas that she must leave the town, was yesterday also seized with the idea that the time had arrived for her to quit this vale of woe, and with the purpose in view she swallowed a quantity of laudanum.

May had been drinking heavily during the earlier part of the day, and when she made the attempt upon her own life, was, to put it plainly, drunk. She drank the poison about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and evidently without premeditation, as, it is said, she suddenly sprang up from a chair upon which she had been sitting, rushed to a trunk, seized the laudanum and downed it.

The services of Dr. Rouleau were sought in her behalf about two hours after the occurrence, who gave her the needful medical assistance. To the doctor she stated the taking of the poison was the result of a mistake.

When the police visited the house late last night for the purpose of removing her to the cells they found things in considerable disorder. There were five persons in the house, three females and two men, the latter being very drunk, and they were making no effort to mitigate the woman's sufferings. There was not even a fire on the premises. May had vomited a great deal and her body was greatly discolored. Under directions from the police she was made somewhat more comfortable, and being too ill to bear removal was left under guard. This p.m., if recovered sufficiently, she will be taken before the seat of justice to answer to the same serious charge, that of attempted suicide.

“Occasioned a good deal of surprise”⁴⁴² (B. C., 1892)

The announcement in our telegraphic news of Saturday that Locksley Lucas, the anti-Chinese agitator, had attempted suicide, as was to be expected occasioned a good deal of surprise and many who formerly believed in the man's sincerity and earnestness of purpose have now entirely lost confidence in him.

It would appear that after leaving Vancouver he journeyed to the interior where he attracted public attention by his anti-Mongolian utterances and by lecturing on Australia and other subjects. At Golden he figured in the police court for carrying a revolver and by other unbecoming conduct caused the editor of the *Era* to size him up in no lukewarm terms, for which he threatened a libel suit of \$10,000. From the interior he appears to have gone to Calgary where, as usual, he soon sprang into prominence by telling harrowing tales of Chinese depravity, duplicity, etc., and advocating the boycotting and exclusion of the Celestials from the Dominion. [...]

⁴⁴² From LOCKSLEY LUCAS. (1892, August 22). *World* (Vancouver), p. 4.

Some few days since a telegram was received from him by a member of the [anti-Chinese] league in this city, asking if it would grant him permission to go ahead with his work in the Northwest. The message was handed to other members of the committee, but, as the league is practically dead, no action whatever was taken.

On Friday evening, Calgary was disturbed by the report of two [attempted] suicides, one the keeper of a house of ill-fame, the other Locksley Lucas, and this is how the case is described in the [Calgary] *Tribune*:

“The report that one of the would-be self-slayers was Locksley Lucas, who came here a few days ago to lecture against the introduction of Chinese into the country, and who was billed to speak on the subject the same evening, was confirmed at the Royal Hotel, where the unfortunate man was staying. Mr. Wm. Smith, manager, said that Lucas had retired to his room sometime in the afternoon, leaving a letter for Mr. Hull. That gentleman did not get the note till after dinner, sometime between 6 and 7 o’clock. He walked over to his meat market, where he opened and read the contents, which stated that the writer was about to take 10 grains of morphine, and that when Mr. Hull read the letter he would be in another world. Whether he gave any reason for this rash act or not could not be learned, as the crown prosecutor took immediate possession of the letter.

“Mr. Hull, as soon as he had learned Mr. Lucas’ intention, rushed over to the Royal and informed Mr. Smith, who at once broke into Lucas’ room. He found the man stretched on the bed insensible, and a doctor was immediately sent for. Drs. Rouleau and Mackid responded to the call, and after rousing Lucas up they gave him a hypodermic injection, which had the effect of making him vomit freely. A few minutes sufficed to assure the physicians that the dose he had taken was not large enough to cause death, and after reviving him sufficiently, Lucas was taken in custody by the chief of police on the charge of attempting suicide. The cause of Lucas’ attempt on his life is not yet clear, but it is thought by those who have the best knowledge of his affairs, that monetary trouble, combined with his sensitiveness to the ridicule which greeted his sending some clothes to be washed at a Chinese laundry, had considerable to do with it. He is much better to-day, and appears to be taking the matter quietly, although such a grave charge is hanging over his head.”

The latest news received indicates that he is not likely to succumb to the deadly drug, and was to be brought before the mayor at 1 o’clock this afternoon.

“The charge against Locksley Lucas”⁴⁴³ (Alberta, 1892)

The trial of this party came off yesterday before Mayor Lucas.

Mr. William Smith, manager of the Royal Hotel, detailed the circumstances of the finding of Lucas in an unconscious condition in his bedroom. The details do not differ from what has already appeared in THE HERALD. Dr. Rouleau was called, who ordered Lucas to be walked up and down the hall for about 15 minutes. Lucas was not able to get up himself; he had to be supported. The letter to Mr. Hull was

⁴⁴³ From THE CHARGE AGAINST LOCKSLEY LUCAS. (1892, August 23). *Calgary Herald*, p. 4.

produced, but [the] prisoner's counsel objected to its being taken in evidence, and the objection was sustained.

Dr. Mackid stated he was called to the Royal Hotel on Thursday night and found two men walking Lucas up and down the hall. He had him taken into the room and examined him and gave him an hypodermic injection of apomorphine, which is an emetic. He saw several pills laying on the bed. They were sulphate of morphia, containing half a grain. [Lucas] said he had taken 12, enough to cause death, according to what he told him. He did not act as though he had taken them by mistake. The prisoner asked him why he did not let him die.

Cross-examined by Mr. Nolan: When he examined Lucas, [he] found the pupils of his eyes contracted, but noticed nothing else except that he was heavy and drowsy. The prisoner stated he had taken the pills between 3 and 4 o'clock. If he had taken the number he said he (witness) could not have saved him. He did not know whether Lucas was suffering from anything else at the time or not. He had no knowledge as to how many pills the prisoner had taken except from his own statement, and that statement he doubted. The effect of these pills on the brain was to dull the intellect. One of the pills would have been sufficient to put him in the position found, if he was not in the habit of taking them.

Dr. Rouleau said he was passing the Royal Hotel about 7 o'clock on Thursday evening last, and on entering the bedroom found Lucas asleep, rather too [soundly for it] to be a natural sleep. He took two men with him to wake him up. He was there two or three minutes before Mr. Mackid. Lucas began to walk about the time the latter arrived. He saw some of the morphia pills on the bed. Lucas was sleepy, and he did not think there was anything the matter with him. He saw a letter on the dresser in the prisoner's room. The letter produced and marked exhibit "C" is the one. "We opened his eyes and he seemed surprised," [said Dr. Rouleau.] He left him shortly after in Dr. Mackid's charge.

Cross-examined by Mr. Nolan, he said if the prisoner had taken twelve pills he would have died. One or two pills would have been plenty to put him in the position in which he was found. Half a grain pills were not common. He might have taken liquor but for the absence of the smell. He could not say whether he would have died or not if medical assistance had not been called.

J. G. Templeton, druggist, said the prisoner was in his store between 2 or 3 o'clock on the day in question. Lucas asked him what was the dose of morphia. He told him it was from 1/16 to 1/4 or 1/2 a grain. He said he wanted it for toothache. He (the witness) asked Lucas if morphia would do it any good, and he replied that it deadened the pain. He told Lucas if one pill did not deaden the pain he could take two, but advised him to get toothache drops. He had not seen him from that time until the present. The official dose is from 1/8 grain to 1/2. He did not give the prisoner any of these pills.

This concluded the evidence and Justice Lucas reserved his decision until 10 a.m. today, when he dismissed the case for want of evidence showing a criminal intent.

“The Lucas episode”⁴⁴⁴ (Alberta, 1892)

Mayor Lucas, before whom Mr. Locksley Lucas was charged with attempting to commit suicide, has found the prisoner not guilty. Reading between the lines of the medical evidence it would look as if the doctors did not believe the attempt *bona fide*. They were satisfied that he did not take any considerable number of morphia pills and they were not very confident that he took any. They think it is possible that he might have taken one or two.

The letter to Mr. Hull was not received as evidence against the accused; still, it exists and must be accepted as showing a desire on the part of Lucas to live and not to die. It seems to say, “Although I assure you that I am going to kill myself, I give timely notice so that I may be rescued.”

Altogether the affair was rather a bungling piece of work if intended to be serious, and rather farcical if intended for “fake”. It is getting to be a common saying that “there is always something happening in Calgary,” and since nothing positively injurious has come of Mr. Lucas’ escapade we suppose the community ought to feel under some obligation to him for contributing his mite towards enlivening the course of events in Calgary.

⁴⁴⁴ From THE LUCAS EPISODE. (1892, August 23). *Calgary Daily Herald*, p. 1.

The Cameron “Poisoning” Case

“Mysterious poisoning”⁴⁴⁵ (Nova Scotia, 1893)

Bridgetown, February 3 – Never within the recollection of the oldest inhabitants were the people of Bridgetown and of the whole of the Annapolis Valley so aroused and excited over a matter as they are over the mysterious and suspicious death of Alexander D. Cameron, which event took place on Saturday morning last at the house of Captain John Edward Farnsworth, at Hampton, five miles across the North mountain, on the Bay shore. That death and its series of subsequent sensational developments, culminating tonight in the arrest of Mrs. Cameron on a charge of willful murder, is the one and constant subject of discussion. Business seems suspended, and the people appear to do nothing but congregate in little knots on the streets, and in the stores, and discuss the deplorable affair.

WHAT MAKES THE MATTER ALL THE MORE INTERESTING

What makes the matter all the more interesting and exciting is the striking, indeed startling resemblance that the death of Mr. Cameron bears to the circumstances of the death of Mrs. Robert W. Buchanan of New York. The people of the valley, as of the whole of Nova Scotia, read the HALIFAX HERALD's special report on the facts connected with the death of Mrs. Buchanan with deep interest, but the HERALD's story of the circumstances leading to the death of Mr. Cameron, will be read with still deeper interest. In many instances the story will run on parallel lines, but if the death of Mr. Cameron was designed to be exactly similar to that of Mrs. Buchanan, the copy, in some respects, was exceedingly clumsy. Dr. Buchanan was an expert physician, and knew the effect of morphine poisoning; knew the exact quantity that should be administered to produce certain results, but Mrs. Cameron purchased the poisonous drug wholesale – 120 doses at a time, enough to kill a score or two of ordinary men. The wife is suspected of administering this deadly poison to her husband, but, as in Dr. Buchanan's case, the suspicion rests upon purely circumstantial evidence. The chain, however, is evidently so strong and complete, that not a link appears to be missing. A motive is also forthcoming.

RAGGED AND HENPECKED TO DEATH

For a year or two, it is alleged that her husband was a mere wreck of a once fine looking man. He had been ragged and henpecked to death. His spirit was broken, his health shattered, his memory gone and his nerves unstrung by the use of quinine wine – he was thoroughly cowed by his wife, a much younger woman of handsome physique, imperious temper and strong mind. She was tired of him, and 'tis alleged, that she had frequently told him in public to “go up stairs and die.” It was an open secret that his domestic happiness was a perfect wreck, and she is charged with breaking his heart, his spirit and his health, and thereafter cruelly ill-treating him in his semi-demented state, to hasten his end, and finally administering the fatal draught which brought him to his untimely grave. His life was insured in her favor

⁴⁴⁵ From MYSTERIOUS POISONING. (1893, February 4). *Halifax Herald*, p. 1.

for \$1,000. There is a bitter feeling in this community, and while the husband was universally respected, the wife, owing to her alleged cruelties and lack of moral rectitude, was as universally detested. She has not a friend in Bridgetown to-day.

But there are invariably two sides to every story, and sometimes one story is only good until the other is told. The HERALD, ever desirous of being fair and just, gives both sides, and while the story sent herewith is gathered from sources unfriendly to the woman, the HERALD will on Monday print a lengthy and most interesting interview with Mrs. Cameron, giving her version of her domestic troubles and the events which produced her husband's death.

SOME SPICY PERSONAL HISTORY

Alexander D. Cameron was born on the West River, of Picton County near Durham, fifty-nine years ago. After the death of his father, his mother married a widower named McDonald, whose son by his first wife was John A. McDonald, at one time M.P.P. for Guysboro. When the gold fever broke out in Goldenville and Sherbrooke, Cameron, then in middle life, was keeping store at Goldenville and speculating in the mines. At the same place a miner's boarding house was kept by a Mrs. McLean. She had, staying with her, a sister, a very handsome American girl, Jennie McNichol. She will be well remembered by the old miners of that section of Guysboro 25 years ago. She was bright, vivacious, and pretty. But she was a flirt. Her home was at Eastport, Maine. There were many suitors for her hand, but Alexander D. Cameron, the most prosperous and supposed to be the best catch, though twenty-five years older than the girl, won the prize.

MORE THAN THE USUAL AMOUNT OF YANKEE SMARTNESS

They were duly married, and the young bride, having more than the usual amount of Yankee smartness, induced her husband to settle some of his property upon her and give her control of the same. Subsequently he failed in business, and then removed to Glace Bay, C.B. A similar misfortune overtook his business enterprise there, and then, after spending a time in North Sydney, they again returned to Goldenville or Sherbrooke, again engaged in business and again failed. But while Mrs. Cameron and his creditors suffered considerably by those unsuccessful business ventures, Mrs. Cameron's little nest egg steadily increased, until she had nearly \$5,000 salted down.

Eighteen years ago they came to Bridgetown and started a general store. He was a genial fellow, an active liberal worker, a prominent freemason, [and he] soon won the respect and good will of the people and worked up a large and prosperous trade, which continued to thrive until 1890, when it dropped, and in 1892 he assigned to William A. Craig, with nominal assets of \$1,000. During all this time Mrs. Cameron's private estate increased until now it represents \$10,000 and \$15,000.

When the Camerons came to Bridgetown, William T. Foster was a prominent citizen. He was county treasurer and did most of the magisterial business of the town, and Mrs. Cameron selected him as trustee for the investment of her funds.

BEEN REGARDED AS THE INTIMATE FRIEND

At a subsequent date she made the acquaintance of O. T. Daniels, then a law student with J. G. H. Parker, and who had formerly studied with Motton & Longley,

of Halifax, and him she made her attorney. Young Daniels became a great favorite with and friend of Mrs. Cameron. Mr. and Mrs. Cameron had no children and lived over their store. About 1887 Daniels went to board with the Camerons and has ever since been regarded as the intimate friend of Mrs. Cameron. While Mr. Cameron was highly respected and popular about town, and had a large business connection, they had no extensive social relations. Mrs. Cameron had few callers and fewer friends.

During the last eight or ten years the couple lived wretchedly unhappy lives. It was an open secret that she didn't care for him, that he wasn't the man of her choice, and they lived a regular cat and dog life. Stories were circulated that he drank large quantities of quinine wine and that this upset his nerves and softened his brain. But the inhabitants had no knowledge of these drinking habits. From 1890 he lived in absolute seclusion. His health was said to be bad. Mrs. Cameron and a clerk attended to the store and for months before the assignment he wasn't seen at all. His eyesight had given out and his general health was alleged by his wife to be very bad.

A few weeks previous to his assignment in 1892 his store was liberally supplied with goods. Those mysteriously decreased in quantity. Then he assigned, as before stated, and it is said that Mr. Daniels, his friend and legal representative, undertook to go to St. John and settle with certain creditors there for 50 cents on the \$1. Burpee Chute had been clerking on and off for Cameron for eight years, but he declined to have anything to do with the assignment or to purchase the stock. But he subsequently purchased the store and house for Mrs. Cameron, and she took a mortgage for \$1,000 on the same. He also arranged to board his old employers at the old home.

For a year or two previous to this Mr. Cameron's health had been a wreck. His eyesight was bad, his memory gone, his spirit broken, and he seemed to be completely subjected to the will of his wife – a mere wreck of his former self and not long for this world. After the sale of the store to young Chute, Mrs. Cameron went off for a trip, a rest, and recreation. She gave out that she was going to visit her relatives in Maine, but the HERALD writer has excellent reasons for believing that she went no further than E. Cumming's, who keeps the post office at Wilmot, and that she spent some time at Spa Springs. Meanwhile, Cameron was left to board at Chute's and speedily improved in health. Chute says he never liked a man better than Cameron, never had a cross word, and got along splendidly with him. He did not live in the house, but knew his wife and he had occasional spats. Beyond that "he can prove nothing."

SENT HIM AWAY TO BOARD

On the 9th of October last, Mrs. Cameron returned from her visit to Wilmot and Spa Springs (and perhaps Maine) and the difficulties between her and her husband were renewed. At the same time his health began to get worse again. Life wasn't worth living. The visits of Rev. Messrs. Cameron (Presbyterian) and Wright (Methodist)⁴⁴⁶ were neither appreciated nor welcomed by Mrs. Cameron. She was sure that he'd never get better, that he couldn't get better, and that he'd die. And he

⁴⁴⁶ According to the 1891 census, Alexander Cameron (b. c. 1834) and his wife Jennie (b. c. 1846) were Baptist. The same census says that Alexander was born in Nova Scotia to Nova Scotian parents, and Jennie was born in New Brunswick to parents from that province.

became a semi-demented man, thoroughly afraid of his wife. One day Mr. Chute returned from a run into the country, and Cameron complained that his wife had given him a cold bath, which chilled him through and through. There were signs of coming trouble, and Chute notified both that they would have to find a new boarding house. Thereupon Mrs. Cameron sent her husband across to the bay shore.

John C. Farnsworth used to trade at Cameron's store, and Mrs. C. was well acquainted with him. He has been described as a good but peculiar man, and not too intelligent. Mrs. Cameron made arrangements with him to board her husband, and she paid him the board in advance up to the middle of March next. It was late in the Fall that Mrs. Cameron took her husband "over the mountain." A boy named Dan Sheehan was engaged to drive them over. It will be remembered that Cameron was then a sick man, weak and feeble. The ascent of the mountain is fully two and a half miles. Mrs. Cameron was so solicitous for the horse that she insisted that her husband should get out of the wagon and walk up the mountain side. She herself rode. So did the boy.

BIG, STRAPPING, ABLE BODIED WOMAN IN THE PRIME OF LIFE

After a while Sheehan suggested that the old man should get in, but Mrs. Cameron, [a] big, strapping, able bodied woman in the prime of life, insisted that as the old man was able to walk about the house, he was also able to walk up the mountain. Those who ever traveled over the road know what a task it is for a strong man. Well, the old man was compelled to walk until he was ready to drop, and it was only when he was about to fall to the ground after walking two miles, that he was taken into the vehicle. Mrs. Cameron returned to town the same day and thereafter boarded at the house of Mrs. Walker W. Saunders, whose husband teaches school at Westport, Digby.

But instead of getting worse, Mr. Cameron got better "over the Bay." He got stronger, his appetite returned, his general health improved and it looked as though he had secured a new lease of life. But his wife never came to see him – though the distance was only five miles. She never even wrote him, though there is a tri-weekly mail. Christmas came and passed, but she sent nothing to cheer his heart or remind him of the day of peace and good will upon Earth. New Year's came and went, but for him there was no greeting nor good wishes from his wife. The old man wiled away his lonely hours and days and weeks, doing chores about the house, bringing in wood, going to the post office looking for a letter from his wife that never came, and gazing listlessly out on the blue waters of the Bay of Fundy.

TWO EXTRAORDINARY DREAMS

One night a fortnight ago Mrs. Walter Saunders, with whom Mrs. Cameron then boarded, had a curious dream. She dreamed that there was a pool of blood upon her front door steps. How it came there was a mystery. She determined to wash it off. She got the scrubbing brush and hot water, but made no better progress in removing the blood spots from the door than did Lady Macbeth in removing the fatal stains from her hands. Mrs. Saunders dreamed that Dr. Barnaby passed by, asked what she was doing, and upon being told, remarked that she'd have to do a great deal of scrubbing to get rid of the blood. Mrs. Saunders was greatly worked up over the

dream, and told it at the breakfast table next morning, greatly to the horror of Mrs. Cameron and the other boarders.

On the 21st of January last Mrs. Cameron decided to go over to the Bay, to collect some interest due her – and to see her husband. She was driven over by Tom Templeman, a shore fisherman, and on the journey over, confided to Tom that she'd had a dream the night before. She dreamed that her husband, who had so long been in ill-health, would never recover, and would die before the first of February.

It was strange that these two women should dream such strange dreams, and stranger still that one of them should come true!

It was not reported that Mrs. Cameron took any of the delicacies of the season to her sick husband, but, as will subsequently appear, she carried in a little satchel some extraordinarily strong medicine, which she had the same day secured from Druggist Taylor, with which to soothe her own distracted brain to sleep, viz., thirty grains of morphine, and a bottle of morphine and laudanum!

STORY OF THE LAST QUARREL

Mrs. Cameron arrived at Farnsworth's on January 21st, on her first visit to her husband in three months. She did not room with him. It is eight or ten years since they occupied the same room at night. On the morning of the 26th there was a violent quarrel. Cameron went into the room where Mr. and Mrs. Farnsworth sat and said:

"This is no place for me; I'm going to Bridgetown," put on his overcoat and hat, took his stick and started.

The Farnsworths and Mrs. Cameron watched him out of sight and then Mrs. C. asked Farnsworth to go after him with a sleigh. He overtook him a mile and [a] half out and persuaded him to return. After an early dinner Farnsworth went to the wood, but Cameron didn't eat any dinner. He lay down on the lounge and slept. About five o'clock he awoke and asked for food. Mrs. Farnsworth prepared and Mrs. Cameron conveyed to him in the next room, bread and tea. He ate and drank, then turned from the table, lit his pipe, smoked a little, and almost immediately went to sleep. An hour later Farnsworth came back from the woods, but failed to arouse him. He lay all that night in a stupor, and next day, Friday, 28th, Farnsworth wanted to send for a doctor. But Mrs. Cameron insisted that "there is no need for a doctor, for he's going to die."

Renewed efforts to arouse the man failing, Farnsworth declared that "he'd have a doctor if he had to pay him himself," at the same time telling his son, Reed, to go for Dr. DeBlois.

Thereupon Mrs. C. said, "If you're bound to have a doctor, don't send for DeBlois, but get Barnaby."

Before the doctor came, Farnsworth, in his evidence before the coroner's jury, swore that while trying to rouse the unconscious man, he said to Mrs. Cameron, "If you hadn't gone to that damned satchel of yours, this trouble wouldn't have taken place."

In his evidence, Farnsworth further affirmed that the cause of the trouble on the 26th between the pair was that he privately had warned Cameron not to take

anything she'd offer him. Cameron asked why not, and Farnsworth replied, "The people say she'll poison you."

Cameron repeated this to his wife; she demanded an explanation, and Farnsworth again asserted to the wife the warning he'd given her husband. Hence the row. The reader will be careful to note this, as Mrs. Cameron gives an entirely different version.

Dr. Barnaby arrived about midnight, but he said he could do nothing for him, and that the man was dying. At five o'clock Saturday morning, 35 hours after drinking the tea, he died. The body was laid out, funeral service held, and Mrs. Cameron arranged to send the corpse to Pictou to be interred with those of his parents.

THE CORPSE WAS INTERCEPTED

But the people of Hampton were suspicious as to the cause of death, and early on Saturday came into Bridgetown and suggested the propriety of an investigation. Cameron's friends were decidedly of that opinion, and induced Dr. Samuel Primrose, of Lawrencetown, to hold an inquest. When the body arrived here to take Monday's train for Pictou, in charge of Farnsworth, it was arrested by the coroner's constable, and next day an inquest commenced before John P. Murdock, foreman. William Reed (of J. B. Reed & Sons, furniture manufactures), James R. DeWitt, Albert Wade, James Hawkesworth, George H. Dickson (merchant), William C. Booth (merchant tailor), Harry Crowe (son of John F. Crowe, Halifax), Arthur Sulis, Oliver F. Ruffee, John Ross and Forrest Connell [were selected as jurors]. Only four witnesses were examined, and their evidence was not taken in writing and signed as the law provides. J. G. H. Parker watched the case for Cameron's friends and the venerable T. D. Ruggles for the widow.

Farnsworth told the story outlined above.

Dr. Gideon Barnaby told of his connection with the case, and expressed his opinion that the man died from natural causes – probably apoplexy – and added that if the brain was examined a super-abundance of cerum or a clot at the base of the brain would be found. The bladder was not full of water. He had no suspicions of poisoning (nor did the doctors who certified to the death of Mrs. Buchanan).

The last witness to be called was Rupert D. Taylor, druggist, formerly of Halifax, and his evidence fell like a bombshell. He testified that he had recently supplied Mrs. Cameron with 36 grains of morphine. Six grains were put up in a liquid form about the middle of January; 30 grains were supplied her the morning she left to visit her husband.

The jury immediately demanded a *post mortem*, which was made by Drs. DeBlois and Freeman. Their evidence, as follows, directly contradicted that of Dr. Barnaby, and shows how very widely doctors differ, not only in diagnosing a case, but even in determining the actual cause of death.

WHAT THE POST MORTEM SHOWED

Dr. L. G. DeBlois said:

"Dr. Freeman and I conducted the *post mortem*. We made a thorough examination of the brain, but found no disease of the organ – such as effusion of the

blood or cerum, which could cause death. There was no disease of the kidneys or liver which would cause death. We drew off a certain quantity of urine from the bladder, which we found distended. We next removed the stomach for analysis. Both the stomach and urine were handed over to the coroner for examination and analysis. These were put in a glass jar sealed. It was not necessary from the symptoms to examine the heart or lungs. There is no natural cause for death that I could discover.”

Dr. I. B. Freeman testified that the symptoms, as detailed by Dr. DeBlois, were strongly those of morphine poisoning.

“We made an extremely careful examination,” [he said]. “There was no accumulation of matter or clot in the brain. I wish to state here that the symptoms detailed by Dr. Barnaby, in reference to the uniform contraction of the pupils, is not distinctive of morphine poisoning. In other conditions of brain trouble one pupil could be dilated and the other contracted, or both dilated, but never both contracted. The degree of contraction of [the] pupil is another strong feature of this case. What is called ‘pin head contraction’ usually takes place in death caused by morphine. The retention of the urine is another strong symptom of morphine poisoning. We sent the stomach and a quantity of the urine for chemical analysis. Morphine poisoning leaves no trace by which we can discover its presence in the tissues. Its presence can only be discovered by chemical analysis. The bladder was full, not distended. In cases of morphine poisoning the bladder is found full after death. This was the case with Mr. Cameron. One kidney was healthy, the other not so healthy, but there was nothing in its condition to produce death.”

“AN UNNATURAL DEATH THE RESULT OF POISONING BY MORPHINE”

After hearing this evidence on Wednesday night the jury returned a verdict of “an unnatural death the result of poisoning by morphine,” then the urine was taken from the bladder, the bowels and stomach removed for analysis, and all sealed up and committed to the custody of the coroner. Next morning the coroner telegraphed to Professor Lawson asking him to make a chemical analysis of the stomach, etc. That gentleman wired back that he hadn’t time, that he had other duties to perform, and everyone connected with the case was thrown upon his beam ends. A full stop had to be put to all proceedings.

Meanwhile, the body was interred in the Bridgewater cemetery on Wednesday afternoon – but Mr. Daniels didn’t attend the funeral. Mrs. Cameron had not come in from Hampton, but supposing that the body had gone on to Pictou, as she had arranged, she came into town on Wednesday evening. She proceeded to her boarding house at Mrs. Saunders’, but by this time tremendous excitement prevailed. There was a bitter feeling against Mrs. Cameron. She doesn’t appear to have a friend in the place. The widow appeared at Mrs. Saunders’ like an apparition at tea time. When she entered the room Mrs. Saunders fainted, another lady ran to her room and a third fled from the house. The suspected woman could find neither welcome nor refuge there, and at midnight, she made her way to her old home at Burpee Chute’s. By this time she understood the full significance of her situation, and the sorrow and loneliness of the rest of the night may be imagined, but not described.

The coroner having failed to take in the gravity of the case, J. M. Owen, of Annapolis, was urged to come up and take action on the part of the crown. He came up, telegraphed to Halifax, and tonight, upon Coroner Primrose's instructions, a warrant was issued for Mrs. Cameron's arrest.

At eleven o'clock to-night she was arrested by Sheriff Moore and Deputy Sheriff Buth, and was locked up a prisoner in the Revere hotel, in the room assigned the HERALD correspondent upon his arrival from Halifax.

The attorney-general's management of this case through his officers and himself will be watched with the keenest interest. Up to this time it has been miserably botched and bungled. Mrs. Cameron was not even searched upon being arrested, nor were her effects searched. Her room at the boarding house was not even visited, and there has been every facility for getting damaging evidence out of the way.

Mr. Daniels went to Kentville to-day, it is said, to engage W. E. Roscoe for the defence. Mrs. Cameron has two brothers who are lawyers, one at Calais, and the other at Eastport, Maine. One of them was telegraphed for yesterday, and is expected here to-morrow. An opinion is expressed that the insurance company interested should be represented by first-class counsel.

Bridgetown, February 3 – The prisoner was brought before Stipendiary Forsythe at ten o'clock this morning upon a charge of willful murder. J. M. Owen appeared for the crown, but Mrs. Cameron was undefended, and at her request and adjournment was had until Tuesday next.

“Mrs. Cameron interviewed”⁴⁴⁷ (Nova Scotia, 1893)

Bridgetown, February 3 – Had a vote of the people been taken yesterday upon the guilt or innocence of Mrs. Cameron on the charge of poisoning her husband, it would have been nearly unanimous for conviction. She would have been convicted and sentenced without a trial. But to-day there is a marked change in popular feeling. It is just as strong as ever as to the chains of circumstantial evidence against her, but the people are beginning to remember that she is not to be condemned, or even tried, upon rumor, hearsay stories, popular prejudice and public indignation, but upon the facts presented in evidence. And that meanwhile she is entitled to fair play. She is a woman with scarcely a friend, and is therefore at a double disadvantage.

Further, the people are beginning to talk over points that are favorable to the woman. She bought the morphine openly and without any attempt at secrecy. She purchased it in a local drug store, whereas, if she had deliberately premeditated a cold-blooded murder, a cunning woman would have sent or gone elsewhere for it – Halifax, St. John or Boston. She had a thousand opportunities to administer the fatal draught while living together in their own house during his sickness; why should she send him over to a stranger's house and there seek to carry out her alleged design?

⁴⁴⁷ From W.D. (1893, February 6). MRS. CAMERON INTERVIEWED. *Halifax Herald*, p. 1. W. D. is almost certainly William Henry Dennis (1887 – 1954).

But suppose she had planned the crime weeks or months ago; is it probable she would have administered the poison the very day that Farnsworth and her husband had charged her with intending to do so? The only thing Cameron ate and drank that afternoon was in the presence of Mrs. Farnsworth. The insurance on Cameron's life was not in favor of his wife, but, it is said, was payable to O. T. Daniels, having been transferred to him as collateral for some money loaned, note endorsed, or something of that kind.

And then, the stomach has not yet been analyzed. It is still in the custody of Coroner Primrose. He will likely take it to St. John to be analyzed by Mr. Best. Possibly, poison may not be found in it. If so, the strong chain of circumstantial evidence now wound around the woman will snap in every link; but if it is found, it will tighten in its fatal grip. But when a woman's life is at stake, sympathy drifts towards her. Hence the change in sentiment spoken of.

To-night she was removed from the Revere hotel to the jail at Annapolis. Sheriff Morse and Deputy Bath were as considerate as they could be, and were manifestly loth to remove her, but the law recognizes only the common jail, and as the lock-up in this town is not fit to accommodate a woman, there was no other place to take Mrs. Cameron but Annapolis. She felt this all the more, as her brother will arrive in town to-morrow to advise her. It is understood that W. E. Roscoe, Q. C., will be retained for her defence. Mr. Owen and Rev. T. D. Hart went "over the mountain" to-day to see the Farnsworths and to work up other evidence for the crown.

MRS. CAMERON'S STORY

Mrs. Cameron is a tall, well built woman, with dark brown wavy hair, blue eyes, high color, soft skin, soft musical voice, a pretty laugh, and is an engaging talker. She is just turned 40 and is in the prime of life. But she also has a strong will, a mind of her own, and is fully capable of carrying out what she undertakes. It is easy to understand why she has so few women friends; still she is not incapable of warm friendship. Though she says she has for years suffered from insomnia, she looks as if she enjoyed the best of health.

The HERALD writer called and invited her to tell her side of the story of the circumstances that led to the death of her husband. The woman had spent a sleepless night, but was calm and collected. She expressed great indignation at what she denounced as the horrible stories told against her; [she] explained her friendless condition, but declared her innocence of the death of her husband, and said she was ready for any ordeal. She had been advised to run away, and every facility had been afforded her for doing so, but she scorned the idea.

THE PUBLIC WOULD NOT PRE-JUDGE HER CASE

While she did not want to prejudice her case in any way, she was willing to tell her side of the story, so that the public would not pre-judge her case, and [so they would] give her that fair play to which every person was entitled. She said:

"My husband and I have been married 25 or 26 years. I was only 16 when we were married; he was 32. Our domestic experience has not been that of perfect bliss, but our difficulties were no more than those of ordinary married people. We got along well and comparatively happily until three years ago, [when] his health began to

break up. He was attacked with softening of the brain, [a] spinal complaint and heart disease. This was specially noticeable two years ago, but he seemed to get better of his heart trouble, though the pains in his head continued. Though he was never a day in bed, he continued to grow weaker in his head. His appetite was good up to within the last five or six weeks, when it began to fail, and his head also got worse. A year ago last Christmas his body was so badly swollen that no one thought he'd live a week, but he remained that way for six or seven weeks. In the mornings his hands would be so swollen that I couldn't button his wrist bands. After a few months that swelling disappeared, but he never got better in his head. He said that his head felt like a tub – too heavy for the body. He couldn't keep it still. He lost his memory entirely and would repeat twenty times a day stories he had heard in childhood. He couldn't remember to-day what occurred yesterday.

JUST ABOUT TO SWALLOW A POISONOUS PRESCRIPTION

“He smoked incessantly and had long been addicted to strong drink. He had a perfect craving for stimulants, drank large quantities of quinine wine, Johnston's anodyne, and anything he could get hold of. This was a great trial to me. On one occasion he stole up to my room and I found him just about to swallow a poisonous prescription that I had prepared for my hair – composed of whiskey, sulphate of lead, etc. His physical condition was such as I described, up to five weeks ago, when the people with whom he boarded noticed that his appetite was failing. Still he kept on his feet. His was a peculiar sickness. He was a quick tempered man. The day of his fatal sickness he jumped up and said he was going to Bridgetown, and immediately thereafter started off on a fast walk or run. Looking out of the window after him, Mrs. Farnsworth remarked, ‘Oh dear, that man will die on the road if he is allowed to go to Bridgetown.’

“I got Farnsworth to harness up and go after him. He overtook him about a mile and a half up the road. They returned and brought with them a Mrs. Munroe, who remarked to Mrs. Farnsworth and myself how badly Mr. Cameron looked. I didn't see him when he came back, but Mrs. Munroe told me ‘he looked dreadfully: his face was so red, and he perspired so.’ He said his head was swimming, and he got weaker from that time. That was between 1 and 2 o'clock on Thursday, the 26th. He ate very little at dinner, though I wasn't at the table, and thereafter took sick. He smoked some, but as he wasn't comfortable, Mrs. F. and I moved him to the lounge in the next room. He lay there 4 or 5 hours. I bathed his head.

PREPARED A CUP OF TEA

“About 6 o'clock he sat up, said he felt better, took a smoke, and asked for something to eat. Mrs. F. prepared a cup of tea and bread, and I took it to him. He didn't sit up at the table, but sat on the corner of the lounge, in the room adjoining that in which the table was set. Before he drank the tea he said he felt better, and for an hour thereafter he said he felt better, sat up and smoked. Mrs. Farnsworth poured out the milk and stood watching while I poured out the tea and gave it to him. I'm telling you everything just exactly as it occurred. Mrs. F. stood and watched me while I gave him the tea. She told me afterwards that she watched me because of the stories that she had heard.”

At this point Mrs. Cameron wrung her hands in sorrow and bewailed the fact that she had ever broken up housekeeping, which she said was what had given people the chance to talk.

“Oh dear, it’s too terrible to think of,” she moaned.

HE COULDN’T HOLD UP THE CUP AND SAUCER

Continuing, she said:

“Two or three hours after eating his tea he went off into a sort of stupor. When drinking his tea he was so weak that he couldn’t hold up the cup and saucer, and I held it for him. It seemed as if he couldn’t see nor feel it; he was so shaky, so used up, and so stupid. Though half unconscious up to midnight, he was able to tell me how he felt for an hour or two after tea. After midnight he never rallied. He lay in that condition all Friday and Friday night, and died at five o’clock Saturday morning. Those are the plain facts as nearly and truly as they can be told. It is word for word as the thing occurred, and if you will see Mr. and Mrs. Farnsworth they will say it is true. Dr. Barnaby came to see him before he died.”

“He was familiar with his state of health?”

“Yes, to some extent, but it was difficult for anyone to thoroughly understand his troubles. Head and spine troubles are so hard to understand. But dear knows I’m innocent, whatever happened,” exclaimed the woman. “It’s a terrible affair, and I’d rather have died a dozen times myself than have it occur. I suppose you have heard a very [different] story from mine?” she asked.

“Slightly,” I answered.

“Oh, dear, that’s the way stories get afloat. But I assure you that if you saw the other parties (the Farnsworths) they’d tell you the same as I do.”

I DIDN’T KNOW SHE WAS WATCHING ME

“Mrs. Farnsworth,” she continued, “watched me very closely all the time I was sick with my husband on the Thursday he took so sick. I didn’t know she was watching me all the time, so that I couldn’t have given him anything even if I had been desirous of doing so; but she told me afterwards that she watched me closely. But if I had wanted to give him anything, I had plenty of chances. I could have done it on Tuesday night from 6 to 11, when I was alone with him and the Farnsworths were to a party. And I had a thousand opportunities when we were keeping house, and we were so much alone.”

“Did the doctor tell you the cause of the death?”

“He said it might be from apoplexy or paralysis of the brain. He didn’t say much; but he said he was too far gone to give him medicine.”

HAD TO TAKE MY OWN MONEY TO PAY HIS DEBTS

“Your husband met with business reverses at various places?”

“Yes, he always proved a failure in business. He was diffident about collecting, and the last year or two was unfit to do much business.”

“But he settled money on you, which was invested in your name at various times?”

“Settled money on me! He settled money off me at various times. You know how much a Nova Scotian store-keeper can settle on his wife. Why, I have had to take

my own money to pay his debts with. Last year I took \$800 or \$900 of my own money to settle with his creditors. And when he went over the Bay to board, I even paid his board in advance.”

“Why did you do that?”

“Well, I had the money by me, and I thought it would be a kindness to Farnsworth, who is a poor man.”

At this point of the interview, Burpee Chute, who had been clerking with Cameron some years, and who subsequently bought out the store⁴⁴⁸ from Mrs. Cameron, came into the room, and remarked that he couldn't say that he had heard a disrespectful or unkind word from Mrs. Cameron to her husband. But he had not lived in the house, only clerked in the store. Asked about the cold water bath story, Chute professed not to know anything about it, except that Cameron told him that he'd been given a cold bath.

“Now ain't the stories that people set afloat just dreadful; they strike me like a dagger,” interjected Mrs. Cameron.

THE COLD BATH STORY

The cold bath story was to this effect: On a cold, chilly October day, shortly after her returning from her trip to Eastport or Wilmot, when Chute (with whom they then boarded) was absent from home, Mrs. Cameron is alleged to have given her husband a cold water bath, and left him naked and shivering in a room.

Chute says:

“All I know about it is that when I came home I found Cameron in bed, and asked what was the matter, and he replied that Mrs. Cameron had given him a cold water bath.”

Mrs. Cameron explained to the writer that she had found her husband dirty and had given him a bath, but had mixed three or four kettles of hot water with the cold.

At any rate, it was on account of this affair that Chute told them to get a new boarding house, and Mrs. Cameron determined to send her husband over the mountain.

“Why did you make him walk up the mountain?”

“There was a heavy load on the wagon, and I suggested that it would do him good to walk a little way. He only walked 20 or 30 yards.”

WHY SHE DIDN'T GO TO SEE HIM

“You left him over there over three months, without going to see him or writing to him?”

⁴⁴⁸ “I have opened, in the store recently occupied by A. D. Cameron, the finest assortment of goods ever placed upon the market. A new, choice and carefully-selected stock of groceries. An excellent line of canned goods. A splendid display of crockeryware; in all the latest designs, and a fine selection of glassware that will suit the taste of the most fastidious. Confectionery and Xmas Novelties. My goods hve been obtained from the most reliable houses in Canada, and are warranted to be fresh and first-class in every particular. *Motto: Quick Sales and Small Profits.* Inspection invited. Satisfaction guaranteed [by] Burpee E. Chute. December 1st, 1891.” CALL AND SEE US! [Advertisement]. (1892, December 14). *Weekly Monitor* (Bridgetown), p. 4.

“The weather was so bad that I didn’t go out, and as Farnsworth came into town every week or so and told me how he was getting on, there was no need of my writing; but it was no good to write any way, as he was so blind, he couldn’t see to read.”

HE THREATENED MY LIFE WITH A REVOLVER

“The stories of your unkindness to and want of affection for your husband are strengthened by the statement that for many years you have occupied separate bedrooms.”

“That is nobody’s business. What business have gossiping neighbors to discuss the private relations of husband and wife? But the most affectionate couples frequently occupy separate rooms. As to the stories of unkindness, they are untrue. For two years he was childish, irritable and of an ugly disposition. I had to be firm with him. I had to take charge of him. Firmness with a man in his mental and physical condition is not cruelty. It was kindness. At one time he threatened my life with a revolver which he had. He used to sleep with the pistol under his pillow. Fearing that he would do himself or me harm, Burpee Chute got it away from him. It was under these circumstances that I had to sometimes talk sharply to him and insist upon his doing what I wanted him to, and use threats to him if he did not. Was I to allow a man in his condition to do as he liked? Then, as to my having a sleeping room of my own, Mr. Cameron was an inveterate smoker; he used to smoke in bed. I could not stand that, and as he refused to give up that dangerous habit, I was obliged to occupy another bedroom.”

“You sometimes kept boarders?”

“Yes; Burpee Chute, who was a clerk in the store for years, was in and out of the house a good deal of the time, and Mr. Daniels, who was a great friend of my husband’s, boarded with us for some years, before he took sick and while he was sick.”

THAT PRESCRIPTION

“When did you commence to use morphine?”

“Years ago. I have suffered from insomnia, and Dr. Barnaby gave me sleeping powders.”

“Did he ever prescribe laudanum or morphine?”

“It was sleeping powders he gave me.”

“From whom did you get the prescription for morphine and laudanum that you showed to Druggist Taylor?”

“From an American doctor whom I consulted at Eastport last September.”

“His name?”

Mrs. Cameron couldn’t think of the name for a while, but afterward recollected that it was Dr. Bab. At St. John, when coming home, she said she purchased sixty cents’ worth of laudanum, but she never obtained any poisons at Bridgetown, except from Taylor, and there she went to his store with a friend (Mrs. Saunders, I think she mentioned), asked for it openly and told the purposes for which she wanted it. He hadn’t a supply on hand, but promised to get it, and when she went back again to get it, a number of people were in and out of the shop, including T. D. Ruggles, Q. C. So that there was no secrecy about getting it.

“Seeing that I got this morphine from Taylor only a few days before my husband died,” added the woman, “might lead people to say I gave it to him, but if he’s got it in his stomach he took it himself. I know nothing about it; I’m innocent.”

THE \$5 BILL AND THE MORPHINE

“You found a \$5 bill in his pocket when he was dying?”

“Yes, it was sticking out of his vest-pocket. I thought he had got it from the Farnsworths, but they said no. I had several \$5 bills in my satchel, which was lying on the floor, and then I concluded that he had been to my satchel and taken the money from me.”

“Supposing, for the sake of argument, that he did so, would he not be apt to get at the morphine or laudanum you also had in the satchel at the same time?”

“It’s quite likely. He often said he was tired of living and said he’d like to die, but expressed the hope that he’d be kept from doing anything wrong. I would ask if he didn’t want to get better, and he’d answer, ‘No; I’d only have to die again.’”

“Did you notice that any of the laudanum or morphine was missing, that would help you suppose that he had helped himself to it?”

“No, I didn’t think of that; the quantity would be [so] small that I wouldn’t notice it, anyway.”

DESTROYED THE UNUSED MORPHINE

“What did you do with what was unused?”

“I destroyed it. Dr. Barnaby send me word by Farnsworth, after these awful stories got afloat, that if I had any drugs or poisons, I’d better get rid of them, as my having them would raise suspicions.”

“While your husband was unconscious, didn’t Farnsworth tell you⁴⁴⁹ that if it hadn’t been for the damned stuff in your satchel, he would never have got in such a state?”

“No, never a word like it. During the misunderstanding in the morning, while my husband was very much irritated, Farnsworth said that his (meaning his crossness) wouldn’t have occurred if I hadn’t been there.”

“When you were going over the mountain on the 21st, you told the driver, Tom Templeman, that you had a dream that he would die before February 1st?”

“Did you hear about that, too?” asked Mrs. Cameron in surprise. “How everything does get out. Well, the truth about that is this: I did tell him that I’d had a dream, that he was getting worse, that the old trouble of swelling of the body had returned, and that his feet were a mass of running sores. That’s all there was to that.”

“You think if morphine is found in his stomach, that the only way he could have got it was by going to your satchel and helping himself?”

“That’s the only possible way. He was always craving for stimulants of some sort, and often he’d hunt everywhere for the quinine wine that I would hide away from him. His mind ran in that direction. The Farnsworths were afraid to let him out

⁴⁴⁹ Note – This story of the damned stuff in the satchel, Farnsworth told at the Grand Central hotel, not in evidence at the inquest, as erroneously reported. [Note in the original.]

of their sight. They would never let him go to the store alone for fear something might happen; for fear he'd make away with himself."

THE CAUSE OF THE ROW ON THE DAY HE DIED

"What was the casue of the row that morning?"

"About the payment of his board. He asked me why I hadn't paid his board. I said I had – [I] had paid it in advance. He said that couldn't be, because Mrs. Farnsworth had asked him for his gold watch to pay for his board. I replied that I didn't believe him, and that I would ask Mrs. Farnsworth before him. The Farnsworths came in, there was some plain talk all around, and that's what the trouble was about."

"Did you send him any tobacco?"

"Yes, a pound a month."

"You sent him some that Farnsworth wouldn't let him use?"

"If there is any such story as that abroad, it's too dreadful the things that are being brought against me. The facts are these: I had two or three pounds of tobacco on my furs put away in the summer, and on the tobacco was sprinkled black paper. When Farnsworth came for tobacco, I asked if this would be good to smoke. He said it was just as good, and he took it."

Mrs. Cameron admitted that sometimes she might have said an injudicious word, as any woman might when annoyed, worried or tired during the course of a long married life, and that now everything she did or said was being twisted and used against her, and made to look in the blackest and worst light. Little innocent molehills were exaggerated into mountains of unkindness and cruelty. She was the victim of a combination of unfortunate circumstances. She was deserted and alone in the world, with these awful stories being circulated against her, and the burden was heart breaking. She could not imagine how people could be so cruel and heartless. but she was innocent of her husband's death, and conscious of becoming innocent, she would face her accusers, the court and the world.

WHAT DR. BARNABY SAYS

Dr. Gideon Barnaby said to the HERALD reporter:

"I have been attending physician to the deceased A. D. Cameron for about three years. [I] attended him for his first trouble two years ago, when he was in the habit of taking large quantities of quinine wine. For two years he has been suffering from nervous symptoms of a marked character, with an almost entire loss of mental power. His case was diagnosed at the time by Dr. A. P. Reid, of Halifax, as a case of probable advanced Bright's disease, with sclerosis of the brain and spinal cord, which I thought, from the symptoms, a very probable diagnosis. He was semi-demented, childish, with tremors of the hands and excessive trembling. [He] complained for months of pain in the head, with alterations of relief – at times being better. So when I was called and found him in the comatose condition that I did, I diagnosed death beginning at the brain, or death from coma, and looked upon it as a natural result of his supposed condition. Six months or longer had elapsed since I had before seen him professionally."

"You had no suspicions of poisoning when you saw him just before he died?"

“Yes. I had some suspicions of something of the kind, and asked if he had taken anything to produce such a state. I was told he had not.”

“What caused your suspicions?”

“The symptoms I saw – the condition he was in, the coma, or deep stupor, and the partially contracted pupil; but [I] concluded that all these symptoms might result from the condition of the nervous centres.”

“You never prescribed morphine?”

“Never.”

“Had he been addicted to drink?”

“Yes, for thirty years, as I have been told, he has been addicted to the use of alcohol, and for a year or two before he began to break up, used large quantities of quinine wine, which probably aggravated her nervous system.”

“Was Mrs. Cameron addicted to the use of morphine?”

“She says she’s used it more or less for years, and frequently since last July, when it was prescribed for her by her physician in Maine. I prescribed a mixture containing opium when other remedies failed to relieve her. That was shortly after I came here, three years ago.”

“Is it not a very unusual thing for a person to buy such a large quantity as thirty grains of morphine?”

“No, not for a person addicted to its use.”

“Is there any truth in the story that after the death of her husband, you sent word to Mrs. Cameron to get rid of any drugs or poison she might have with her?”

“In conversation with Farnsworth the morning that Cameron died, he stated that Mrs. Cameron told him she had some morphine powders that she had taken with her for her own use. I said to him that she’d better put them out of her possession, as the fact of having morphine might be against her in case any suspicions were aroused – were she ever so innocent. But I did not know then that she had purchased morphine from Taylor, and only imagined that ‘twas a small quantity that she had for her own use.”

A TALK WITH THE DRUGGIST

Rupert D. Taylor, formerly of the Apothecaries Hall, Halifax, now carries on a drug business for himself at Bridgetown. He has been there for some months. He told the HERALD that about the middle of January a very respectable lady-like woman called upon him and asked for some morphine and laudanum. She explained that she suffered from sleeplessness and had been in the habit of using morphine to induce sleep; that her doctor had advised her not to use it, but she could not get along without it. The lady showed a prescription. It was not from a local doctor, but, he thought, from an American doctor. The paper was considerably worn, but he was able to make out⁴⁵⁰ the words “morphine” and “laudanum”. He could not recollect whether the prescription was written in ink or pencil. He thought it read “morphine ½ dra.”

The lady, whose name he did not know, and who never obtained anything from him before, explained that she used about one-sixteenth of a grain of powdered

⁴⁵⁰ Mr. Taylor did not say this to the writer, but it is understood that he told other parties that the words morphine and laudanum were added as a sort of post-script. [Note in the original.]

morphine when needed. He did not keep the prescription and did not make a copy of it. He did not have the quantity of powdered morphine on hand that she asked for, and he gave an oz of liquid morphine and some laudanum. He promised to get the powdered morphine for her.

About a week later the lady, whom he subsequently learned was Mrs. A. D. Cameron, called for the powdered morphine and obtained thirty grains. Mr. Taylor said that was not an unusually large quantity to supply to persons who were habitual users of morphine. When she came so soon for the morphine, he thought that she explained that she had dropped the bottle containing the liquid obtained the week before. Being a comparative stranger in the town, he did not know the woman and had not heard of the rumors about her. Had he done so, he would not have supplied her with the drug.

“A. D. Cameron’s death”⁴⁵¹ (Nova Scotia, 1893)

The circumstances connected with the death of A. D. Cameron, of Bridgetown, call for the most searching investigation. Mrs. Cameron must be considered innocent until she has been proven guilty in the criminal courts, and we sincerely trust that her professional advisers may be able to make a good defence. Nevertheless the circumstances are, to say the least, suspicious, and it is the duty of the attorney general to see that a thorough examination is held and that all available evidence is produced. The public will watch future proceedings with a great deal of interest, and they will not tolerate any apathy or indifference on the part of the crown. We merely ask that the affair be subjected to the most searching investigation, sincerely hoping that as a result Mrs. Cameron may in the end be exonerated and shown to be innocent of the charge preferred against her.

“Did she attempt suicide?”⁴⁵² (Nova Scotia, 1893)

The HERALD’s regular correspondent is temporarily absent from Annapolis, [Nova Scotia]. About ten o’clock last night we received the following telegraphic query, and asking for an immediate reply:

ANNAPOLIS, February 5 – Startling news reference Cameron murder case. What will you give for full report? T. GAVAZA.⁴⁵³

To which the following reply was sent:

HALIFAX, February 5 – Indicate nature of your story. It may be same that we have. But if it’s new and true, we will take it and pay you its value. Sign your full name. HERALD.

We asked for the full name as a guarantee of the authenticity of the “startling news,” as there are several Gavazas in Annapolis. At 11:30 the following telegram

⁴⁵¹ From A. D. CAMERON’S DEATH. (1893, February 6). *Halifax Herald*, p. 4.

⁴⁵² From DID SHE ATTEMPT SUICIDE? (1893, February 6). *Halifax Herald*, p. 8.

⁴⁵³ Thomas Millidge Gavaza (1850 – 1922).

was received. The office at Annapolis closed immediately after it; we were, therefore, unable to obtain confirmation of the story, and publish it only upon the authority of the sender.

ANNAPOLIS, Feb. 5 – This morning the town was startled by the fact that Mrs. Cameron, accused of the murder of her husband, at Hampton, on Saturday week last, and committed to jail to await further examination, had attempted to take her life by first taking a large quantity of morphine, and, before it had taken effect, cut her throat, making an incision about four inches in length.

Yesterday afternoon she had received a number of visitors, with whom, it is said, she conversed freely and seemed in good spirits. But at tea time she refused to take any nourishment and retired about eight o'clock. Her brother, a prominent lawyer from the state of Maine, who had arrived that afternoon, called to see her for a few minutes after she had retired, and found her apparently asleep. After remaining some time and finding that she had not awakened, he retired to his hotel.

A few minutes afterwards the jailer revisited the cell, replenished the fire, etc. He then went to his own apartments when his wife informed him she would endeavor to get her to take something to eat, as she had refused to do [so] at tea time. Upon their entering the cell, they found Mrs. Cameron lying on the bed in a pool of blood. Dr. Russell Withers was at once called in, and after much difficulty stitched up the cut in the throat and administered restoratives, remaining until this morning, when she had partly recovered consciousness. She was found lying on her right side, and the bed was completely saturated with blood. Her satchel, which was in the room with her, was examined by Dr. Withers, and contained among other things a quantity of drugs of various kinds.

T. M. GAVAZA

“Third attempt at suicide”⁴⁵⁴ (Nova Scotia, 1893)

Annapolis, February 6 – The story telegraphed the HERALD last night of Mrs. Cameron's attempts to take her life were true in all particulars. The desperate determination she exhibited to end her terrible troubles in death has greatly strengthened the popular belief in her guilt. The HERALD, with its elaborate interview with the unfortunate woman, was eagerly looked for and every copy was sold out a short time after the arrival of the train. Never was greater interest manifested in any similar tragedy, and the HERALD's enterprise in giving all the startling facts of the case, and its fairness to the suspected woman in devoting so much space to publishing her side of the story, elicits favorable comments on every hand.

Mrs. Cameron was very weak this morning from loss of blood and from her continued determination not to take any nourishment. She has formed a desperate resolve to die and says she will accomplish her purpose, despite all the efforts of the jailer to prevent her. She cut her throat with a razor borrowed from the jailer on the

⁴⁵⁴ From THIRD ATTEMPT AT SUICIDE. (1893, February 7). *Halifax Herald*, p. 4.

excuse that she wanted to pare her corn. The morphine which she swallowed she carried, with other drugs, in her satchel. The first two attempts at suicide having failed, the woman made another attempt to kill herself this afternoon by opening the veins of her arms with a pin, hoping thereby to bleed to death. The doctor hopes to save her life if she can be induced to take nourishment, but she refuses to either eat or drink, and talks but little.

Mrs. Cameron's triple attempt to take her life has greatly increased popular interest in the murder story. The preliminary examination set down for Bridgetown to-morrow will, of course, have to be indefinitely postponed.

Coroner Primrose arrived in the city last night with the stomach of the deceased A. D. Cameron en route for St. John, to get it analyzed. He had an interview with Attorney-General Longley⁴⁵⁵.

“Mrs. Cameron in court”⁴⁵⁶ (Nova Scotia, 1893)

Bridgetown, February 7 – If the story of the circumstances attending the death of A. D. Cameron, and the arrest of his wife upon a charge of willful murder by morphine poisoning, created a sensation throughout the western counties, the story of attempts at suicide by the suspected woman created the greatest excitement. Those attempts on her life of course greatly prejudiced public feeling against the woman.

It was generally believed that those attempts had been so serious that Mrs. Cameron's life was in danger, and that the trial would be postponed. The desperation of the prisoner was not, however, half as great as was alleged. The morphine she swallowed was only the usual dose to which she was accustomed, but the attempt with the razor was a bona fide one. The jugular vein was not severed. The wound in her throat was not very deep and some stitches and nourishment enabled Mrs. Cameron to put in an appearance at Bridgetown to-day.

The preliminary examination is being held before Stipendiary William W. Forsyth in the court house, which is also fitted up as an opera house. The prisoner sat in a sleepy hollow and rested her head upon a pillow. She wore a hat and the wounds in her throat were hidden behind a heavy fur collar. She looks fifteen years older than she did five days ago.

The prosecution was conducted by J. M. Owen, of Annapolis, and J. C. Parker. Mrs. Cameron was defended by W. E. Roscoe, J. J. Ritchie and Edwin Ruggles. Near the accused sat her brother Colin McNichol, a prominent lawyer of Calais, Maine, who bears a striking resemblance to the late Henry Ward Beecher.

The court room was packed with people, many coming in the train from along the line of railway to attend the trial. The list of witnesses includes John E. Farnsworth, Mrs. Farnsworth, their son Reed, Flossie Hobart, John Templeton, Elias Messenger, Jas. Dunn, Lloyd Brooks, Rupert D. Taylor, Drs. DeBlois, Freeman and

⁴⁵⁵ James Wilberforce Longley (1849 – 1922), formerly a Halifax journalist and newspaper editor.

⁴⁵⁶ From MRS. CAMERON IN COURT. (1893, February 8). *Halifax Herald*, p. 1.

Barnaby, Burpee E. and Mrs. Chute, Daniel and William Sheehan, Mrs. Saunders and Rev. John Cameron.

THE FIRST WITNESS EXAMINED

Daniel Sheehan was the first witness examined. He drove Mr. and Mrs. Cameron over the mountain to the Bay shore, and he testified that they went over on Sunday in a heavy rain storm. There was a continued cross fire between the learned counsel, and the examination of this one comparatively unimportant witness lasted several hours. Counsel for the defence objected to a great many of the questions and declared that the class of evidence tendered had no relevancy to the case, being matters of opinion and hearsay. Mr. Ritchie got very excited at one point and expressed the opinion that that the evidence was of the same nature as the abominable falsehoods which appeared in the HALIFAX HERALD, and apparently designed to influence the public mind against Mrs. Cameron.

Sheehan, a young fellow of 21, testified:

“When we left Bridgetown it was raining very hard; [it was] very bad under foot and very chilly, and it rained continually from the time we left for Bridgetown until we reached Farnsworth. Before we left Bridgetown I said to Mrs. Cameron I thought it was a pretty tough day to take Mr. Cameron over to the shore. Mrs. Cameron said she thought it would clear up. Mrs. Cameron had an umbrella, but Mr. Cameron had none. I could not see that Cameron had any protection for his throat for an old man.”

IT WILL DO HIM GOOD

“At the foot of the mountain,” [continued the witness,] “my brother and myself got out on account of the steepness. Farther on Mrs. Cameron turned round to her husband and said, ‘Cameron, you get out and walk.’ My brother and myself objected to his getting out. I told Mrs. Cameron there was no necessity for Mr. Cameron to get out and walk. She said, ‘Let him get out and walk; it will do him good.’ We objected again, when she replied, [that] he had walked up and down Chute’s platform all day long, and he could walk up the mountain. She then turned to Cameron and told him to get out and walk. He got out of the wagon unassisted. He had not gone forty rods when it was plainly seen he had walked too far. He was completely exhausted, and was getting weaker and weaker. He showed the exhaustion by his slow and short steps, and quick breathing. He looked ready to drop. I told Mrs. Cameron he was not able to walk any further and to stop the horse. She said, ‘Well, then, let him walk up the next hill, and then he can get in.’”

Cross-examined by Mr. Roscoe, he said he took no umbrella with him, though it was raining. About a week after the trip he began to talk about the way Cameron had been treated, and then again after Cameron’s death. He had not made any statement to Mr. Dennis⁴⁵⁷, of the HALIFAX HERALD, but talked to people generally about it. He never heard Mrs. Cameron offer to get out and walk. The road was steep and muddy, which increased Cameron’s difficulty in walking. After an hour’s severe cross-examination, no essential point of evidence was shaken.

⁴⁵⁷ William Henry Dennis (1887 – 1954) was editor of the *Herald* and eventually a Senator for Halifax.

[THE SECOND WITNESS]

William Sheehan, a younger brother, was the next witness. On Saturday night in October last he was engaged by Mrs. Cameron to take her husband over the mountain. He did so next morning. The piece of steep road over which Cameron made to walk was a new road, clayey, but not real bad walking, as there were drains on each side. He had walked up worse. He corroborated his brother on other points.

At five o'clock the court adjourned to ten o'clock tomorrow. At the rate of progress made to-day the preliminary examination will take a week.

“Mrs. Saunders’ evidence”⁴⁵⁸ (Nova Scotia, 1893)

Bridgetown, February 8 – The examination in the case of Mrs. Cameron was resumed this morning. William Sheehan continued his evidence, describing the trip over the mountain. It was largely corroborative of his brother Dan’s. Cross-examined, he said it looked as though it would clear up when they started; that Mrs. Cameron spoke kindly to her husband when she told him to get out.

Flossie Hobart, aged 14, didn’t know the nature of an oath and an objection was raised by the defence. The court refused to explain the nature of an oath to her, and her evidence was not taken.

“LET’S GO IN AND GET THAT MEDICINE”

The court resumed at two o'clock, when Mrs. Walter Saunders was examined by Mr. Parker. She was the lady with whom Mrs. Cameron boarded from last October to January 21st last. On January 20th, the day before Mrs. Cameron left to go over the mountain, [the] witness accompanied her on various calls, and when near Taylor’s drug store Mrs. Cameron said, “Let’s go in and get that medicine.”

[The] witness went in with her. Taylor was engaged in the inner office and Mrs. Cameron, after waiting a few minutes, called out, “Mr. Taylor, has that medicine come?” He answered, “Yes,” but as Taylor was still engaged, [the] witness said to Mrs. Cameron, “Let’s go to Mrs. Harris and you can call and get it as you come back.” [The] witness did not know what the medicine was.

After making the call at Mrs. Harris’, they went along the street some distance towards Mrs. Saunders’ home, when Mrs. Cameron stopped and said, “Oh, I will go back and get that.” She turned and went back, and [the] witness went home.

Mrs. Cameron came back at a quarter to six, but said nothing about the medicine. [The] Witness didn’t remember saying anything to Mrs. Cameron about it. She had never been at Taylor’s with Mrs. Cameron before, but had been there twice before and asked “if that medicine had come.” She did so at Mrs. Cameron’s request, which request was made in presence of Miss Viditeo and [the] witness’ two sons, Vernon and Brandt. That request was made either on Monday or Tuesday before Friday, the 29th.

“THAT MEDICINE”

[The] witness did not know the name of “that medicine.”

⁴⁵⁸ From MRS. SAUNDERS’ EVIDENCE. (1893, February 9). *Halifax Herald*, p. 1.

[Question –] “Did you know what that medicine meant?”

Witness – “I can’t say that I really knew.”

[Question –] “What do you mean when you say that you can’t say that you really knew?”

Mr. Roscoe – “I object to that question. That is cross-examination of the severest kind.”

Mr. Owen contended that [the] witness should explain her meaning.

[The] witness asked to be allowed to explain the preceding circumstances and continued. The first or second week in January, Mrs. Cameron went out one morning. On her return she said, “I have been to Mr. Taylor’s drug store with a prescription from an American doctor in Eastport for insomnia.”

I [witness] answered: “Pooh on your drugs. Go out more.”

She said: “You are just like Dr. Barnaby. I get no sympathy from you.”

That was the circumstance that led [the] witness to believe that the phrase “that medicine” referred to something for insomnia. [The] witness could not say whether that circumstance took place the Monday or Tuesday before the 20th January, or a fortnight previously. When [the] witness called for it, Taylor said it had not come, and added that if it did not come to-morrow he’d telegraph for it.

One night intervened, and Mrs. Cameron again asked her to call at Taylor’s and see if that medicine had come. Again Taylor said it hadn’t come. In December or January the witness asked Mrs. Cameron when she was going over to see her husband. Mrs. Cameron replied, “I would go over if I thought he’d appreciate it.”

A week or so before Mrs. Cameron went over the mountain she was sitting absorbed in thought, as she often was during the winter, and she said: “If I were to bring Mr. Cameron here, you would have no room. I think he is very comfortable where he is. I will let him stay where he is and will go to housekeeping in April or May.”

[The] witness asked if he had fire in his room. Mrs. Cameron answered that she did not know, but thought so, and added that their house was very comfortable; as nice as many here in Bridgetown. When Mrs. Cameron did go visit her husband, the first hat [the] witness knew of it was twenty minutes before she started. She brought down the key of her room, and said she did get a chance to go over the mountain. This was about four o’clock Saturday afternoon.

Before leaving she told [the] witness to use the room if she wanted it, and said she would write. [The] witness followed Mrs. Cameron to the door, where a team was standing. She got in and drove away. A few minutes later she returned to the house and got the key of the room. She said she had forgotten something and went upstairs. When she left the house the first time she had a wrap and satchel in her hand. [She] heard her lave the house the second time, but didn’t see her.

“A LITTLE IRREGULAR”

This evidence was elicited by pointed examination, and Mr. Ritchie strongly objected to the crown cross-examining its own witnesses, which Mr. Parker admitted was “a little irregular.” Mr. Ritchie alleged that all the rules of evidence were being

violated. Some counsel went blundering on all through the case without any apology. Parker had enough conscience to apologize for his methods.

Mr. Roscoe suggested that the crown was trying to make the evidence conform to the HERALD's reports.

Mr. Parker – “We are not swearing by the HERALD reports, but we understand that a good many people have been swearing at them.”

The court didn't entertain Mr. Ritchie's objections.

The witness continuing, [she] said the next time she saw Mrs. Cameron was on the following Wednesday, when she came to the house at half past six, and left again about half-past nine, and had never been back since.

[Question –] “Did you have any conversation with Mrs. Cameron on her return?”

Mr. Roscoe objected to the question. A Halifax paper, in the pursuit of its legitimate business, had already placed a sensational story of the case before the public, but this was no place for sensational evidence. The crown should not use the court, forgetting facts upon the record which, while irrelevant, would only tend to create a sensation.

“OH, THAT FATAL DAY – THAT FATAL DAY”

Mr. Owen disclaimed any attempt to get out improper or sensational evidence, but he wanted to get an alleged remark made by Mrs. Cameron to Mrs. Saunders, to the effect [of] “Oh, that day – that fatal day.” Mr. Parker demanded the minutest details from the witness of all conversations between Mrs. Cameron and Mrs. Saunders. The court proceeded with the question.

Question – “What conversation, if any, took place between yourself and Mrs. Cameron that evening, upon her return from Hampton?”

Mr. Roscoe objected.

The question was allowed and the witness answered:

“I was much overcome when Mrs. Cameron first came in, and don't remember what was first said. After that Mrs. Cameron went to her room, and there Mrs. Cameron said to me, ‘I'm perfectly innocent. I'm not going to run. [I] have done nothing. They may do what they like with me; I'm perfectly innocent. How fatal that I should have gone over and that all this trouble should have come upon me.’”

Dr. Barnaby thought Mrs. Cameron should go to a house where there was a man, and she left at 9:30, but [the] witness added that she would never forgive herself for allowing her to go out of the house that night.

Cross-examined by Mr. Roscoe – [The] witness had been told by Mrs. Cameron that she had taken over a set of furs and presented them to her husband, and that was what she returned to the house the second time for. Mrs. Cameron had been poorly all the winter, but the first she knew about her taking narcotics was when she spoke about the prescription for insomnia. She had told her that she never slept after four o'clock. Mrs. Cameron made no secret getting the medicine. She did not act sly; everything was above board. Her room has been open ever since she left and no effort has been made to destroy anything that she had.

“She never exhibited any grudge or ill feeling against her husband while at my house,” [said the witness]. Though she didn’t speak often of him, when she did, it was kindly, but she said he’s been addicted to drink and she’d had trouble with him.

RUPERT D. TAYLOR, DRUGGIST

Rupert D. Taylor, druggist, examined by Mr. Owen, testified that he had been in the drug business twenty years and carried on business in Bridgetown since August last. Prior to that [he had been] with Brown & Webb in Halifax and Windsor.

“On the eighth of January last Mrs. Cameron purchased one ounce of laudanum from me,” [he said.] “Also an ounce of solution of morphine containing six grains. She said she wanted it for sleeplessness. She said she preferred morphine powder. Four or five days later she called and got another bottle of laudanum, and again spoke about morphine powder. [The] witness promised to get her some. A day or two later she called to see if the powder had come. Mrs. Saunders also called for it. Then on January 19th or 20th Mrs. Cameron called and got thirty grains of powdered morphine. She was alone that day.”

“Will it be life or death”?⁴⁵⁹ (Nova Scotia, 1893)

Bridgetown, February 9 – The introduction to the interview with Mrs. Cameron published in the Halifax HERALD of Monday, demanded a fair trial for that unfortunate woman. In the preliminary investigation, now in its third day, she is not only receiving a fair trial, but every advantage that herself and her friends could reasonably expect. She is treated with every courtesy by Sheriff Morse and his assistants. The crown exhibits none of that “blood thirsty vindictiveness” that Mr. Ritchie, in his effort to create greater sympathy for the prisoner, would have the court, his audience, and the public believe. On the contrary, the crown counsel exhibit extraordinary moderation, patience, courtesy and gentleness of manner, and manifest a desire to elicit nothing but the actual facts. No attempt is made to make the case appear in a worse light than it actually is, and facts and incidents, which many people think could legitimately be brought out in evidence, are excluded by the vigorous protests of counsel for the defence.

The crown prosecutor, J. M. Owen, Q. C., of Annapolis, a brother of Hon. W. H. Owen, of Bridgewater, is a painstaking, careful lawyer, of middle age, medium height, slight build, sharp features and dark brown whiskers and mustache. He is not a strong speaker, and treats opposing counsel with marked courtesy. Mr. Owen cannot be described as a fighting lawyer, and in that respect the crown is at a disadvantage, though he can hang on to a point with pertinacity. His associate, J. G. H. Parker, is a man of powerful physique, of the W. T. Pipes or D. C. Fraser build, with a deep voice, and examines a witness with keenness and authority. On the other side, W. E. Roscoe, Q. C. of Kentville, is “a fighter”.

⁴⁵⁹ From WILL IT BE LIFE OR DEATH. (1893, February 10). *Halifax Herald*, p. 1.

A REGULAR BULL-DOG ON CROSS EXAMINATION

A point that cannot be extracted from a witness by keen questioning, he will sometimes succeed in extorting by bluff and brow-beating. He will confuse a witness, "break him all up," make him contradict himself, and make a sorry spectacle of the witness generally, so that when he goes off the stand, he hardly knows what evidence he gave. Mr. Roscoe distinguished himself in this regard in the Victoria and Cape Breton road money investigation before the legislative committee. J. J. Ritchie, Q. C., of Annapolis, nephew of the late Chief Justice Ritchie, takes a very active part in the defence, and is a shrewd cross examiner, and knows how to make and elicit a point.

Neither Mr. Roscoe nor Mr. Ritchie are at all sparing of their denunciations of the methods of the crown counsel, and frequently sneer at what they alleged to be the "gross bungling of the whole business." They banter, bother and annoy the crown counsel a good deal, and when other methods fail they laugh a point out of court. Mr. Ruggles being the junior counsel is the peaceful man of the two, and takes a less prominent part, though he is considered to be as safe a counselor and well posted a lawyer as his colleagues.

O. T. Daniels, though not taking part in court, is understood to be doing a very large amount of outside work for the defence, in obtaining points to break down the force of the crown evidence, and in procuring evidence for the defence. None of the counsel were ever before engaged in a celebrated criminal case.

All Mrs. Cameron's friends are confident she will never be convicted, and many of them declare that the investigation will fizzle out and that the whole thing will end in a farce. No money or effort will be spared in attempting to accomplish that end, and it is pointed out that so much politics and personal friendship is mixed up in the case that no very thorough effort will be made by "the powers behind the throne" to push the case. But the people who make these predictions may turn out to be false prophets.

SUBSTANTIATE ALL THE FACTS PUBLISHED BY THE HERALD

The Chronicle just now is feasting upon sour grapes, and in order to excuse its own lack of enterprise, is making sickly attempts to discredit the HERALD's full reports of last week. Nevertheless, in order to retain some semblance of a claim to being a newspaper, the Chronicle finds itself compelled to publish pretty full reports of the evidence – and thereby substantiate all the facts published by the HERALD last week, and which even Lawyer Ritchie inferentially admitted were based upon the evidence adduced before the magistrate!

Mr. McNichol, Mrs. Cameron's brother, who is a prominent lawyer at Calais, Me., and said to be worth \$150,000 or more, left Bridgetown yesterday. Some said he had returned to Calais, others that he had gone to St. John, where Mr. McIntyre is analyzing the contents of the stomach of the deceased. Rev. J. N. Hart, who went across the mountain with Mr. Owen last week, denies that he went to obtain evidence for the crown, but says he merely went to pilot the crown prosecutor.

A WITNESS WHO DIDN'T KNOW

[...] Flossie Hobart, a 14-year-old girl, a niece of Mrs. Farnsworth, is an American girl, who has lived with them for two years. She looks to be 16. When her

name was called in court on Tuesday, Farnsworth stepped to the front and said that she hadn't come; that she didn't know anything about the case anyway, and that it was no use to bring her. He was told she would have to come.

When she appeared to be sworn yesterday, Mr. Roscoe immediately jumped up and asked if she knew the nature of an oath. The girl said she didn't, and thereupon Roscoe objected to her being sworn.

The girl wasn't sworn, but she was called this morning [and] the oath explained, [after which] she was sworn, and proved to be quite as smart as the ordinary 14-year-old girl – except for her terribly poor memory. She attends school. When Mrs. Cameron came, the girl gave up her room to that lady. That room was on the ground floor, off the sitting room. Mr. Cameron slept up stairs. [The] witness didn't sleep [at] home while Mrs. Cameron was there. She heard something said about “bringing the cot downstairs,” but couldn't remember when. She returned to Farnsworth's on the Saturday morning Cameron died, but had no idea of the time; it was before daylight, but she didn't know whether it was before or after six o'clock. She didn't know whether or not Cameron was dead when she came home. She didn't know when she first learned of his death.

Mr. Ritchie made a violent protest against the continued examination of the witness as a waste of time and expense. She was not at home and knew nothing at all about the case.

Mr. Owen expressed the opinion that the witness knew a great deal more than she was telling. She had sworn to a number of statements that he had no hesitation in saying that he didn't believe. Was it possible to imagine that this bright and intelligent girl, living in the house or running to and fro all the time, didn't know anything about the case? And that although only a few days had elapsed since this event occurred, which had stirred the whole country, was it possible to believe that she had forgotten all about it? Her answer to almost every question was “I don't know,” [or] “I don't remember.”

The court decided to allow the examination to proceed – [with] the witness to be treated as hostile.

In answer to further questions, [the] witness said Cameron was dead when she arrived at [the] Farnsworths' on Saturday morning. She was in the house on Friday, but didn't recollect whether she was in the sitting room. [She] didn't know when she first saw the cot in the sitting room. [She] saw the cot there. [She] didn't know whether or not Cameron was on it then. “I don't know whether it was there before the week in which Cameron died,” she said. A dozen other questions were put to her, but [the] witness “didn't know.”

Cross-examined by Mr. Ruggles, she said all that she knew about the case is what she had been told.

MRS. FARNSWORTH'S STORY

Phoebe, wife of John E. Farnsworth, was next called. She is a woman of about 50 or 53 years, of very ordinary appearance, but of a nervous temperament. Great interest centred in her evidence, as it is generally believed that upon her testimony very largely hangs the whole case against Mrs. Cameron. A friend of the defence

remarked that Mrs. Farnsworth held Mrs. Cameron's life in her hand. After one or two preliminary questions, she was asked: "When did Mr. Cameron die?"

This upset her equilibrium and she replied:

"I don't know. You know just as well as I do. I'm all mixed up already. Mr. Farnsworth knows all the dates. He's got 'em down in a book. If you want the dates I'll get 'em from the book. I'm only going to tell what I know, and if you get me mixed up I won't tell anything at all."

After Mrs. Farnsworth had calmed herself to her normal temperament, the examination proceeded.

[The] witness said this month was February, and Cameron died last month, which was January. [She] remembered being visited by Mr. Owen and Mr. Hart last Friday, and giving Mr. Owen a statement relative to the sickness and death of Cameron, and from the time of Cameron coming to the house up to his death. That statement was taken in writing and afterwards read over to her. After being subpoenaed on Monday she had made a statement to Mr. Ritchie. She was to be paid \$2.50 a week for Cameron's board. [She] was paid every four weeks, until the last time Mrs. Cameron paid ahead. That was the last of December, but that was not her business; she didn't know anything about it. John Templeman brought Mrs. Cameron to her house on the 21st January.

DIDN'T KNOW MRS. CAMERON WAS COMING

[The] witness didn't know Mrs. Cameron was coming then; [she] knew she was to come. She had not been there from the 9th October last, when she brought her husband, and the 21st January. On the 21st January she brought two satchels with her. The Tuesday evening after Mrs. Cameron came, Mr. Farnsworth and [the] witness spent the evening out. A 13 year old boy was left home with Mr. and Mrs. Cameron. With that exception she was home all the time Mrs. Cameron was there. [She] was in and out doors, doing her housework.

Cameron slept upstairs. When Cameron came to [the] witness' house in October, he did not seem to have a good appetite. He seemed very forgetful. With that exception his mind was all right. His appetite improved until New Year's. After that it didn't seem to be so good. Some days he had a good appetite, and other days he hadn't. He went around the house and outdoors from the time he came until the day he was taken sick – on the Thursday afternoon, previous to the Saturday on which he died. He did chores and errands and took walks for exercise. "He usually went to the post office and got our mail," [she said.] Since New Year's his memory wasn't as good as before. That was his condition when Mrs. Cameron arrived on January 21st. Mrs. Cameron's satchels were put in her bedroom on the ground floor, off the sitting room.

SHE HAD BEEN HAVING A BAD DREAM ABOUT MR. CAMERON

When Mrs. Cameron came, she said she had been having a bad dream about Mr. Cameron and wanted to come over to see him. Other things were said. Women talk, and [the] witness couldn't think what else she said.

[Question –] "Was anything said about any one dying?"

Witness – “I don’t know how to answer that. Mrs. Cameron said March would be a bad month with him. He was always worse in March. That’s as near as I can remember. Now, here’s something I should have told you before, but I forgot. When she told me the dream, she said she felt uneasy about him and it would be a terrible thing for him to die, and her not to be there. In her dream she said she saw his face looking very red, his feet were terribly swollen and burst. [I] cannot remember the hour Mr. Cameron got up that Thursday morning. Mr. and Mrs. Cameron had a controversy that morning. About the middle of the forenoon. It was concerning something that he had said about me wanting his watch for his board. Mrs. Cameron said that Cameron had told her that he didn’t think we wanted him, [and] that [the] witness demanded his watch for board. She asked him about it before us, as she said he would deny it after she left. Then Cameron left the house and went on the road to Bridgetown.”

COULDN’T BULLDOZE THE COURT

One o’clock struck at this point and the defence wanted an adjournment, but the crown, having reached a critical point, preferred to go on. Mr. Ritchie pleaded for an adjournment on the ground of humanity to Mrs. Cameron, who, he said, was too weak to stand the long sessions.

The court decided to continue, then counsel for [the] defence tackled the court, but his worship has considerable decision of character and said he would not be bulldozed by counsel, either into an unnecessary adjournment, or in noting their unnecessary interruptions and protests on his minutes.

[The] witness continued: Mr. Farnsworth brought back Cameron to the house. Mrs. Cameron was called, but did not come to dinner. Cameron drank a cup of tea and ate a piece of his pie, then left the table and sat where he usually did – at the west window in the kitchen. He sat and talked to one of the neighbors – Travers Chester. After dinner Cameron brought in an armful of wood.

THAT CUP OF TEA

After recess the examination of Mrs. Farnsworth was continued. She and her husband drank out of their own cups; each was distinguishable from the others. [The] witness gave minute details of all the preparations for dinner on the Thursday after the row between Mr. and Mrs. Cameron – the setting of the table, etc. Half an hour may have elapsed between setting the table and dinner, during which [the] witness was in the kitchen.

“Mrs. Cameron was lying down,” [continued the witness,] “but [I] don’t know whether she went to lie down before or after the table was set. Mrs. Cameron didn’t take dinner with the family. She took a bite during the afternoon. Mrs. Cameron and [the] witness were in the kitchen. She told me to look and see how red Cameron’s face was. I looked, and he was wiping sweat from his face with his handkerchief. He was sweating a good deal; the veins in his forehead were swollen. She said they were always so when he took those bad spells.”

[The] witness said he had got none since he had been there, and she was glad Mrs. Cameron was there, as she (witness) would be terribly frightened. Mrs. Cameron said she was used to seeing it and wasn’t frightened. Mrs. Cameron bathed his face

with water and asked if he felt better. She told him to lie down on the lounge which was just inside the room door. Mrs. Cameron covered him. He breathed hard, with a distressing sound. [The] witness said to Mrs. Cameron that his breathing sounded so [bad] that she didn't know how to stay there. She said he always breathed that way when in these spells. She sat by the lounge most of the time till tea. [The] witness supposed she was wiping sweat from his face.

WHEN MRS. CAMERON Poured OUT THE CUP OF TEA

About five o'clock [the] witness said to Mrs. Cameron, "You'd better call Mr. Cameron to supper."

She answered, "He's asleep, and I'd better not wake him."

Mrs. Cameron took her supper and afterwards asked him if he would have some. He made some reply and she answered, "Sit still; [I] will bring it to you."

She came to the kitchen, poured out a cup of tea, spread some bread, and took it to him. He was then sitting on [the] lounge, leaning back against the wall. When Mrs. Cameron poured out the cup of tea, [the] witness was standing at the side of the tea table. [The] witness put the cup on the table.

"I don't know," [said the witness,] "whether Mrs. Cameron took in a spoon with the tea; [I] don't know if she used [a] spoon to sweeten the cup with."

[The] witness did not know whether she (witness) put milk in the cup or whether Mrs. Cameron did.

"[I] don't recollect anything about putting in the milk," [she said,] "[but] there was milk in the tea."

The teapot stood at the table after being used by the family at tea. Immediately after Mrs. Cameron took the tea to her husband, [the] witness went to work clearing off the table, washing dishes at the sink, putting them away in the pantry, etc. She could not see the door of the sitting room when she was in the pantry. She went into the pantry five or six times, also into the stairway to the cellar.

When Mrs. Cameron went into the sitting room with tea, [the] witness supposed she gave it to him. Whilst [the] witness was clearing off the table, Mrs. Cameron came out and got another piece of bread. The bread was then in the pantry. [The] witness got it and she spread [the bread] and took it to her husband. [The] witness did not know where the cup of tea was all this time, as she was not in the sitting room, but at her work in the kitchen. [The] witness didn't know whether or not Cameron had changed his seat during this time. She didn't know because she wasn't in the room and couldn't see without going close to the door. Mrs. Cameron brought an empty cup to the sink to wash.

After being on the stand five hours, both the witness and Mr. Owen stated that they were tired and wanted adjournment. The court adjourned. After the tedious and exhaustive examination the crown has arrived at the last cup of tea given the deceased by his wife, and during which time she was alone with him and out of the view of [the] witness.

LETTERS OF SYMPATHY

Mrs. Cameron is in receipt of letters of sympathy from many friends, among the most touching of which are the following:

105 Bridge Street, East Cambridge, Mass.

[To] Mrs. A. D. Cameron, Bridgetown, N.S. – With heartfelt sympathy I read the enclosed clipping this morning. I pray that everything will come out right for you. I remember you and your late husband's kindness to me when in your employ as a boy in the Lorway store, Cape Breton, 1874. May God protect you and give you strength and wisdom to prove your innocence, of which I have no doubt, knowing your kindness of heart, and amiable disposition in your own home. With many good wishes I remain in your affliction, your friend,

J. B. HAMILTON

Ex-councilman of Boston Mass.

Victoria General Hospital, Halifax, 7th February, 1893

My dear Mrs. Cameron – I was sorry, but not surprised, when I heard of the death of my old and valued friend A.D.C., but was inexpressibly shocked when [I] heard of the accusation against you, while pleased to think you had the courage to face the accusation. But saddest of all to hear of your attempt on your life. Providence has kindly thwarted your insane act, and I trust that your reason will have so far returned that you will see the injustice to yourself of which you have been guilty. When all the facts are known, you will not only be honorably acquitted, but will have the sympathy of every right-thinking person, for your great tribulation. Don't think hard of the action of the community. It was a testimony of the public esteem for your husband, and when the facts are known you will occupy a better position than ever. When it is known how, for years, you have nursed and cared for him as no other would, that had it not been for you he would have died, in all likelihood, over two years ago owing to his craving for narcotics. It is now going on 29 years since I knew you both, and I trust before long to see you. Keep up your courage, and all will be well.

Yours very sincerely,

A. P. REID.

THE ST. JOHN ANALYST

Bridgetown, February 9 – It is reported here that Cameron's stomach is being analyzed by a "Professor McIntyre," of St. John. People here never heard of him before as an analyst, and are anxious to learn what experience he has had, and what his reputation is as an analyst. Some of Mrs. Cameron's friends are offering to bet one hundred dollars that no morphine will be found in the stomach.

Halifax, February 9 – A despatch from the HERALD's St. John correspondent gives the following information: "McIntyre, the chemist, is regarded as an exceedingly capable man. He is a native of St. John, and took a long and thorough course in chemistry and physics in Edinburgh and Heidelberg. It will be remembered that he was employed for the defence in a Pictou poisoning case some three or four years ago, when W. T. Best, the Dominion analyst here, gave evidence for the prosecution. On that occasion McIntyre's evidence was accepted as against that given

by the prosecution. Mr. McIntyre is not a ‘professor,’ but is one of the lecturers in the university extension course. He is a brother of Robert McIntyre, secretary of the gas company in Halifax.”

“Mrs. Farnsworth’s story”⁴⁶⁰ (Nova Scotia, 1893)

Bridgetown, February 10 – The examination of Mrs. Farnsworth was continued this morning. A howling storm raged without and the court house was not so crowded as in former days. Hardly had the court opened before a big row was precipitated between the court and counsel for the defence.

The court read over a sentence of evidence taken yesterday. Mr. Ritchie said it read differently from the version given by the court. The court suggested that he might just as well have said that the court lied. Mr. Ritchie answered that he held a strong and well defined opinion on that point, but he would not express it just now. Mr. Owen insisted upon the observance of decent and decorous conduct by counsel. The court threatened, unless counsel conducted themselves decently, to clear the court.

Mr. Roscoe – “Of all but counsel for the defence.”

The court – “I will clear out counsel for the defence, too.”

Mr. Ritchie – “You don’t dare do it. Just try that on. We know our rights.”

The court – “And I know my rights, too, and intend to maintain them. Now, go on with the examination, and don’t waste any more time.”

HE BREATHED TERRIBLY DISTRESSINGLY

[The] witness continued her story of clearing away the tea table. She was in and out [of] the kitchen, pantry, and sitting room during the evening. Mrs. Cameron was sitting by Mr. Cameron the most of the evening. After 11 o’clock that night [the] witness went to her son’s house and remained until 5:30 the next morning (Friday). [She] can’t say whether Mrs. C. frequently wiped and bathed her husband’s face, or only did so occasionally. During the evening [the] witness went into [the] room and looked at Cameron several times. He was lying asleep, breathing heavily, but not so bad after tea as before. He breathed terribly distressingly; it sounded bad. Before going to her son Reed’s, [the] witness spoke to Mrs. Cameron about a doctor. She said “yes”. “[I] don’t remember what I said to her,” [explained the witness.]

Mr. Owen – “Without remembering the exact words you said to her, what did you say?”

The witness – “How can I tell if I don’t remember?”

[The] question [was] repeated.

Mr. Roscoe strongly objected to this class of question and asked the court to deal out the commonest, simplest justice to the woman whose life was at stake.

Mr. Owen argued that it was perfectly competent for the witness to give the substance of a conversation without being able to give the exact words.

⁴⁶⁰ From MRS. FARNSWORTH’S STORY. (1893, February 11). *Halifax Herald*, p. 8.

[The] witness said she told Mrs. Cameron that any of the boys would go for a doctor. Mrs. Cameron said, "We will wait, for I am so used to seeing him have these spells." The swelling in the veins of his forehead went down after tea. He lay with his mouth open. [She] didn't see him move. When [the] witness left the house at 11 o'clock Thursday night, her husband and Mrs. Cameron were in the kitchen, and Cameron was still on the lounge.

"Next morning, when she returned at 5:30, [she] found [the] husband lying down in our room," [said the witness,] "Mrs. Cameron in the kitchen, and Cameron lying in the lounge in the same position." His breathing was about the same. [She] didn't notice any sweat; his eyes were still closed, [and his] mouth was open a little. [She] again spoke to Mrs. Cameron about getting a doctor.

THEY WERE CLOTHES TO LAY HIM (HER HUSBAND) OUT IN

"My son Reed," [continued the witness,] "went for Doctor Barnaby later in the morning. Mrs. Cameron said she had some clothes at Burpee Chute's, which she had since his previous sickness, and she wanted to know if it would be any harm for Reed to bring them out. She said they were clothes to lay him (her husband) out in.

This was before dinner. Reed brought those clothes back with him, and said the doctor was coming. The family had breakfast about eight o'clock that morning. Cameron had none, because they couldn't wake him. Mrs. Cameron took hold of his hand and asked if he knew her, or something of that kind. He made no answer; [he] did not open his eyes or make any movement. At this time he was lying on the cot. He was moved onto the cot that morning, about 8:30. [The] witness was not in the house when he died on Saturday morning.

MRS. FARNSWORTH WATCHED

Bridgetown, February 10 – After recess Mrs. Farnsworth's examination was continued. Cameron's clothes had not been changed from the time he lay down on the lounge until after he died. Nothing passed through him during that time. After death the bed clothes were washed, but there were no stains on them. Dr. Barnaby arrived at the house about eleven o'clock on Friday morning. Mrs. Cameron brought her husband's furs with her when she came. They were common furs. Mr. Cameron had sent for them. Mrs. Cameron remained at the house until the next Wednesday after the death, when she went to Bridgetown with Burpee Chute.

After her husband died, Mrs. Cameron came and asked Farnsworth to go to Bridgetown and see Mr. Randolph and others, and enquire from them whether she had better bury him in Bridgetown or send him to his home in Pictou. She would do whatever they said. It was decided to send him to Pictou. After Cameron was taken ill, [the] witness saw nothing of a five dollar bill. [She] heard a five dollar bill talked of after he was laid in the coffin, but knows nothing about it. Her husband knows all about it. Cameron had a gold watch. It is at the house now. Mrs. Cameron never spoke to [the] witness about it.

THE CROSS-EXAMINATION

After being on the stand a day and a half Ritchie commenced the cross-examination. [The] witness said that when Mr. Owen and Rev. Mr. Hart visited her house last week, and took her statement, Owen said he was for Mrs. Cameron. Hart

was not there when Owen said he was for Mrs. Cameron. Mr. Cameron's forgetfulness was manifested by his telling things over and over, and forgetting he had previously told them.

"It was not true that we didn't want him," [said the witness,] "and that [I] had demanded Cameron's watch. The Thursday that Cameron started for Bridgetown was a cold but not stormy day. Mrs. Cameron asked my husband to bring him back. She noticed he was very red in the face when he came back."

[The] witness was in and out of the kitchen all the time the dinner table was being set and the meal ended. Cameron had been out [in the] cold days before, but [the] witness never noticed the extreme redness. [She] never saw him walk so fast before. Mrs. Cameron spoke of his heavy breathing as being the same as on other occasions when he had been angry and excited. When Mrs. Cameron gave him the last cup of tea, [the] witness watched her from the time it was poured until she took it to him and sat down in front of him. During this time Mrs. Cameron did not put anything in the tea, as far as [the] witness saw. Never at any time had she seen Mrs. Cameron put anything in her husband's food or drink.

Mr. Cameron never had any money while he boarded there that [the] witness knew of. Before Mrs. Cameron left [the] witness's house on the Wednesday night, [the] witness remembered being in her room and seeing two bottles, one containing liquid, the other a green-looking powder. [The] witness said to Mrs. Cameron, "These must be yours." Mrs. Cameron answered "yes," and put them in her satchel. When [the] witness first suggested the doctor, Mrs. Cameron answered to wait a while, as she had seen him like this before. The next time she said "Yes; call your husband."

"They talked of poison"⁴⁶¹ (Nova Scotia, 1893)

Bridgetown, February 11 – Rumors that the body of the late A. D. Cameron had been exhumed last night added new interest to the proceedings to-day. [...]

Captain John Edward Farnsworth, a farmer and fisherman of Hampton, on the Bay shore, was the first witness to-day. It was at his house Cameron died, and it was Farnsworth who started and circulated the stories that resulted in the present trial. After the death he came into town and told startling stories regarding the circumstances of Cameron's last days. These stories created very great excitement, and Farnsworth was the hero of the hour. Everybody talked to him. He was the observed of all observers. This sudden notoriety gave him more than his usual appreciation of his own importance. Hour by hour, and day by day, the stories set afloat became more exciting and startling, until Cameron's friends decided to demand an inquest.

Meanwhile, Farnsworth had had a lengthy interview with a Bridgetown lawyer, had returned home and was engaged by Mrs. Cameron to take the body to Pictou. When he came into Bridgetown a day or two later, en route to Pictou with the body, which was intercepted here, and he was given the opportunity to tell his story

⁴⁶¹ From THEY TALKED OF POISON. (1893, February 13). *Halifax Herald*, p. 1.

under oath to the coroner's jury, it was found to be considerably modified from what it was when told on the streets, in the stores and in the hotels.

FARNSWORTH'S STORY UPON OATH WAS SUFFICIENTLY SENSATIONAL

A man would naturally be very much more careful in giving testimony in court than in ordinary conversation, but why he should be is one of the wonders of modern life, and is a reflection upon our civilization. But Farnsworth's story upon oath was sufficiently sensational, in conjunction with the evidence of Druggist Taylor, to justify the friends of the deceased in insisting that the coroner should order the arrest of Mrs. Cameron. Unfortunately, the coroner did not take the evidence at the inquest in writing – a most extraordinary neglect of duty and breach of law – and it is therefore impossible to compare the story he swore then with his evidence now.

It has been openly asserted that Farnsworth would not be half so positive as to the correctness of a number of his most sensational statements now, as he was last week, but so far his evidence to-day has been very straightforward, and he manifests every desire to tell the whole story, and without any reservation. Farnsworth is a sharp featured man of ordinary build and wears a heavy bunch of whiskers on his chin and moustache, the upper part of his face being clean shaven. He is a man who talks a good deal in a loud tone, and appears to be very impressionable.

NOT TO TAKE ANY MEDICINE MRS. CAMERON MIGHT GIVE HIM

In his evidence he detailed the story of Cameron's living at his house, his condition of health, how he occupied his time, the row with the Camerons, the start for Bridgetown, the return, and the circumstances of his death. The salient features were these: He had thought that Cameron took breakfast with the family on the morning of Thursday the 26th, but now couldn't remember whether he did or not. Mrs. Cameron had said that the day before, Cameron had told her some stuff that [the] witness and his wife had been saying about her – that she wasn't wanted there, that Mrs. F. wanted his watch for board, and that he (witness) had told Cameron not to take any medicine Mrs. Cameron might give him, for she might poison him. Mrs. Cameron said that Cameron told her these things.

“As a matter of fact, had you told any such things to Cameron?”

“Yes, some of it.”

“What?”

Mr. Roscoe objected to the witness stating what he told Cameron.

“What portion of what Mr. Cameron told his wife is true?”

Witness – “This conversation between the Camerons took place on Thursday.”

“What portion of Cameron's statement to his wife was true?”

Mr. Roscoe objected to any conversation between Farnsworth and Cameron when Mrs. Cameron was not present, and a lively fight ensued. Cameron was dead and could not substantiate or deny the story. If that class of evidence was admitted, it might be fraught with the greatest mischief. If that class of evidence was admitted, witnesses could be called to testify to things they had told Cameron years ago, and there would be no end of it.

The court decided to take the evidence.

Witness – “I told Cameron: ‘Do you know, Mr. Cameron, that Mrs. Cameron is going to take you away from here?’ He replied: ‘No; where is she going to take me?’ I said, ‘To board with Stephen Foster.’ He replied: ‘Well, I won’t go.’”

MRS. CAMERON DIDN'T COME TO THE TABLE TO DINNER

“What about your telling him not to take medicine from Mrs. Cameron?”

“It’s correct. I told him so.” This conversation took place about nine o’clock Thursday morning. After the “talk” between the Camerons, the old man started for Bridgetown, and was brought back. There were only three at dinner that day, which was very soon after our return – viz: wife, self and Cameron. Mrs. Cameron didn’t come to the table to dinner. [The] witness went to the woods right after dinner, and up to the time of going to [the] woods, didn’t notice any difference in Cameron from other days – except that he didn’t eat any dinner; just drank a cup of tea and took a bite of pie.

After his return from the woods, he found Cameron lying on the lounge asleep. [The] witness didn’t go to bed that night, nor until five o’clock next morning. He tried to wake him by shaking him after midnight, but failed. He moaned all night. Mrs. Cameron went to bed at midnight, and was not called until 5:30 on Friday. When [the] witness got up later in the morning, Mrs. Cameron said, “we had better have a doctor.” [The] witness answered “yes,” and later his son went for Dr. Barnaby. He came before noon.

Cameron never recovered consciousness, nor changed his position, except when [the] witness turned him over on his right side; and at daylight Friday, the sick man was lifted from the lounge on to a cot. He never moved from Thursday evening (after drinking the tea) to the time he died, which was between 4 and 5 o’clock Saturday morning. When his clothing was removed there was no evidence of a motion of the bowels or of having passed water. No water or anything else was given him from the time he lay down on the lounge Thursday evening, until he died on Saturday. No effort was made to give him anything, to [the] witness’ knowledge.

THE DAY BEFORE CAMERON TOOK SICK

Previous to being sick, Cameron always slept up stairs. Mrs. Cameron arrived on the evening of January 21st, unexpectedly. [The] witness expected to go after her himself. The day before Cameron took sick, [the] witness went into the sitting room, shut the door, and had a conversation with Mrs. Cameron. [The] witness asked her if she was going to take her husband away from [the] witness’ house. She answered “No.” [The] witness answered that he was creditably informed that she was going to take him to board at Stephen Foster’s. She replied that she told John Templeman that she (Mrs. C.) was going to board awhile at Foster’s. Templeman had asked her if she was going to take her husband to Foster’s, and she told him “Yes, for a few days for a change.” Mrs. C. said to [the] witness: “You know that I wouldn’t take Cameron away from you when his board is paid up ahead,” but Foster owed her a little bill and to board it out was the easiest way to get it. [The] witness he expressed the opinion that it was kind of queer for her to take Cameron away from his house, if she was going to do so.

SOME CONVERSATION AT THAT TIME ABOUT POISON

They had some conversation at that time about poison.

[The] witness said: "Mrs. Cameron, you have asked me a question and I shall answer it. Mrs. Cameron, you've got piles of enemies."

She asked: "Where?" and I said, "In Bridgetown."

She asked: "Who are they?" and I replied, "Everybody I talk to. I don't think you have six friends in Bridgetown."

[The] witness said: "Mrs. Cameron, this is pretty hard talk, but I don't want you to think that I say anything behind your back that I wouldn't say to your face. I'm not that style of a man. Mrs. Cameron, do you know that I've been watching you ever since you've been here?"

She replied: "No. For what?"

[The] witness answered: "For fear you might poison Mr. Cameron."

"She said she thought it was 'a terrible thing'; I thought so, too," added [the] witness, "but people were telling me so much stuff about her, that I kept my eye skinned and thought 'twas my duty to do so. The stories that I had heard were about how she had abused Mr. Cameron; all this trash and God knows what. I can't remember them all now."

At 1 o'clock the investigation was adjourned until Monday at 2 p.m., when Farnsworth will again go on the stand. His examination will likely last another day.

"The alleged poisoning case"⁴⁶² (Nova Scotia, 1893)

Bridgetown, February 14 – John E. Farnsworth remained on the witness stand till 3 this afternoon, detailing all the circumstances up to the time the accused returned to Bridgetown after the death of Cameron. Charles Messenger was on this afternoon, but his testimony was unimportant. Reed Farnsworth, son of John E., is now on the stand. He will testify to a conversation about the Camerons the evening his father visited him, which has not come out before.

"The Cameron case again"⁴⁶³ (Nova Scotia, 1893)

Bridgetown, March 8 – The investigation into the Cameron alleged poisoning case was resumed at 3 p.m. to-day.[...] A.C. McIntyre, analytical and consulting chemist and bacteriologist, [was] sworn. [...] The *Echo* says: "The [post-mortem] report [by McIntyre] is a lengthy one and very minute in its details [...] [and] shows an absence of morphine."

⁴⁶² From THE ALLEGED POISONING CASE. (1893, February 15). *Halifax Herald*, p. 1.

⁴⁶³ From THE CAMERON CASE AGAIN. (1893, March 9). *Halifax Herald*, p. 1.

“Dr. Barnaby’s testimony”⁴⁶⁴ (Nova Scotia, 1893)

Bridgetown, March 10 – [...] Dr. Barnaby [...] said:

“The absence of the pin-point pupil contraction, paralysis of the lungs, and paralysis of the heart, excluded to my mind poisoning by opium, which was the only narcotic poison I thought of at the time. [...] From what I saw at the autopsy and from what I learned on the visit to Mr. Cameron I am of the opinion that he died of uraemic poisoning.”

“The Cameron case”⁴⁶⁵ (Nova Scotia, 1893)

Bridgetown, March 13 – The court resumed to-day at 3 p.m., and the cross-examination of Dr. Barnaby was continued, and re-examination by Owen. The re-examination covered a history of his sickness previous to his removal to Hampton and before and after his attack of illness while living in Bridgetown. The purport of Dr. Barnaby’s evidence was to show that Mr. Cameron died from a form of Bright’s disease. His statement at the inquest was that he believed he died from apoplexy. Considerable interest is manifested at present to know how the evidence of the other doctors, to be now given, will agree with their evidence at the inquest.

“Morphine or opium”⁴⁶⁶ (Nova Scotia, 1893)

Bridgetown, March 15 – In the afternoon Dr. Freeman said that in his opinion, from the autopsy made by him and Dr. DeBois on the body of the deceased, and also from the evidence of Dr. Barnaby on the condition of the deceased at the time he visited him at Hampton, Mr. Cameron died from opium or morphine poisoning.

“Mrs. Cameron held”⁴⁶⁷ (Nova Scotia, 1893)

Halifax, March 24 – The preliminary examination of Mrs. Alexander D. Cameron at Bridgetown on the charge of poisoning her husband by morphine was concluded, and, contrary to expectations, the woman was committed for trial.

The analyst’s testimony was to the effect that he found no trace of poison in Cameron’s stomach, and two doctors swore that in their opinion death was due to Bright’s disease.

The only evidence against the woman was that of another physician who gave it as his opinion that Cameron died from poison.

Mrs. Cameron [...] pleaded not guilty. She was committed to jail for trial next June. It seems to be the general outside opinion that Mrs. Cameron is the victim of

⁴⁶⁴ From DR. BARNABY’S TESTIMONY. (1893, March 13). *Halifax Herald*, p. 1.

⁴⁶⁵ From THE CAMERON CASE. (1893, March 14). *Halifax Herald*, p. 1.

⁴⁶⁶ From MORPHINE OR OPIUM. (1893, March 16). *Halifax Herald*, p. 8.

⁴⁶⁷ From MRS. CAMERON HELD. (1893, March 25). *Boston Daily Globe*, p. 3.

persecution, instead of the heartless murderess false and sensational newspaper articles made her at first appear.

By the time her trial is over the money she has accumulated will have been entirely exhausted.

“Mrs. Cameron set free”⁴⁶⁸ (Nova Scotia, 1893)

Bridgetown, June 21 – The grand jury finished its investigation in the Cameron case at 3:15 this afternoon, and 15 minutes after the last witness had been heard they presented “no bill.”

“The acquittal of Mrs. Cameron”⁴⁶⁹ (Nova Scotia, 1893)

As stated elsewhere, the Cameron trial resulted in the grand jury failing to find a bill against the prisoner, and Mrs. Cameron was accordingly discharged from custody. This result was not wholly unexpected, for while at the outset of the investigation there appeared to be a strong chain of circumstantial evidence against the accused, most of this failed to materialize when the real test came, and the various witnesses subpoenaed by the crown came to be examined under oath. Nevertheless, we do not believe that those acting on behalf of the crown have anything to regret in connection with the case.

The startling stories told concerning the death of Cameron by those who should have known the facts of the case, and the evidence given at the coroner’s inquest, rendered the most searching investigation necessary. Those who are responsible for the proper administration of justice in this county would have been remiss in their duty had they failed to use every means at their disposal in ascertaining the whole truth concerning the death of our late fellow-citizen. Nothing less than this would have satisfied the public mind.

In some of the western states human life is held very cheap. There, lynching, murders and violent deaths are things of common occurrence, and frequently no notice whatever is taken of them by the authorities. In the queen’s dominions we have not yet reached the stage of civilization where we can afford to show even a suspicion of wrong, such as this appeared to be, to pass unnoticed. Even the expense of the investigation, in this case quite large, should not be considered when weighed in the balance against the sacredness and value of human life, or the necessity of the proper administration of justice.

The case was very ably conducted on the side of the defence. No effort, and we believe no expense, has been spared on behalf of the friends and counsel of the accused, and she now comes out of the ordeal with a certificate from the grand jury that there is not sufficient evidence against her to render a trial necessary.

⁴⁶⁸ From MRS. CAMERON SET FREE. (1893, June 23). *Halifax Herald*, p. 1.

⁴⁶⁹ From THE ACQUITTAL OF MRS. CAMERON. (1893, July 1). *Halifax Herald*, p. 6.

Cornelius Magrath

“The greatest care is observed in dispensing”⁴⁷⁰ (Alberta, 1893)

Parents having sick children [and] husbands having sick wives are often in a dilemma to know where to go to have their prescriptions dispensed. They are afraid the druggist will put in a wrong ingredient and poison the patient. Morphia may be put into a medicine instead of quinine, or strychnine instead of sulphate of zinc. These mistakes have occurred, and may occur any time, unless the greatest care is manifested in dispensing.

At Templeton’s Pharmacy the greatest care is observed in dispensing and every prescription is re-checked before leaving the store.

As the space in the HERALD is now limited on account of the doing away with the daily edition, Templeton has much less space than usual and his notes on dispensing will have to be continued later.

In the meantime use Pink Powder for rheumatism, neuralgia and sciatica, and take your prescriptions to Templeton, “Ontario Druggist,” Calgary.

“Mysterious death at Springbank”⁴⁷¹ (Alberta, 1894)

An inquest on the remains of Cornelius Magrath, who died on the 12th inst. at Mr. W. J. Gibson’s house at Springbank, was commenced at 10 a.m. on Monday, before Dr. A. E. Porter, coroner.

The principal witness, Thos. C. Lusk, swore that [the] deceased died at 4:25 p.m. on the morning of January 12, and was in good health as far as he knew, up till then. He went to bed about 7 p.m. on the 11th, as well as usual. He was talking in his sleep, which kept [the] witness awake. Ed. Gibson and C. Anderson were in the house during the night. Charles Anderson and [the] witness were in the room when Magrath died. He did not complain of being sick, and had not taken any food on the 11th except a little beef tea.

Between two and three o’clock on the morning of the 12th, [the] deceased was groaning and Lusk got up and went to him. A short time afterwards [the] witness was talking with Anderson, and both heard a gurgling sound from Magrath, and a short time after he died. Lusk tried to give him some beef tea between one and two o’clock, but he would not take it. There was \$38.00 in an overcoat hanging in the room, which money belonged to the deceased. Lusk brought the money to town and gave it to J. Hamilton. The pocket book produced belonged to [the] deceased.

Jas. Smart, undertaker, went with W. Bain, on the 12th, to bring in the body. He asked Lusk for any letters and his clothes. He looked through his clothes, as instructed by the coroner. A pocket book was in the pocket of a pea jacket hanging at

⁴⁷⁰ From TEMPLETON [Advertisement]. (1893, September 9). *Semi-Weekly Calgary Herald*, p. 1.

⁴⁷¹ From Mysterious Death at Springbank. (1894, January 16). *Semi-Weekly Calgary Herald*, p. 1.

the back of the door. Lusk said the pocket book belonged to him. [He] could not say it was the same one produced.

Thos. C. Lusk, recalled, stated that he owed [the] deceased 75 cents, which was the change out of some money given him by [the] deceased to buy some small articles. He stated that he had been wearing [the] deceased's pea jacket for two or three days before his death. There was no pocket book in it then. Gibson asked him on the morning after Magrath's death, if a pocket book he was holding in his hand was his, and he said yes. It looked like the one produced. [The] witness said "yes" before, he thought. He was tired and hardly paid attention to what he was saying.

Mr. W. J. Gibson swore that the last time he saw [the] deceased alive was on January 8th. He was a sick man then, but would not give in. He had not taken anything since the third. He had a sore throat, and was taking a gargle for it. The pocket book produced looked like the one he took out of the coat behind the door, which Lusk said was his.

Dr. McDonald made the post mortem, and said the cause of the death was asphyxia, which would cause the congestion of the lungs, of which there is evidence. In his report the doctor stated that the throat appeared swollen but without perceptible evidence of violence about the neck.

The inquest stands adjourned till 2 p.m. on Thursday the 18th, for the purpose of getting the evidence of C. Anderson, Edward Gibson and W. Bolderton. Anderson, who was present in the room with Lusk when Magrath died, is working in the bush up the Elbow, 16 miles above Springbank. Ed. Gibson was the other man on the premises during the night, but he was not in the house at the time of death.

"The death of Cornelius Magrath"⁴⁷² (Alberta, 1894)

The inquest on the death of Cornelius Magrath at Springbank was resumed yesterday at 2 p.m. W. W. Stewart testified to have seen [the] deceased the Sunday before his death, and that he then considered him to be very ill. He brought out from town a box of morphine pills and two bottles of whiskey for which Lusk had given him the money. He warned Lusk about giving the pills without knowing the proper dose.

Chas. Anderson stated that he was in the house at the time of Magrath's death. Lusk tried to give [the] deceased three of the morphine pills, but desisted at the advice of [the] witness. Lusk told [the] witness that he had already given Magrath six of the pills. The rest of the evidence was unimportant except as showing in one instance, that of the druggist clerk, who sold the morphine pills, that the sale of poison requires some better regulations in the Northwest Territories than it at present receives.

Dr. McDonald stated that the symptoms in the case were those which would result from an overdose of morphine. Three pills containing 1/8 of a grain of morphine each would be an overdose for a person weakened by sickness.

The jury found that the deceased came to his death owing to the effect of the morphine pills administered to him when greatly debilitated by sickness, by T. C.

⁴⁷² From Mysterious Death at Springbank. (1894, January 19). *Semi-Weekly Calgary Herald*, p. 8.

Lusk, through ignorance. A censure was added to the verdict on the carelessness of the druggist clerk in selling morphine pills without giving instructions as to their use.

“Certain damaging statements”⁴⁷³ (Alberta, 1894)

Dear sir – Will you kindly allow me through the medium of your valuable paper to clear myself in regard to certain damaging statements made and circulated concerning the death of C. McGrath of Springbank?

The report has become current that a short time previous to McGrath’s death I had sold him some morphia pills, and the verdict of the jury was to the effect that McGrath came to his death through the effect of morphia pills administered to him when in a debilitated state.

I wish to make a plain statement of the facts of the case in so far as it concerns me, in order to justify myself in the eyes of the public. McGraw came into my store on the 3rd inst., and obtained from me two capsules and also a gargle for his throat. He took the capsules that same night, and also started using the gargle. Next day he came to the store and expressed himself as greatly benefited by the medicines received. This happened more than a week previous to his death.

The verdict of the jury that death resulted from taking pills of morphia in no wise concerns me. Neither morphia nor anything bearing the resemblance of morphia was given either by me or by anyone in my employ to the deceased, nor to any friend of the deceased.

I mention these facts only to vindicate myself from certain charges that I understand have been formulated and currently believed, of my having sold McGrath the morphia pills that have figured so conspicuously in the evidence.

Thanking you for your valuable space, I am, yours truly,

J. G. TEMPLETON

Calgary, Jan. 20.

⁴⁷³ From Templeton, J. G. (1894, January 23). *Semi-Weekly Calgary Herald*, p. 5.

Mattie Reynolds

“Poisoned by morphine”⁴⁷⁴ (Quebec, 1895)

Yesterday afternoon about five o'clock a cab drove up to the General Hospital [in Montreal]. It contained a woman who was suffering from the effects of poison. She was taken to the ward in a semi-unconscious condition. The stomach pump was used with good effect, and the patient regained her senses. She gave her name as Mattie Reynolds, and said that she took morphine as a remedy for internal pains, from which she suffered greatly. At eight o'clock she began to sink very rapidly, and at a quarter past eleven she expired, but not before stating that she lived at 267 Cadieux Street, and that her husband was living in the States.

Enquiry at 267 Cadieux Street elicited the fact that the deceased had been boarding there for the past month. She had been in the habit of taking morphine, and yesterday she over-dosed herself, and they sent her to the General Hospital. They understood that she had a husband living. Assistant Coroner Lacroix examined the deceased's bedroom and found a bottle, partly filled with morphine, hidden in the bed. He also found two other bottles of medicine, one of which he believes to be poison. The deceased was thirty years old. The coroner will hold an inquest to-morrow at the General Hospital.

“May poison thousands”⁴⁷⁵ (Quebec, 1895)

The details of a very remarkable case came out yesterday morning when Coroner McMahan held an inquest on the body of Mrs. Charles Ludlam, of Toronto, and better known as Mattie Reynolds, formerly a resident of a house of ill-repute in this city. The investigation took place at the General Hospital, Dr. S. Ridley McKenzie, the medical superintendent, being the first witness. He described the condition of the deceased when she was brought to the hospital and had told him that she had taken a teaspoonful of morphine at midnight of the 7th. Her stomach was emptied at once and she revived considerably, but at eleven o'clock a sudden weakness ensued and she died in a short time. The doctor added that such a dose taken by one unaccustomed to morphine would cause death in two hours, but the contrary being the case, the time might be twelve or fifteen hours. The deceased had told [the] witness that she had previously been in the Keely Institute undergoing treatment for the cure of the morphine habit. The doctor said that the woman's story might be true enough, and also stated that she admitted having purchased a dollar's worth of morphine, yet she was so weak it was impossible to ascertain from whom the drug had been obtained, and he concluded: “Her heart and lungs were found to be all right, and if her story be true, she probably died from an overdose of morphine.”

⁴⁷⁴ From POISONED BY MORPHINE. (1895, January 9). *Montreal Daily Star*, p. 1.

⁴⁷⁵ From

Mrs. Margaret Sanderson, of Cadieux Street, from whom [the] deceased had rented her room, was next called. [The] witness knew very little about [the] deceased, who appeared to be of a quiet disposition, did not receive callers, and was married to a man in the States. Mrs. Sanderson had suspected the woman had taken something, as she was much excited, and while [the] witness was looking for the cause, another girl produced a small bottle and said, "I suppose this is what you are looking for."

"I scolded her," continued the witness, "but she replied that there was no danger, as it had been taken to ease her pain."

The three bottles found in the woman's room were examined. One of them was empty and marked "poison," the second *eau de cologne*, and the third contained a red liquid substance. It was the small bottle that contained the fatal drug and around which centred the greatest interest.

Bella Lincoln, who had roomed in the same house, deposed that she had written letters for the deceased to the latter's husband, whose address was "Charles Ludlam, Otisville, Genesee County, Michigan". She understood by the tone of the husband's reply that she had left him. Mrs. Ludlam had told [the] witness that they had been keeping a hotel out West and, having failed, the wife had come to Montreal to see if she could get something to do.

"I never knew her to have a quarrel with anyone," [said the witness,] "except a few words with Mary Jane some time before."

"Who is Mary Jane?"

"She has a room in the same house with us."

[The] witness then gave important evidence as to Mrs. Ludlam's morphine habits, which, she believed, had extended over eight or nine years.

The witness said:-

"She gave me the small bottle with the sum of one dollar and told me to go to Mr. Bernard's drug store on St. Catherine Street, and asking to have it filled up with the same as she had before. I don't think it was Mr. Bernard himself. The man was tall, with a dark moustache, and when I told him it was for Miss Matte he took the bottle, filled it, and putting a ticket on it in French, that I could not read, said 'be careful with this, as it is poison.'"

The witness then explained how she had suspected that the woman was taking morphine, and on one occasion she tried to get it away from Mattie, but the latter seized the witness' hand and prevented her. Mrs. Ludlam had also said, "Don't be afraid; I know what I am doing. I have been taking it for nine years."

The coroner having asked [the] witness if she had ever heard [the] deceased say that she would take her life, the witness replied "No" most emphatically, although Mattie had told her that she had had a great deal of trouble during her life.

Mr. Ludlam had said in one of his letters, "For God's sake, let me know what you are doing."

Mary Jane Loiselle, another occupant of the Cadieux Street house, was called, but her testimony was not important, and it was only when Georgie Wilson took the stand that the dead woman's early career was made known to coroner and jury.

“I have known her eight or nine years,” deposed the witness. “She gave her name as Mattie Reynolds, but I don’t think this was her right name. She lived in a house of ill-fame in Montreal for some time, and about six years ago went to Toronto, where she married Charles Ludlam. After this they went to New York state, where, she told me, they had kept a hotel, but her husband being a drinking man, Mattie left him, returning to Montreal last September.”

[The] witness believed that [the] deceased had come back here to lead the same life as of old. He also knew that Mattie was in the habit of taking morphine, but had never heard her express the intention of taking her own life.

When the coroner had thanked the witness for her testimony, she said:

“Mr. Coroner, can I claim the body to bury it?”

The Coroner – “You can claim it, but I do not know whether you can secure it. You will have to see Dr. Hudson, the inspector of anatomy.”

Joseph H. Levesque, Mr. Bernard’s clerk, testified that he had sold Bella Lincoln 50 grains of morphine for Mattie Reynolds, who was a victim of the morphine habit.

“I had known here,” he said, “to be thus afflicted, and I did not ask that the name of the purchaser be signed in the books, as the law requires. I did not consider the quantity sufficient to poison her. Mattie had told me before that she bought morphine from other druggists, amongst others at Barbeau’s, St. Charles Borromeo Street. I had seen, in fact, thirty bottles which she had received from different establishments.”

“Why did you not conform to the requirements of the law by having the books signed?” asked the coroner.

“Well, I knew that she was a victim of the morphine habit.”

“Did you not know that you were liable to a fine?”

“Yes, I knew that.”

Coroner McMahan then addressed a few words to the jury, going over the facts elicited from the different witnesses. It appeared that the unfortunate woman had poisoned herself, but it was most likely an accident. He, however, must strongly condemn the law which had been enacted at the instigations of the druggists alone, and which permitted them to poison the entire community, providing that the purchasers signed their name in a book kept for that purpose.

The jurors having retired, the following verdict was returned:-

“We the undersigned jurors, after having heard the proof, declare that Mattie Reynolds, who died in Montreal, January 8th, 1895, accidentally poisoned herself, having taken too large a dose of morphine. We do not believe that those who furnished her with the drug should be arrested, but we feel it to be our duty to insist in the strongest manner possible that in future druggists be not permitted to sell any kind of poison without a doctor’s prescription, and in the present case that the druggist’s clerk, Levesque, who failed to conform to the requirements of the law, should be prosecuted.”

“The sale of poisons”⁴⁷⁶ (Quebec, 1895)

The state of things revealed at the inquest on the body of Mattie Reynolds, who died at the General Hospital from morphine poisoning, seems to call for some alteration in the provincial law as to the sale of poisonous drugs. In the circumstances under which the sale in question took place, the law does not appear to have been complied with; but even if the law had been complied with, it would not have prevented the woman's death.

The statute of the province of Quebec regulating the sale of poisons gives a list of drugs (in which morphine is included) and goes on to say:-

“It shall be unlawful to sell any such poison to any person unknown to the seller, unless introduced by some person known to the seller. On every sale the seller shall, before delivery, make or cause to be made an entry in a book to be kept for that purpose, stating the date of the sale, the name and address of the purchaser, the name and quantity of the article sold and the purpose for which it is stated by the purchasers to be required.”

It is quite evident that the provisions quoted above are not sufficiently stringent. The obvious intention is that poison should not be sold unless the seller is satisfied that it is to be used for a proper purpose; and it was apparently hoped that obliging the druggist to register the purpose and other particulars in a book would be sufficient to prevent the promiscuous sale of poisonous drugs. The fact that the woman who succeeded in poisoning herself the other day had no less than thirty bottles in which she had purchased morphine proves that she had not the slightest difficulty in procuring the deadly drug. The clerk who sold the poisonous dose knew that the purchaser was a victim of the morphine habit, and knew that she was going to use the poison for the purpose of drugging herself; but he thought so little about it that he neglected to register the sale in his book. It would be interesting to know if equal carelessness prevails in other drug stores; and how, if the law is complied with, the clerks describe the purpose for which morphine and similar drugs are sold.

The proposal of the jury that druggists should not be permitted to sell any kind of poison without a doctor's prescription perhaps goes rather too far. It might cause inconvenience in cases where poisons are needed for a perfectly innocent and proper purpose. Carbolic acid, for instance, is a valuable disinfectant, and a man should not need a doctor's prescription in order to poison a pet dog. But the present state of the law is far too lax. The druggist who sells poisons should be required to satisfy himself that they are to be used for a proper purpose, and there seems nothing unreasonable in forbidding the sale of opium and its compounds except on a doctor's prescription.

The attention of the Attorney-General will, no doubt, be called to the matter, and it is to be hoped that some change in the law will be made next session. Meanwhile the present law, such as it is, should be rigidly enforced, and offending druggists and their clerks should be taught that they must look to something besides personal profit in the sale of dangerous drugs.

⁴⁷⁶ From THE SALE OF POISONS. (1895, January 14). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 4.

Nathan H. Pierce

“Tired of life”⁴⁷⁷ (Ontario, 1897)

At 10:45 this forenoon Baggage man Luke Noble, while looking for a car on a Grand Trunk siding near the Globe Furniture Works, Walkerville, found a man insensible and apparently dying on the floor of a box car.

Chief Griffith was notified and the man was removed to the police station and Dr. Hoare summoned.

The doctor after 50 minutes' hard work succeeded in restoring some heart action, but the man did not recover consciousness. He had apparently taken poison of some sort and the contents of his stomach were removed with the pump. The man was then removed to Hotel Dieu, where he now lies. He was still insensible at the hour of going to press, and he is not expected to recover.

Within the leaves of a copy of Weeks' dictionary was a small druggist's envelope labeled “morphine,” and inside was the empty square of paper which had evidently held a powder. In the fly-leaf of the book were two addresses, “111 Bates-St.” and “190 Cass-Ave.”

In the man's pocket⁴⁷⁸ were a card, bearing the following name, “Edward Clark, reporter and job solicitor, 101 Ottawa-St., Grand Rapids,” three cents in cash, a corn cob pipe and small piece of tobacco, and a copy each of the Detroit Free Press and Detroit Sunday Record. The latter was labeled “Louis Schneider, 56 Munroe-Ave.”

He was dressed in a black coat, blue serge trousers, a wide brimmed drab hat with cord run round the brim, and pointed black shoes.

His height is five feet seven inches or thereabouts and his weight about 135 lbs. His complexion is dark and his face is thin with a black moustache, but no beard.

“Died last night”⁴⁷⁹ (Ontario, 1897)

The unknown man who took poison in a box car on a Grand Trunk siding at Walkerville yesterday morning died at Hotel Dieu last evening at 5 o'clock.

He never recovered consciousness, so that there is no further information as to his identity beyond that given by himself on the slip found in his pocket, to the effect that his name was Nathan Pierce of Ann Arbor, Mich.

This morning Coroner Reaume empaneled a jury, who after viewing the body adjourned the inquest until this evening at the city hall.

⁴⁷⁷ From TIRED OF LIFE. (1897, July 19). *Evening Record* (Windsor), p. 8.

⁴⁷⁸ This account omits an important note: “He had a small dictionary in his pocket and between the leaves was a scrap of paper with the following words written on it: ‘In case I die, I am Nathan H. Pierce, Ann Arbor, Mich., U. S. A.’” FROM WINDSOR SIDE. (1897, July 20). *Detroit Free Press*, p. 10.

⁴⁷⁹ From DIED LAST NIGHT. (1897, July 20). *Evening Record* (Windsor), p. 5.

This forenoon a post mortem examination was made by Dr. Hoare, assisted by Dr. Callander, who found evidence of morphine poisoning. The doctors found some brain trouble also, but fuller particulars will not be obtainable until this evening, when the report will be submitted at the inquest.

In a more minute examination of the dead man's effects there was noticed on the inside of the cover of the pocket dictionary a memorandum in pencil to erase which an attempt had been made. To this Chief Griffith applied a magnifying glass, but succeeded in deciphering only the words "Jennie McMann."

An effort is being made by telegraph to discover whether any such person as Nathan H. Pierce is known at Ann Arbor.

"Congestion of the brain"⁴⁸⁰ (Ontario, 1897)

"Died of congestion of the brain," was the verdict brought in by the jury last evening in the inquest held by Coroner Reaume on the death of the man found dying in a box car at Walkerville on Monday forenoon.

Yesterday a telegram sent to Ann Arbor by Undertaker McArthur, who had charge of the remains, brought a reply from Ed. Pierce, a brother, who arrived himself during the afternoon, and took charge of the body, defraying all expenses so far incurred.

In his evidence last evening Mr. Pierce said he had last seen his brother on Friday, when he said he was going to Montreal to look for work. The deceased was a painter by trade.

Three years ago he had developed symptoms of suicidal mania but had apparently recovered, although he complained of much headache and insomnia.

Dr. Hoare, who made the post mortem examination, said that he had pumped out the stomach but had not analyzed the contents. He found no food in the stomach. The brain was much softened, and there was a condition of congestion of the brain vessels, with slight hemorrhages of the brain tissue. The cause of death was brain congestion, but what caused the congestion he could not say.

The physiological effect indicated morphine. Morphine pills were found in the man's pockets as well as an empty powder paper and envelope labeled "morphine." A trace of white powder clinging to the paper tasted bitter, as would morphine. The congested condition of the brain might be caused by morphine. The softened condition of the brain showed that the man would not be entirely responsible for his actions.

The jury were out only a few minutes when they returned the verdict already mentioned.

Mr. Pierce left for Ann Arbor today with the remains. The deceased had a wife but no children.

⁴⁸⁰ From CONGESTION OF THE BRAIN. (1897, July 21). *Evening Record* (Windsor), p. 8.

“Body was identified”⁴⁸¹ (Ontario, 1897)

The man who died at the Hotel Dieu after having been found in an unconscious condition in a box car at Walkerville, Monday, was identified yesterday as Nathan H. Pierce, of Ann Arbor, Mich., by a brother of the deceased.

Pierce had left Ann Arbor last Friday with the intention of going to Montreal, where he thought he could get work, and he was evidently stealing a ride when found. The dead man had suffered from brain trouble for several years, which had been brought on by a severe sickness. About three years ago he attempted to commit suicide, and for a long time his mind seemed to be affected. He finally recovered and went to work in a hat factory in Grand Rapids, going from there to Chicago, where he had been until recently. It is thought that the hot weather affected his brain. He was 26 years old and married. His brother is a printer in Ann Arbor and will have the remains sent there to-day for burial. Both parents are dead, but other relatives are living.

⁴⁸¹ From BODY WAS IDENTIFIED. (1897, July 21). *Detroit Free Press*, p. 10.

Joseph Huffman

“Dope fiend breaks into doctor’s house”⁴⁸² (Alberta, 1912)

A case of alleged housebreaking by a man who seemed to be a dope-fiend came up before Magistrate Downes at the south side police [Edmonton] court on Monday morning, when Joseph Huffman was charged with breaking into the house of Dr. S. Archibald on Saturday, March 23rd.

The preliminary hearing elicited the facts that Constable Scott received a phone message on Saturday night, and on going over to the house on the corner of Third street east and First avenue north searched the house, with the result that he found the accused crouching behind a desk in the doctor’s study. The glass panes of the back door had been smashed, and an entrance effected, as the door was still locked when the officer arrived.

Huffman told the constable that he wanted to see the doctor, and it was stated that he said, “I’m in for it this time. I broke the door in.”

Mr. Carr, a man who had been waiting in the surgery of Dr. Hodson, just opposite to that of Dr. Archibald, said that when he went over with the rest of the party to search the house, he heard the accused say that the doctor had been treating him for six months, that he (Huffman) had pneumonia and that he had kicked in the door, and was in for it now.

Dr. Hodson was called, and he said that he had seen the accused some time before, when Huffman had called and asked for morphine. The doctor did not give the morphine, but wrote a prescription including some drugs that would have a similar though lesser effect. He gave it as his opinion that dope-fiends are often made “reckless and unreliable” when they are in urgent need of the drug.

Mr. Duncan, of Duncan’s drug store, told of Huffman’s visit to his store in quest of morphine on Saturday night, but said that the drug was refused to the man. A bottle containing a liquid was produced in court, and Mr. Duncan admitted that the liquid had been put up at the store on the prescription of Dr. Hodson. He had not given the man any drugs without a prescriptions.

Miss Lea, who was recalled to give evidence, added that she saw several bottles that had been displaced from the doctor’s desk, and one package had been opened.

Mr. Mills acted for the defendant, and it was clear that the point which he wished to bring out was that Huffman was suffering from the after-effects that come upon a man who is out of the drug that supplies him temporary relief, when he committed the deed.

The case was remanded until Wednesday, March 27, when it is expected that other evidence will be brought forward.

⁴⁸² From DOPE FIEND BREAKS INTO DOCTOR’S HOUSE. (1912, March 25). *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 3.

“Dope fiend is sent up”⁴⁸³ (Alberta, 1912)

ALLEGED HOUSEBREAKER GOES TO HIGHER COURT

The remainder of the hearing of the case of alleged house-breaking by a dope-fiend came up before Magistrate Downes this morning at the South Side police court, the accused being sent up for trial.

Dr. J. F. Brander was called to give evidence of a visit that the accused, Joseph Huffman, had paid to his office. [The] witness stated that Huffman had come to him with a story about his grandmother, who was sick, and who was in need of morphine, a doctor having previously treated her for some complaint by prescribing the drug asked for. Dr. Brander said that he did not give the drug, as it had been his experience to have similar stories told to him, and in addition the condition of the man did not seem to warrant the drug being handed over to him.

“Dope fiends in Edmonton”⁴⁸⁴ (Alberta, 1912)

Edmonton, April 1 – As the result of many requests that have been received by local druggists during the last two weeks for cocaine and morphine by the dope fiends, it is thought that Edmonton is due for an epidemic of hop heads such as was experienced here two years ago.

During the last ten days some of the local drug stores have had as many as a round dozen requests for this stimulating powder, but as the law is explicit concerning the sale of cocaine and morphine only to persons with prescriptions from recognized practicing physicians, no flagrant violations of the law have been reported as yet. [...]

After the manner of hardened dope fiends some of the creatures who seek the powder offer almost any inducement to the clerks where they try to obtain the morphine to give them just enough to ease their imaginary pains and make life somehow bearable. Fabulous sums that the seekers for the stimulant do not possess are tendered, and offers to perform any duty in return for dope are made.

Joseph Huffman and William Bennett, the former committed for trial in the South Edmonton police court on a charge of theft, and the latter last week sentenced to serve three years in the Alberta penitentiary on a charge of burglary, were both dope fiends who have gone astray since acquiring the habit.

⁴⁸³ From DOPE FIEND IS SENT UP. (1912, March 27). *Edmonton Journal*, p. 14.

⁴⁸⁴ From Dope Fiends in Edmonton. (1912, April 2). *Island Sentinel* (Kamloops), p. 4.

“Must leave drug alone”⁴⁸⁵ (Alberta, 1912)

“I cannot consider a half promise from you that you will keep away from drugs. I must have your whole-hearted word that you will keep away from the degrading influence of morphine and cocaine and that you will return to your father and try to live down your past.”

Thus did Judge Taylor in the district court this morning extract a promise from Joseph Hoffman [sic.], accused of stealing morphine from the office of Dr. S. Archibald on the night of March 23 last. The young man said that he had attempted to avoid the terrible drug, but his efforts had been of no avail. He said that he had to have the stimulant, and that when he failed to get it at a pharmacy he entered the doctor’s office by stealth in an effort to get the drug.

Hoffman was released on a suspended sentence after promising that he would leave morphine alone.

⁴⁸⁵ From MUST LEAVE DRUG ALONE. (1912, April 17). *Edmonton Journal*, p. 12.

W. H. Davis

“Complications may arise from death of boy”⁴⁸⁶ (Alberta, 1912)

Sensational developments may arise from the evidence at the inquest held Saturday evening on the body of Willie Davies, a 12-year-old boy, who died as the result of taking Dover’s powders. More evidence is to be brought out at the adjourned inquiry, two weeks hence.

The father stated that his boy was taken ill, but not thinking his condition serious, no doctor was called, and the Dover’s powders were obtained from a city drug store. The child took several of the powders, but became worse, and died at the Misericordia hospital two hours after his admission.

It was alleged at the inquiry that the druggist who sold the powders was not licensed under the Pharmacy Act, and also that he supplied them without a doctor’s certificate.

Dr. J. S. Wright reported that he had conducted an autopsy, finding that the child had been suffering from acute pneumonia at the time of death, and the Dover’s powders contain one-tenth part opium, and as the child had swallowed at least fifteen grains of powders, he must have taken at least one-and-a-half grains of opium. This, the doctor explained, was not necessarily a fatal dose, but the fact that children cannot tolerate opium as well as adults, combined with his condition, the danger of the dose was accentuated.

“Druggist not registered”⁴⁸⁷ (Alberta, 1913)

The inquest into the death of five-year-old Willis [sic.] Davis was held on Saturday night, when certain witnesses were examined, among whom was I. T. Warren, the druggist who sold the powders to Mr. Davis, and which powders caused the death of his young son. Other witnesses were Dr. J. A. McGibbon and D. W. McDonald, registrar of the Pharmaceutical Association.

In his evidence Warren declared that the City Pharmacy was registered under the name of Dr. J. A. McGibbon, who, however, had no money in the business. He also said he had sold the Dover’s powders to Davis and that they had been sold without the usual warning, and admitted he knew that in making such a sale it was wrong to do so. He also said he knew he was violating the law by practicing as a druggist without being registered in Alberta.

D. W. McDonald, registrar of the Pharmaceutical Association, was also a witness. He said that the registration of the pharmacy took place on August 28th last. At this time he told Dr. McGibbon that there often was trouble over doctors lending

⁴⁸⁶ From COMPLICATIONS MAY ARISE FROM DEATH OF BOY. (1913, April 7). *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 2.

⁴⁸⁷ From DEATH OF BOY SHOWS DRUGGIST NOT REGISTERED. (1913, April 21). *Edmonton Journal*, p. 2.

their names to unqualified druggists unless the doctor took a personal interest in the business.

Dr. Revell, provincial bacteriologist, was the next to give evidence, and said that there was no trace of opium in the stomach of the dead boy, although it was uncommon to find any traces when a person had actually been poisoned by opium.

Dr. McGibbon, on being examined by the jury, said that at the time he lent his name to the druggist he did not understand the pharmaceutical act. He had understood that Warren was a qualified druggist for Prince Edward Island, but did not know for certain whether he was registered in Alberta.

The inquest has been adjourned until Wednesday night.

“Cancel the diploma”⁴⁸⁸ (Alberta, 1913)

The jury appointed to inquire into the death of little twelve-year-old [sic.] Willis Herbert Davis, whose death took place recently after taking a quantity of Dover’s powders, returned a verdict last night in which they recommended that the Pharmaceutical Association cancel the diploma issued in the name of Dr. J. A. McGibbon. They further recommended that legislative steps be taken so that it will be more difficult to obtain pharmaceutical certificates unless drug stores are run under their own personal supervision.

There was a big array of legal talent in connection with the case. D. F. Clarry represented the attorney general’s department; G. C. Valens appeared on behalf of Dr. J. A. McGibbon; J. K. McDonald looked after the interests of the Pharmaceutical Association; and J. M. Macdonald represented Ivey T. Warren, who was at the time of the boy’s death in charge of the City Pharmacy, where the Dover powders were purchased.

PRINCIPAL WITNESSES

Dr. McGibbon and Mr. Warren were the principal witnesses last night. Dr. McGibbon came in for a grueling cross-examination at the hands of Mr. Clarry. The facts of the case, briefly, are these:

Mr. Warren was anxious to start a drug store, but could not do so on his own responsibility, as he was not legally qualified. He therefore entered into negotiation with Dr. McGibbon, and as a result a draft partnership agreement was drawn up by McCaul and Valens. It provided that two-thirds of the profits from compounded prescriptions should go to Dr. McGibbon, and clause three stated that Dr. McGibbon would agree to procure the drug business to be registered under the provisions of the Pharmaceutical Association ordinance. The agreement also specified that certain property belonging to Mr. Warren should be assigned to Dr. McGibbon, as security. This agreement was never signed, and was only put in as corroborative evidence. The reason Dr. McGibbon gave for not signing it was that it was too one-sided, and he did not wish to take advantage of Mr. Warren.

⁴⁸⁸ From *The Jury Recommends That Pharmaceutical Diploma Be Canceled*. (1913, April 24). *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 1.

SECURED REGISTRATION

Some time afterwards – about a month, according to the evidence – Dr. McGibbon and Mr. Warren went to Dr. D. W. Macdonald, registrar of the association, and Dr. McGibbon received \$50 from Mr. Warren and paid the registration fee of fifty dollars. Mr. Warren says that the same day the store was opened. Dr. Macdonald says the inference was that Dr. McGibbon intended to exercise personal supervision over the business, and if it had been known at the time that he did not intend to do so, the license would never have been issued.

The Dover's powders were obtained by the boy's father at the City Pharmacy, and were supplied contrary to law, without a doctor's prescription. Police court proceedings are at present pending against Mr. Warren for acting as a druggist without being qualified.

EVIDENCE CONTRADICTORY

The evidence given last night by Dr. McGibbon and Mr. Warren was very contradictory, but the coroner said in his summing-up that he believed Mr. Warren had told the truth.

Mr. Warren said he had paid Dr. McGibbon ten per cent commission on compounded prescriptions. He paid him for three months in cash, and he had been credited with the rest, but there had been no settling of the account. Dr. McGibbon said in his evidence that he only received two months' commissions, and he had afterwards told Mr. Warren that he did not want any more.

Dr. J. S. Wright stated that the immediate cause of death was opium poisoning.

The coroner summed up strongly [and suggested to] the jury that [they] recommend the cancellation of Dr. McGibbon's license, and added that Dr. McGibbon should congratulate himself if no further steps were taken beyond that.

Appendix

“What shall they do to be saved?”⁴⁸⁹ (1867)

I have just returned from forty-eight hours' friendly and professional attendance at a bedside where I would fain place every young person in this country for a single hour before the Responsibilities of Life have become the sentinels and Habit the jailer of the Will.

My patient was a gentleman of forty, who for several years of his youth occasionally used opium, and for the last eight has habitually taken it. During these eight years he has made at least three efforts to leave it off, in each instance diminishing his dose gradually for a month before its entire abandonment, and in the most successful one holding the enemy at bay for but a single summer. In two cases he had no respite of agony from the moment he dropped till he resumed it. In the third case, a short period of comparative repose succeeded the first fiery battle, but in the midst of felicitations on his victory he was attacked by the most agonizing hemicranial headaches (resulting from what I now fear to have been already permanent disorganization of the stomach), and went back to his nepenthe in a state of almost suicidal despair, only after the torture had continued for weeks without a moment's mitigation.

He had first learned its seductions, as happens with the vast majority of Anglo-Saxon opium-eaters, through a medical prescription. An attack of inflamed cornea was treated with caustic applications, and the pain assuaged by internal doses of M'Munn's Elixir⁴⁹⁰. When my friend came out of his dark room and bandages at the end of a month he had consumed twenty ounces of this preparation, whose probably distinction from the tincture known as laudanum I point out below in the note⁴⁹¹. Here it may not be superfluous to say that the former preparation has all the essential properties of the latter, save certain of the constipatory and stupefying tendencies which, by a private process of the inventor, have been so masked or removed that it possesses in many cases an availableness which the practitioner can not despise, though compelled by the secrecy of its formula to rank it among quack medicines. The

⁴⁸⁹ From Ludlow, F. H. (1867). WHAT SHALL THEY DO TO BE SAVED? *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, XXXV, 377-387. Written by Fitz Hugh Ludlow (1836 – 1870).

⁴⁹⁰ Though this is a United States case study, “McMunn's Elixir Opium” was advertised for sale at “FELLOWS & Co., CHEMISTS, FOSTER'S CORNER – St. John, N. B.” on p. 164 of Barnes's New Brunswick Almanack for 1866.

⁴⁹¹ Mr. Frank A. Schultz has kindly made for me a special analysis of M'Munn's Elixir which seems to prove that the process of its preparation amounts to more than the *denarcotization* of opium, which is spoken of on the wrapper of each vial. As nearly as can be ascertained, M'Munn's Elixir is simply an aqueous infusion of opium – produced by the ordinary maceration – and preserved from decomposing by the subsequent addition of a small portion of alcohol. *Narcotin* being absolutely insoluble in water is eliminated as the circular says. This fact alone would not account for the difference between its action and that of laudanum. This is explained by the fact that all the other alkaloids possess diverse rates of solubility in water, and exist in M'Munn's Elixir in very different relative proportions from those which they bear to each other in the alcoholic tincture called laudanum. [Note in the original.]

amount of it which my friend had taken during his month's eclipse represents an ounce of dry gum opium – in rough measurement a piece as large as a French billiard ball. I thus particularize because he had never previously been addicted to the drug; [he] had inherited a sound constitution, and differed from any other fresh subject only in the intensity of his nervous temperament. I wish to emphasize the fact that the system of a mere neophyte, with nothing to neutralize the effects of the drug save the absorbency, so to speak, of the pain for which it was given, could so rapidly adapt itself to them as to demand an increase of the dose in such an alarming ratio. There are certain men to whom opium is as fire to tow, and my friend was one of these. On the 1st of October he sensibly perceived the trifling dose of fifty drops; on the first of November he was taking, without increased sensation, an ounce vial of "M'Munn" daily.

From that time – totally ignorant of the terrible trap which lay grinning under the bait he dabbled with – he continued to take opium at short intervals for several years. When by the physician's orders he abandoned "M'Munn," on the subsidence of the eye-difficulty, his symptoms were uneasy rather than distressing, and disappeared after a few days' oppression at the pit of the stomach and a few nights' troubled dreaming. But he had not forgotten the sweet dissolving views at midnight, the great executive achievements at noonday, the heavenly sense of a self-reliance which dare go any where, say any thing, attempt any thing in the world. He had not forgotten the nonchalance under slight, the serenity in pain, the apathy to sorrow, which for one month set him calm as Boodh in the temple-splendors of his darkened room. He had not forgotten that the only perfect *peace* he had ever experienced was there, and he remembered that peace as something which seemed to blend all the assuaged passion and confirmed dignity of old age with that energy of high enterprise which thrills the nerves of manhood. He had tasted as many sources of earthly pleasure as any man I ever knew; but the ecstasies of form and color, wine, Eros, music, perfume, all the luxuries of surrounding which wealth could purchase or high-breeding appreciate, were as nothing to him in comparison with the memory of that time on which his family threw away their sympathy when they called it his "month of *suffering*."

Accordingly, without much more instinct of concealment than if it were an occasional tendency to some slight convivial excess, he had resort to M'Munn, in ounce doses, whenever the world went wrong with him. If he had a headache or a toothache, if the weather depressed him, if he had a certain "stint" of work to do without the sense of native vigor to accomplish it, if he was perplexed and wished to clear his head of passion, if anxieties kept him awake, if irregularities disturbed his digestion – he had always one refuge certain. No fateful contingency would pursue him inside M'Munn's enchanted circle. He was a young and wealthy bachelor, living the life of a refined *bon vivant*; an insatiable traveler, surrounded by flatterers, and without a single friend who loved him enough to warn him of his danger excepting those who, like himself, were too ignorant to know it. After three years of dalliance he became an habitual user of opium, and had been one for eight years when I was first called to him.

By the time that the daily habit fastened itself he had learned of other opiate preparations than M'Munn's, and finding a certain insufficiency characterize that tincture he increased the size of the dose, [and] had recourse to laudanum, which contains the full native vigor of the drug unmodified. This nauseated him. He had the same experience with gum opium, opium pills, and opium powder; so that he was driven to that form of exhibition which sooner or later naturally strikes almost every opium-eater as the most portable, energetic, and instantaneous – morphia or one of its salts. My friend usually kept the simple alkaloid in a paper, and dissolved it as he needed it in clear water, sometimes substituting an equivalent of "*Magendie's Solution*," which contains sixteen grains of the salt diffused through an ounce of water by the addition of a few drops of sulphuric acid. When I first saw him he had reached a daily dose of twelve grains of sulphate of morphia, and on occasions of high excitement had increased his dose without exaggerating the sensible effect to nearly twenty. The twelve which formed his habitual *per diem* were divided into two equal doses, one taken immediately after rising, the other just about sundown.

As yet he had not begun to feel the worst physical effects which sooner or later visit the opium-eater. His digestion seemed unimpaired so long as he took his morphia regularly; he was sallow and somewhat haggard, but thus far no distressing biliary symptoms had manifested themselves; his sleep was always dreamy, and he woke at short intervals during the night, but invariably slept again at once, and had so adjusted himself to the habit as to show no signs of suffering from wakefulness; his hand was steady; his muscular system easily exhausted, but by no means what one would call feeble. As he himself told me, he had come to the conclusion to emancipate himself because opium-eating was a horrible mental bondage. The physical power of the drug over him he only realized when attempting its abandonment. Its spiritual thralldom was his hourly misery. He was connected by blood and marriage with several of the best families in the land. Money had not been stinted in his education, and his capabilities were as great as his advantages. He was one of the bravest, fairest, most generous natures I ever came in contact with, was versatile as a Yankee Crichton, had ridden his own horse in a trotting match and beaten Bill Woodruff, had carried his own little 30-ton schooner from the Chesapeake to the Golden Gate through the Straits of Magellan, had swum with the Navigators' Islanders, shot buffalo, hunted chamois, and lunched on mangosteens at Penang. Through all his wanderings the loftiest sense of what was heroic in human nature and divine in its purified form, the monitions of a most tender conscience, and the echoes of that Puritan education which above all other schemes of training makes human responsibility terrible, had gone with him like his tissue. He saw the good and great things within reach of a fulfilled manhood, and of a sudden waked up to feel that they could on earth never be his. He was naturally very truthful, and, although the invariable tendency of opium-eating is to extirpate this quality, could not flatter himself. Other minds around him responded to a sudden call as his own did not. Every day the need of energy took him more by surprise.

The image-graving and project-building characteristic of opium, which comes on with a sense of genial radiation from the epigastrium about a quarter of an hour

after the dose, had not yet so entirely disappeared from its effect on him, as it always does at a later stage of the indulgence. But instead of being an instigation to the delightful reveries which ensued on his earlier doses, this peculiarity was now an executioner's knout⁴⁹² in the hands of Remorse. He was daily and nightly haunted by plans and pictures whose feverish unreal beauty he remembered having seen through a hundred times. Those Fata Morgana plans, should he again waste on them the effort of construction? The result had been a chaos of aimless, ineffectual days. Those pictures, why were they brought again to mock him? Were they not horrible impossibilities? Were they not, through the paralysis of his executive faculties, mere startling likenesses of Disappointment? In his opium dreams he had seen his own ships on the sea, commerce bustling in his warehouse, money overflowing in his bank, babies crowing on his knee, a wife nestling at his breast, a basso voice of tremendous natural power and depth scientifically cultivated to its utmost power of pleasing artists or friends, a country estate on the Hudson, or at Newport, with emerald lawns sloping down to the amber river or the leek-green sea, the political and social influence of a great landholder. How pleurably he had once perceived all these possible joys and powers! How undeludedly he now saw their impossible execution!

So, coming to me, he told me that his object in trying to leave off opium was to escape from these horrible ghosts of a life's unfulfilled promise. Only when he tried to abandon the opium did he realize the physical hold the drug had on him. Its spiritual thralldom was his hourly misery.

For three months I tried to treat him in his own house, here in the city. A practitioner of any experience need not be told with what success. I could reduce him to a dose of half a grain of sulphate of morphia a day, keep him there one week, and making a morning call at the expiration of that time discover that some nocturnal nervous paroxysm had necessitated either a return to five grains or a use of brandy (which, though no drinker, he tried to substitute) sufficient to demand a much larger dose of opium in its reaction. He had lost most of his near connections, and not for one hour could any hired attendant have withstood his appeal, or that marvelous ingenuity by which, without appeal, the opium-eater obtains the drug which, to him, is like oxygen to the normal man.

This ingenuity manifests itself in subterfuges of a complicated construction and artistic plausibility which might have puzzled Richelieu; but it is really nothing to wonder at when we recollect the law of nature by which any extreme agony, so long as it continues remediable, sharpens and concentrates all a man's faculties upon the one single object of procuring the remedy. If my house is on fire, I run to the hydrant by a mere automatic operation of my nerves. If my leg is caught in the bight of a paying-out hawser, my whole brain focuses at once on that single thought, "*an axe.*" If I am enduring the agony which opium alone can cause and cure, every faculty of my mind is called to the aid of the tortured body which wants it. When a man has used opium for a long time the condition of brain supervening on his deprivation of the drug for a period of twenty-four hours is such as very frequently to render him suicidal. Cottle tells us how Coleridge one day took a walk along Bristol wharves, and

⁴⁹² A type of whip.

sent his attendant down the pier to inquire the name of a vessel, while he slipped into a druggist's on the quay and bought a quart of laudanum; but in no fibre of his nature could Cottle conceive the awful sense of a force despotizing it over his will, a degradation descending on his manhood, which Coleridge felt as he concentrated on that one single cry of his animal nature and the laudanum which it spoke for, all the faculties of construction and insight which had created the "Ancient Mariner" and the "Aids to Reflection."

Likewise I suppose there are very few people who could patiently regard the fact that one of the very purest and bravest souls I ever knew had become so demoralized by the perseverance of disease and suffering as to deal like a lawyer with his best friends, and shuffle to the very edge of falsehood, when his nature clamored for opium. I was particular to tell him whenever I detected any evasion (an occasion on which his shame and remorse were terrible to witness) that *I*, personally, had none the less respect for him. I knew he was dominated, and in no sense more responsible for breaking his resolution than he would have been had he vowed to hold his finger in the gas-blaze until it burned off. In this latter case the mere translation of chemical decomposition into pain, and round the automatic nerve-arc into involuntary motion, would have drawn his finger out of the blaze, as it did in the cases of Mutius Scævola and Cranmer, if they ever attempted the feat credited them by tradition. In his case the abandonment of opium brought on an agony which took his actions entirely out of voluntary control, eclipsing the higher ideals and heroisms of his imagination at once, and reducing him to that automatic condition in which the nervous system issues and enforces only those edicts which are counseled by self-preservation.

Whatever may have been the patient's responsibility in *beginning* the use of narcotics or stimulants (and I usually find, in the case of opium-eaters, that its degree has been very small indeed, therapeutic use often fixing the habit forever before a patient has convalesced far enough even to know what he is taking) habituation invariably tends to reduce the man to the *automatic* plane, in which the will returns wholly to the tutelage of sensation and emotion, as it was in infancy, while all the Intellectual, save *Memory*, and the most noble and imperishable among the Moral faculties may survive this disorganization for years, standing erect above the remainder of a personality defrauded of its completion to show what a great and beautiful house might have been built on such strong and shapely pillars. Inebriates have been repeatedly known to risk imminent death if they could not reach their liquor in any other way. The grasp with which liquor holds a man when it turns on him, even after he has abused it for a lifetime, compared with the ascendancy possessed by opium over the unfortunate habituated to it for but a single year, is as the clutch of an angry woman to the embrace of Victor Hugo's *Pieuvre*.

A patient whom, after habitual use of opium for ten years, I met when he had spent eight years more in reducing his daily dose to half a grain of morphia, with a view to its eventual complete abandonment, once spoke to me in these words:

"God seems to help a man in getting out of every difficulty but opium. There you have to *claw* your way out over red-hot coals on your hands and knees, and drag yourself by main strength through the burning dungeon-bars."

This statement does not exaggerate the feeling of many another opium-eater whom I have known.

Now, *such* a man is a proper subject, not for *reproof*, but for *medical treatment*. The problem of his case need embarrass nobody. It is as purely physical as one of small-pox. When this truth is as widely understood among the laity as it is known by physicians, some progress may be made in staying the frightful ravages of opium among the present generation. Now, indeed, it is a difficult thing to prevent relatives from exacerbating the disorder and the pain of a patient, who, from their uninformed stand-point, seems as sane and responsible as themselves, by reproaches at which they would shudder, as at any other cruelty, could they be brought to realize that their friend is suffering under a disease of the very machinery of volition, and no more to be judged harshly for his acts than a wound for suppurating or the bowels for continuing the peristaltic motion.

Finding – as in common with all physicians I have found so many times before – that no control of the case could be obtained while the patient [stayed] at home, and deeply renewing my often-experienced regret that the science and Christian charity of this country have perfected no scheme by which either inebriates or opium-eaters may be properly treated in a special institution of their own, I was at length reluctantly compelled to send my friend to an ordinary water-cure at some distance from town.

The cause of my reluctance was not the prospect of a too liberal use of water, for by arrangement with the heads of the establishment I was able to control that as I chose; moreover, an employment of the hot-bath in what would ordinarily be excess is absolutely necessary as a sedative throughout the first week of the struggle. I have had several patients whom during this period I plunged into water at 110° Fahrenheit as often as fifteen times in a single day – each bath lasting as long as the patient experienced relief. In some cases this Elysium coming after the rack has been the only period for a month in which the sufferer had any thing resembling a doze. My reluctance arose from the necessity of sending a patient in such an advanced stage of the opium disease so far away from me that I must rely on reports written by people without my eyes, for keeping personally *au courant* with the case; that I must consult and prescribe by letter, subject to the execution of my plans by men, who, though excellent and careful, were ignorant of my theories of treatment, and had never made this particular disease a specialty. I accordingly sent Mr. A. away to the water-cure, all friendless and alone to fight the final battle of his life against tougher odds than he had ever before encountered. At no time in my life have I realized with greater bitterness the helplessness of a practitioner who has no institution of his own to take such cases to than when I shook his poor, dry, sallow hand and bade him good-bye at the station.

As I said in the beginning, I am just home from seeing the result. Mr. A. has fared as special cases always do in places where there is no special provision for them. To speak plainly, he had been badly neglected; and that, undoubtedly, without the slightest intention on the part of the heads of the house to do other than their duty. Six weeks ago I heard from the first physician that my friend was entirely free from

opium, and, though still suffering, was steadily on the mend. I had no further news from him till I was called to his bedside by a note which said he feared he was dying, penciled in a hand as tremulously illegible as the confession of Guy Fawkes. I was with him by the earliest train I could take, after arranging with a neighbor for my practice, and found him in a condition which led him to say, as I myself said at the commencement of this article: "Would to God that every young person could stand for a single hour by this bedside before Life's Responsibilities have become the sentinels and Habit the jailer of the Will!"

I had not been intelligently informed respecting the progress of his case. He had been better at no time when I was told he was so, though his freedom from opium had been of even longer duration than I was advised. *For ninety days he had been without opium in any form.* The scope of so untechnical an article leaves no room to detail what had been done for him as alleviation. His prostration had been so great that he could not correspond with me himself until the moment of his absolute extremity, and only after repeated entreaties to telegraph to myself and his family had been refused on the ground that his condition was not critical, he managed to get off the poor scrawl which brought me to his side.

For the ninety days he had been going without opium he had known nothing like proper sleep. I desire to be understood with mathematical literalness. There had been periods when he had been *semi-conscious*; when the outline of things in his room grew vaguer and for five minutes he had a dull sensation of not knowing where he was. This temporary numbness was the only state which in all that time simulated sleep. From the hour he first refused his craving, and went to the battle-field of bed, he had endured such agony as I believe no man but the opium-eater has ever known. I am led to believe that the records of fatal lesion, mechanical childbirth, cancerous affection, the stake itself, contain no greater torture than a confirmed opium-eater experiences in getting free. Popularly this suffering is supposed to be purely intellectual – but nothing can be wider of the truth. Its intellectual part is bad enough, but the physical symptoms are appalling beyond representation. The look on the face of the opium sufferer is indeed one of such keen mental anguish that outsiders may well be excused for supposing that is all.

I shall never forget till my dying day that awful Chinese face which actually made me rein my horse at the door of the opium *hong* where it appeared, after a night's debauch, at six o'clock one morning when I was riding in the outskirts of a Pacific city. It spoke of such a nameless horror in its owner's soul that I made the sign for a pipe and proposed, in "*pigeon English*," to furnish the necessary coin. The Chinaman sank down on the steps of the *hong*, like a man hearing medicine proposed to him when he was gangrened from head to foot, and made a gesture, palms downward, toward the ground, as one who said, "It has done its last for me – I am paying the matured bills of penalty." The man had exhausted all that opium could give him, and now, flattery past, the strong one kept his goods in peace.

When the most powerful alleviative known to medical science has thus bestowed the last Judas kiss which is necessary to emasculate its victim, and, sure of the prey, substitutes stabbing for blandishment, what alleviative, stronger than the

strongest, shall soothe such doom? I may give chloroform. I always do in the *dénouement* of bad cases – ether – nitrous oxide. In employing the first two agents I secure rest, but I induce death [in] nine cases out of ten. Nothing is better known to medical men than the intolerance of the system to chloroform or ether after opium. Nitrous oxide I am still experimenting with, but its simple undiffused form is too powerful an agent to use with a patient who for many days must be hourly treated for persevering pain. So the opium-eater is left as entirely without anesthetic as the usual practice leaves him without therapeutic means. Both here and abroad opium-eaters have discovered the fact that, in an inveterate case, where opium fails to act on the brain through the exhausted tissues of the stomach, bichloride of mercury in combination with the dose behaves like a *mordant* in the presence of a dye, and, so to speak, *precipitates* opium upon the calloused surfaces of the mucous and nervous layers. This expedient soon exhausts itself in a death from colliquative diarrhea, produced partly by the final decompositions of tissue which the poisonously antiseptic property of opium has all along improperly stored away; partly by the definite corrosions of the new addition to the dose. But in no case is there any relief to a desperate case of opium-eating save death.

Remembering that Chinaman's face I can not wonder at the popular notion regarding the abandonment of opium. Men say it is a mental pain, because spiritual woe is the expression of the sufferer's countenance. And so it is, but this woe is underlain by the keenest brute suffering. Let me sketch the opium-eater's experience on the rugged road upward.

Let us suppose him a resolute man, who means to be free, and with that intent has reduced to a hundred drops the daily dose which for several years had amounted to an ounce of laudanum. I am not supposing an extreme case. An ounce of laudanum is a small *per diem* for any man who has taken his regular rations of the drug for a twelvemonth. In the majority of cases I have found an old *habitué's* daily portion to exceed three, or the equivalent of that dose in crude opium or morphia; making seventy-two grains of the gum or twelve of its most essential alkaloid. In one most interesting case I found a man who, having begun on the first of January with one half a grain of sulphate of morphia for disease, at the end of March was, to all appearances, as hopeless an opium-eater as ever lived, taking thirty-two grains of the salt per day in the form of *Magendic's Solution*. This, however, was an unusual case. According to my experience the average opium-eater reaches twelve grains of morphia in ten years, and may live after that to treble the amount, the worst case I ever knew attaining a dose of ninety grains, or one and a half of the drachm vials ordinarily sold. I am happy, in passing, to add that for more than two years both the extreme cases just mentioned have been entirely cured.

If the opium-eater has been in the habit of dividing his daily dose he begins to feel some uneasiness within an hour after his first deprivation, but it amounts to nothing more than an indefinite restlessness. In any case his first well-marked opium torments occur early after he has been without the drug for twenty-four hours.

At the expiration of that time he begins to feel a peculiar *corded* and *tympanic* tightness about the epigastrium. A feverish condition of the brain, which sometimes

amounts to absolute *phantasia*, now ensues, marked off into periods of increasing excitement by a heavy sleep, which, after each interval, grows fuller of tremendous dreams, and breaks up with a more intensely irritable waking. I have held a man's hand while he lay dreaming about the thirty-sixth hour of his struggle. His eyes were closed for less than a minute by the watch, but he awoke in a terrible agony of fear from what seemed to have been a year-long siege of some colossal and demonic Vicksburg.

After the opium-eater has been for forty-eight hours without his solace this first heavy sleep entirely disappears. While it stays it never lasts over half an hour at a time, and is so broken by the crash of stupendous visions as not to amount to proper slumber. During its period of continuance the opium-eater woos its approaches with an agony which shows his instinct of the coming weeks of sleeplessness. It never *rests* him in any valid sense. It is a congestive decomposition rather than any normal reconstruction of the brain. He wakes out of it each time with a heart more palpitating, in a perspiration more profuse, with a greater uncertainty of sense and will, with a more confused memory, in an intenser agony of body and horror of hopelessness.

Every nerve in the entire frame now suddenly awakes with such a spasm of revivification that no parallel agony to that of the opium-eater at this stage can be adduced, unless it be that of the drowned person resuscitated by artificial means. Nor does this parallel fully represent the suffering, for the man resuscitated from drowning re-oxidizes all *his* surplus carbon in a few minutes of intense torture, while the anguish which burns away that carbon and other matter, properly effete, stored away in the tissues by opium, must last for hours, days, and weeks. Who is sufficient for this long, *long* pull?

From the hour this pain begins to manifest itself it continues (in any average case of a year's previous habituation to the drug) for at least a week without one second's lull or exhaustion. A man may catch himself dozing between spasms of *tic-douloureux* or toothache; he never doubts whether he is awake one instant in the first week after dropping his opium. One patient whom I found years ago at a water-cure followed the watchman all night on crutches through his tour of inspection around the establishment. Other people, after walking a long time, shift from chair to chair in their rooms, talking to any body who may happen to be present in a low-voiced, suicidal manner, which inexperience finds absolutely blood-freezing. Later such rock to and fro, moaning with agony, for hours at a time, but saying nothing. Still others go to their beds at once, and lie writhing there until the struggle is entirely decided. I have learned that this last class is generally the most hopeful.

The period during which this pain is to continue depends upon two elements.

1st. How long has the patient habitually taken opium?

2d. How much constitutional strength remains to throw it off?

"How much has he taken in the aggregate?" is practically not an equivalent of the first question. I have found an absolutely incredible opium-eater who had never used more than ten grains of morphine *per diem*, but he had been taking it habitually for a dozen years. In another case the patient had for six months repeated before each

meal the ten-grain dose which served the other all day, but he was a man whose pluck under pain equaled a woman's, and after a fortnight's anguish of such horror that one could scarcely witness it without being moved to tears came out in perfect freedom. The former patient, although he had never in any one day experienced such powerful effects from opium as the latter, had used the drug so long that every part of his system had reconstructed itself to meet the abnormal conditions, and must go through a second process of reconstruction, without any anodyne to mask the pain resulting from its decomposition, before it could again tolerate existence of the normal kind.

If opium were not an anodyne the terrible structural changes which it works would cause no surprise; it would be *felt* eating out its victim's life like so much nitric acid. During the early part of the opium-eater's career these structural changes go on with a rapidity which partly accounts for the vast disengagements of nervous force, the exhilaration, the endurance of effort, which characterize this stage, later to be substituted by utter nervous apathy. By the time the substitution occurs something has taken place throughout the physical structure which may be rudely likened to the final equilibrium of a neutral salt after the effervescence between an acid and an alkali. So to speak, the tissues have now combined with their full equivalent of all the poisonous alkaloids in opium. Further use of it produces no new disengagements of nervous force; the victim may double, [or] quadruple his dose, but he might as well expect further ebullition by adding more *aqua-fortis* to a satisfied nitrate as to develop with opium exhilarating currents in a tissue whose combination with that drug have already reached their chemical⁴⁹³ limit.

The opium-eater now only continues his habit to preserve the terrible static condition to which it has reduced him, and to prevent that yet more terrible dynamic condition into which he comes with every disturbance of equilibrium: a condition of energetic and agonizing dissolutions which must last until every fibre of wrongly changed tissue is burned up and healthily replaced. Though I have called the early reactions of opium rapid, they are necessarily much less so than those produced by a simple chemical agent. No drug approaches it in the possession of *cumulative* characteristics; its dependence on the time element must therefore be always carefully considered in treating a case. This fact leads us to understand the other element in the question, how long the torments of the opium-fighter must continue. Having ascertained the chronology of his case, we must say, "Given this period of subjection, has the patient enough constitutional vigor left to endure the period of reconstruction which must correspond to it?"⁴⁹⁴

⁴⁹³ I say "chemical" because so much it is possible to know experimentally, and the very interesting examination of such higher forces as constantly seem to intrude in any nervous disturbance would here involve the discussion of a theoretical "vital principle" – something apart and between the soul and physical activities – which scientific men are universally abandoning. [Note in the original.]

⁴⁹⁴ Not correspond day by day. At that rate a reforming opium-eater (I use the participle in the *physical* sense, for very few opium-eaters are more to blame than any other sick persons) must pay a "shent per shent" which no constitution could survive. The correspondence is simply proportional. [Note in the original.]

Usually as early as the third day after its abandonment (unless the constitution has become so impaired by long habituation that there will probably be no vital reaction) opium begins to show its dissolutions from the tissue by a profuse and increasingly acrid bilious diarrhea which must not be checked if diagnosis has revealed sufficient constitutional vigor to justify any attempts at abandonment of the drug. Hemorrhoids may result; they must be topically treated. Mild astringents may be used when the tendency seems getting out of eventual control. Bland foods must be given as often as the usually fastidious appetite will tolerate them. The only tonic must be beef-tea – diffusible stimulus invariably increasing the agony, whether in the form of ale, wine, or spirits. Short of threatened collapse, the bowels must not be retarded. There is nothing in the faintest degree resembling a substitute for opium, but from time to time various alleviatives, which can not be discussed in an untechnical article, may be administered with benefit. The spontaneous termination of the diarrhea will indicate that the effete matters we must remove have been mainly eliminated, and that we may shortly look for a marked mitigation of the pain, followed by conditions of great debility but increasingly favorable to the process of reconstruction. That process, yet more than the alleviate, demands a book rather than an article.

I have intentionally deferred any description of the agony of the opium struggle, as a *sensation*, until I returned from depicting general symptoms, to relate the particular case which is my text. The sufferings of the patient, from whom I have just returned, are so comprehensive as almost to be exhaustively typical.

When simple nervous excitement had for two days alternated with the already mentioned intervals of delirious slumber, a dull, aching sensation began manifesting itself between his shoulders and in the region of the loins. Appetite for food had been failing since the first denial of that for opium. The most intense gastric irritability now appeared in the form of the tympanic tightness, corrosive acid ructations, heart-burn, water-brash, and a peculiar sensation, as painful as it is indescribable, of *self-consciousness* in the whole upper part of the digestive canal. The best idea of this last symptom may be found by supposing all the nerves of involuntary motion which supply that tract with vitality, suddenly to be gifted with the exquisite sensitiveness to their own processes which is produced by its correlative object in some organ of special sense – the whole organism assimilating itself to a retina or a finger-tip. Sleep now disappeared. This initiated an entire month during which the patient had not one moment of even partial unconsciousness.

In less than a week from the beginning the symptoms indicated a most obstinate chronic gastritis. There was a perpetual sense of corrosion at the pit of the stomach very like that which characterizes the fatal operation of arsenic. There was less action of the liver than usually indicates a salvable case, and no irritation of the lower intestines. *Pari passu* with the gastritic suffering, the neuralgic pain spread down the extremities from an apparent centre between the kidneys, through the trunk, from another line near the left margin of the liver, and through the whole medullary substance of the brain itself.

Although I was so unfortunate as not to be beside him during this stage, I can still infallibly draw on my whole experience for information regarding the intensity of this pain. *Tic-douloureux* most nearly resembles it in character. Like that agonizing affection, it has periods of exacerbation; unlike it, it has no intervals of continuous repose. Like *tic-douloureux*, its sensation is a curiously fluctuating one, as if pain had been *fluidized* and poured in trickling streams through the tubules of nerve tissue which are affected by it; but, unlike that, it affects every tubule in the human body – not a single diseased locality. Charles Reade chaffs the doctors very wittily in “Hard Cash” on their *penchant* for the word “*hyperæsthesia*,” but nothing else exactly defines that exaggeration of nervous sensibility which I have invariably seen in opium-eaters. Some of them were hurt by an abrupt slight touch, and cried out at the jar of a heavy footstep like a patient with acute rheumatism. Some developed sensitivities with the progress of expurgating the poison, until their very hair and nails felt sore, and the whole surface of the skin suffered from cold air or water like the lips of a wound.

After all, utterly unable to convey an idea of the *kind* of suffering, I must content myself by repeating, of its extent, that no prolonged pain of any kind known to science can equal it. The totality of the experience is only conceivable by adding this physical torture to a mental anguish which even the Oriental pencil of De Quincey has but feebly painted; an anguish which slays the will, yet leaves the soul conscious of its murder; which utterly blots out hope, and either paralyzes the reasoning faculties which might suggest encouragements, or deadens the emotional nature to them as thoroughly as if they were not perceived; an anguish which sometimes includes just, but always a vast amount of *unjust* self-reproach, which brings every failure and inconsistency, every misfortune or sin of a man’s life as clearly before his face as on the day he was first mortified or degraded by it – before his face, not in one terrible dream, which is once for all over with sunrise, but as haunting ghosts, made out by the feverish eyes of the soul down to the minutest detail of ghastliness, and never leaving the side of the rack on which he lies for a moment of dark or daylight, till sleep, at the end of a month, first drops out of heaven on his agony.

A third element in the suffering must briefly be mentioned. It results directly from the others. It is that exhaustion of nervous power which invariably ensues on protracted pain of mind or body. It proceeds beyond reaction to collapse in a hopeless case; it stops this side of that in a salvable one.

On reaching his room I found my friend bolstered upright in bed, with a small two-legged crutch at hand to prop his head on when he became weary of the perpendicular position. This had been his attitude for fifty days. Whether from its impeding his circulation, the distribution of his nervous currents, or both, the prostate posture invariably brought on cessation of the heart and the sense of intolerable strangling. His note told me he was dying of heart disease, but, as I expected, I found that malady merely simulated by nervous symptoms, and the trouble purely functional. His food was arrow-root or sago, and beef-tea. Of the

vegetable preparation he took perhaps half a dozen table-spoons daily; of the animal, variable quantities, averaging half a pint *per diem*.

This, though small, was far from the minimum of nutriment upon which life has been supported through the most critical periods. Indeed, I have known three patients tided over stages of disease otherwise desperately typhoid by *beef-tea baths*, in which the proportion of *osmazone*⁴⁹⁵ was just perceptible, and the sole absorbing agency was a faint activity left in the pores of the skin. But these patients had suffered no absolute disorganization. The practitioner had to encounter a swift specific poison, not to make over tissues abnormally misconstrued by its long insidious action.

On examination I discovered facts which I had often feared, but never before absolutely recognized, in my friend's case. The stomach itself, in its most irreproducible tissue, had undergone a partial put permanent disorganization. The substance of the organ itself had been altered in a way for which science knows no remedy. Hereafter, then, it can only be re-changed by that ultimate decomposition which men call death. Over the opium-eater's coffin at least – thank God! – a wife and a sister can stop weeping and say, "He's free."

I called to my friend's bedside a consultation of three physicians and the most nearly related survivor of his family. I laid the case before them, assisted them to a full *prognosis*, and invited their views. I spent two nights with my friend. I have said that during the first month of trial he had not a moment of even partial unconsciousness. Since that time there had been perhaps ten occasions a day, when for a period from one minute in length to five, his poor, pain-wrinkled forehead sank on his crutch, his eyes fell shut, and to outsiders he appeared asleep. But that which appeared [to be] sleep was internally to him only one stupendous succession of horrors which confusedly succeeded each other for apparent eternities of being, and ended with some nameless catastrophe of woe or wickedness, in a waking more fearful than the state volcanically ruptured by it.

During the nights I sat by him these occasional relaxations, as I learned, reached their maximum length, my familiar presence acting as a sedative, but from each of them he woke bathed in perspiration from sole to crown, shivering under alternate flushes of chill and fever, mentally confused to a degree which for half an hour rendered every object in the room unnatural and terrible to him, with a nervous jerk, which threw him quite out of bed, although in his waking state two men were requisite to move him, and with a cry of agony as loud as any under amputation.

The result of our consultation was a unanimous agreement not to press the case further. Physicians have no business to consider the speculative question, whether death without opium is preferable to life with it. They are called to keep people on the earth. We were convinced that to deprive the patient longer of opium would kill him. This we had no right to do without his consent. He did not consent, and I gave him five grains of morphia⁴⁹⁶ between 8 and 12 o'clock on the morning of

⁴⁹⁵ A water-soluble component of meat which contributes to its flavor.

⁴⁹⁶ To the younger men of the profession rather than to the public generally I need here to say that this dose is not as excessive as it would naturally appear to be in the case of a man who had used no

the day I had to return here. He was obliged to eat a few mouthfuls of sago before the alkaloid could act upon his nervous system.

I need only point out the significance of this indication. The shallower-lying nerve fibres of the stomach had become definitely paralyzed, and such *digestion* as could be perfected under these circumstances was the only method of getting the stimulant in contact with any excitable nerve-substance. In other words, mere absorbent and assimilative tissue was all of him which for the purpose of receiving opium partially survived disorganization of the superficial nerves. Of that surviving tissue, one mucous patch was irredeemably gone. (This particular fact was the one which cessation from opium more distinctly unmasked.)

At noon he had become tolerably comfortable. Before I left (7 P.M.) he had enjoyed a single half hour of something like normal slumber.

He will have to take opium all his life. Further struggle is suicide. Death will probably occur at any rate not from an attack of what we usually consider disease, but from the disintegrating effects of the habit itself. So, whatever he may do, his organs march to death. He will have to continue the habit which kills him, only because abandoning it kills him sooner, for self-murder has dropped out of the purview of the moral faculties and become a mere animal question of time. The only way left for him to preserve his intellectual faculties intact is to keep his future daily dose at the tolerable daily minimum. Henceforth all his dreams of entire liberty must be relegated to the world to come. He may be valuable as a monitor, but in the executive uses of this mighty modern world, henceforth he can never share. Could the immortal soul find itself in a more inextricable, a more *grisly* complication?

In publishing this case I am not violating that Hippocratic vow which protects the relations of patient and adviser, for, as I dropped my friend's wasted hand and stepped to the threshold, he repeated a request he had often made to me, saying:

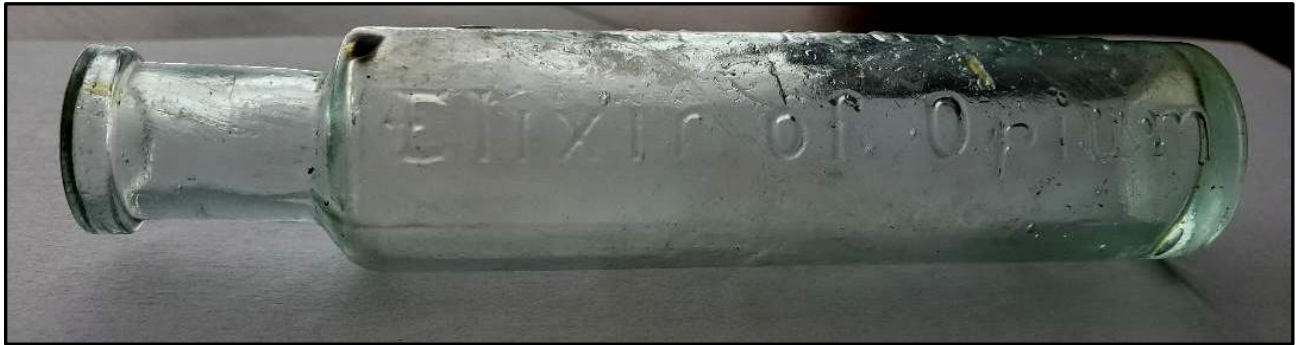
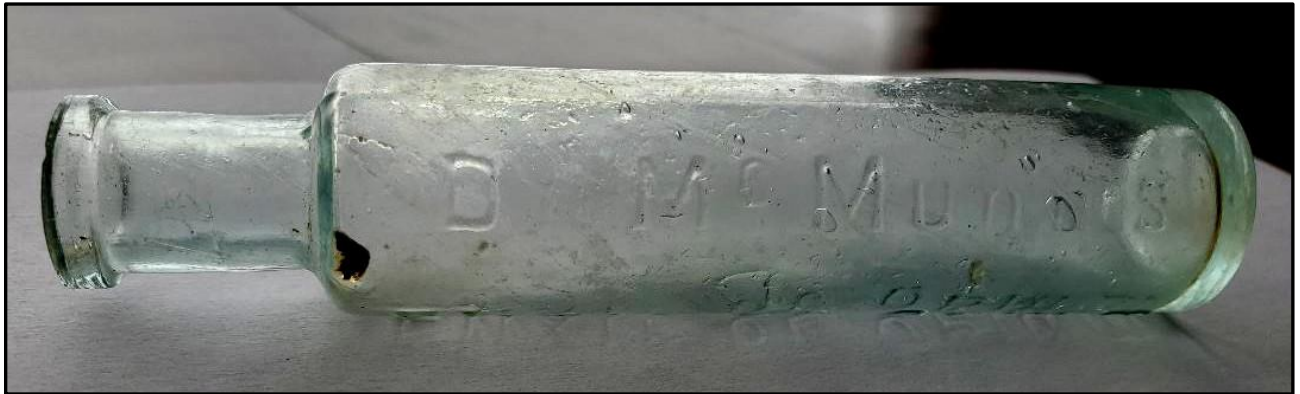
"It is almost like Dives asking for a messenger to his brethren; but tell them, tell *all young men*, what it is, 'that they come not into this torment.'" [...]

Opium is a corrosion and paralysis of all the noblest forms of life. The man who voluntarily addicts himself to it would commit in cutting his throat a suicide only swifter and less ignoble. The habit is gaining fearful ground among our professional men, the operatives in our mills, our weary sewing women, our fagged clerks, our disappointed wives, our former liquor-drunkards, our very day-laborers, who a generation ago took gin; all our classes, from the highest to the lowest, are yearly increasing their consumption of the drug.

The terrible demands, especially in this country, made on modern brains by our feverish competitive life, constitute hourly temptations to some form of the sweet, deadly sedative. Many a professional man of my acquaintance, who twenty years ago was content with his *tri-diurnal* "whisky," ten years ago, drop by drop, began taking stronger "laudanum cock-tails," until he became what he is now – an habitual opium-eater. I have tried to show what he will be. If this article shall deter any from an

form of opium for ninety days. When you have to resume the drug, go cautiously. But you will generally find the amount of it required to produce the sedative effects in any case which returns to opium, after abandonment of a long habituation, *startlingly large*, and *slow in its effects*. [Note in the original.]

imitation of his example, or excite an interest in the question – *“What he shall do to be saved?”* – I am content.



Pictured above: Two sides of a bottle of McMunn’s Elixir. The embossing reads “Dr Mc Munn’s” (top) “Elixir of Opium” (bottom). Photographs by C. Willmore, May 2022, from a bottle in their collection. These images are subject to the same Creative Commons license as the rest of the sourcebook.

Thomas Sydenham's Laudanum⁴⁹⁷ (1667)

Dr. Thomas Sydenham is credited with the original recipe for laudanum, dating back to the late 1660s⁴⁹⁸.

The liquid *laudanum*, which I constantly use, [...] is prepared in the following simple manner.

OUR AUTHOR'S LIQUID LAUDANUM DESCRIBED

Take of Spanish wine, one pint; opium, two ounces; saffron, one ounce; cinnamon and cloves, reduced to a powder, of each, one dram; infuse them together in a bath-heat for two or three days, till the tincture becomes of a due consistence, and after straining it off set it by for use.

ITS PECULIAR USEFULNESS

I do not indeed judge that this preparation is to be preferred to the solid *laudanum* of the shops on account of its virtues, but I gave it the preference for its more convenient form, and the greater certainty of doing it, as it may be dropped into wine, a distilled water, or any other liquor. And here I cannot forbear mentioning with gratitude the goodness of the Supreme Being, who has supplied afflicted mankind with opiates for their relief; no other remedy being equally powerful to overcome a great number of diseases, or to eradicate them effectually.

OPIUM AS EFFECTUAL AS ANY OF ITS PREPARATIONS

And notwithstanding there are persons who endeavor to persuade the credulous, that almost all the virtues of opiates in general, and of opium in particular, chiefly depend on their artful preparation of them, yet whoever puts it to the test of experience, and uses the simple juice, as frequently and as cautiously as any of its preparations, will certainly find very little difference between them, and be convinced that the wonderful effects of opium are owing to the native goodness and excellency of the plant that affords it, and not to the dexterity of the artist.

AN EXCELLENT CORDIAL

Moreover, this medicine is so necessary an instrument in the hands of a skillful person, that the art of physic would be defective and imperfect without it; and whoever is thoroughly acquainted with its virtues, and the manner of using it will perform greater things than might reasonably be expected from the use of any single medicine. For it must certainly argue unskillfulness, and a very slender knowledge of its virtues, to understand only to apply it in order to procure sleep, ease pain, and

⁴⁹⁷ From Swan, J. [Ed. & Trans.] & Sydenham, T. (1763). *The Entire Works of Dr. Thomas Sydenham*. London: R. Cave.

⁴⁹⁸ It wasn't long before the drug became a favorite of suicides: "Yesterday Morning Peter Gott Esq. member of Parliament for Lewis, in Sussex, was found dead in his Bed, having taken a large Dose of Liquid Laudanum." London, April 15. (1712, April 16). *The Newcastle Courant*, p. 3. "Verses found in a Gentleman's Pocket who lately shot himself: *Quacks' Ways to kill are various, But these I hate, as too precarious. And Laudanum I know will doze, And a dull Sermon will compose. The surest Laudanum of all, Is Resolution and a Ball.*" Wye. (1724, June 29). Wye's Letter verbatim, London, June 23. *The Caledonian Mercury*, 662, p. 3952..

check a looseness, since it may be suited to several other purposes, and is indeed a most excellent cardiac, not to say the only one hitherto discovered⁴⁹⁹.

[A NOTE BY THE ORIGINAL EDITOR, DR. J. SWAN]

It is surprising, that none of the pharmaceutical writers take any notice of the defects of *Sydenham's* liquid laudanum; yet it is certain that, after it has been kept for some time, about one fourth part of the opium contained in it is lost in a gross sediment. This loss is attended with great inconvenience; for during the precipitation, the laudanum is growing always weaker, so that newly prepared laudanum is, perhaps, a fourth part stronger than the same laudanum when it has stood for any time. To remedy this, brandy has been employed in some shops instead of wine; but the laudanum, thus prepared, loses much the same proportion of opium, in time, as the other, which forms in a crust towards its surface all around the glass.

By mixing wine and brandy in equal parts, as here directed, both inconveniences are prevented, the tincture parting with so little opium either way, as to keep always an equal strength: it would, however, be convenient to increase the quantity of the menstruum, that the dose might be more easily ascertained, according to the observation in *Pharm. Reform.* p. 121. The college have very justly thrown out the trifling quantity of the two spices, which could have no other effect than to absorb some of the scanty menstruum.

Several tinctures of opium⁵⁰⁰ may be seen in *Pract. Chem.* (p. 342 & seq.) one in particular (p. 345) not liable to objections usually formed against most of the preparations of this kind, with regard to the uncertainty of the dose; for in that, it is so contrived as to be determined by weight.

Thomas Sydenham on Anodynes and Smallpox⁵⁰¹ (1670)

An anodyne is a medicine that eases pain. Paregoric was a weaker opium-based medicine than laudanum.

I will now speak of the kinds of anodynes. Although for many years I have given the liquid laudanum for the symptoms with fair success, I prefer the syrup of poppies. Both act towards the same end, but laudanum heats; which syrup does not, when its dose is adapted to the age of the patient and the symptoms. What will suit a man of a quiet and regulated spirit, will be insufficient for one of a more turbulent

⁴⁹⁹ Whether it be the best, or the only cardiac hitherto discovered may well be questioned; but certain it is that surprising good has been done in hysteric cases, by drops made of compound spirit of lavender, tincture of castor, and our author's liquid laudanum, now called by the college, *Thebaic Tincture*. [Note in the original.]

⁵⁰⁰ "To confess the truth (as one says) it would be no misfortune to practice if all the tinctures of opium and laudanum were omitted, for crude opium, without any previous preparation, answers all intentions much better, and the dose of this is more easily ascertained. *Boerhaave* asserts, that opium dissolved in water is the best, the next is that dissolved in wine, and the next in spirit of wine, but always the worse, the higher the spirit." *Lewis's Edinb. Dispensatory*, p. 136 [Note in the original.]

⁵⁰¹ From an epistle in Latham, R. G. [Ed. & Trans.] (1850). *The Works of Thomas Sydenham, M.D.* London: The Sydenham Society.

temperament. Now let us call six drachms a fair dose in ordinary complaints. In smallpox, if wanted at all, it will be wanted in ounce doses. This applies to adults. With infants the dose may be diminished according to their age. Infants require paregorics less than adults. They are more prone to sleep. Still even with infants, if the symptoms were dangerous, I should be afraid to withhold them.

What however I most wish to say is, that be the case what it may, the dose of a paregoric is difficult to be determined. Indeed when given for any inordinate movements of the spirits, for violent vomiting and looseness, or for severe pain – the three affections wherein I have already said paregorics are most wanted – they should be given in such a manner, that if the first dose fall short of its full effect, another and another should be taken at the due time, until the end is accomplished. In this way the effect and not the quantity regulates the dose. Even when the action has become favorable, free as has been the previous exhibitions of anodynes, they must not be discontinued too soon. All that should be done is to give the doses at intervals; so regulated as to enable us to ascertain the effect of one before we administer another. When, however, our end is gained, the dose must be decreased according to the decline of the disease.

I can prove all this by many examples. I will give, however, but one. On the 13th of April, 1681, a Mrs. Crosse called on me, asking to visit her son, 10 years old, smitten, as she feared, with smallpox. Being ill of the gout I asked an apothecary to see him for me, and report upon the case. He told me that his mother had followed some friends' advice, and given him the Countess's powder, and other heating drugs; had overlaid him with blankets in order to promote sweat, the sheet-anchor of the mother and her advisers; and had dosed him with posset made of marigold-flowers and hartshorn. All this had so increased the fever that the patient had become delirious, and was held down to his bed, where he kept moaning and murmuring to himself. As for the eruption, it was not visible or sparingly so. It raised however the skin, as if a thick crop were finding its way outwards. This was from the treatment. It had checked the eruption which it was meant to promote.

I ordered him to leave his bed at once; and forbid him to get into it again, except at night-time, before the sixth day was over. Then I prescribed half an ounce of syrup of poppies. This did no good. I repeated it at the end of an hour. In vain. So violent was the orgasm of the blood, that nothing under two ounces and a half allayed it; given in half-ounce doses, at such intervals as enabled me to watch the effects of each. After this I ordered half an ounce to be taken every night until the end of the disease. This maintained that composure of the spirits, which the previous larger doses had effected.

Now be the dose thus given ever so large and repeated, provided that the turbulence of the blood, and the agitation of the spirits be excessive, it will not do its work unless the patient be taken out of bed. The heat of bed so exasperates the fever, that nothing but a narcotic, stronger than the constitution will well bear, can allay it. This is what happens – though with less danger to life – with bark in agues; a reason, to my mind, why the cure of such fevers has, often, been unnecessarily prolonged. At

times, too, when the fever has *re*-mitted rather than *inter*-mitted, so great has been the increase of its intensity, that death has but barely been escaped.

Laying aside extraordinary cases, wherein the paregoric may be taken during any stage of the disease, I recommend the present paregoric to be taken for the first time, on the night of the sixth day – that is, the first time the patient is wholly confined to his bed. It should, then, be continued until the seventeenth, or till the danger is over. On the sixth day the flesh has become inflamed; so that the head begins to be disturbed and to wander, from the heated humours.

The anodyne in smallpox should be taken earlier than in other diseases; since it is in the evening when the fits of heat and restlessness set in. Sometimes it happens, that if, during the latter days of the disease, it be delayed, the patient will suddenly become heavy, complain of discomfort, grow fevered, and die – much to the astonishment of his sanguine friends, who had formed hopes of a recovery. An anodyne given in time might have saved this. Hence, on these days, the eleventh especially, I order the anodyne to be given early in the evening, at four or six p.m.; so that its action may be ready when wanted, in case of any sudden attack. I am satisfied, that certain persons, well known to me, have died for the want of such a remedy under such circumstances. Had they had it they would have lived. How truly then may we say – *Occasion stays for no man*.

There is then a double danger. The narcotic may be given too late. Or it may be given too early. In this last case its action has passed away before the occasion has come. Hence, during the last, and most dangerous, days, it should be given at stated hours – morning and evening. Neither will the aforesaid ounce-dose always be sufficient. The blood may be so inflamed, and the spirits so disturbed, that it may have no more action than half an ounce in other cases. Experience, then, has shown me, that an ounce and a half is the dose – particularly with young men, and hot temperaments. This can be repeated, until convalescence, morning and evening, with impunity, nay with benefit.

In the very worst forms of confluent smallpox I have found it necessary to give three paregorics during the day, i.e. one every eight hours; since, so great has been the orgasm of the spirits, and so much discomfort has arisen therefrom, that longer intervals were not allowable. Now if the diacodium – as it sometimes does – create nausea, the liquid laudanum must be substituted. Of this, sixteen drops have the same effect as an ounce of the syrup; that is, if it be prepared as I have elsewhere directed.

Those who disapprove of this method will object that, by a narcotic so largely and frequently given, the peccant matter will become fixed and salivation will be checked. To this I reply, that it is true that the salivation may be diminished; still, it will never wholly cease. Nay, more, some time after the anodyne has been given it will break out afresh. From this accrues a double advantage. The patient, having been restored by the anodyne, is all the stronger for the expectoration.

Thomas Dover on Gout⁵⁰² (1732)

This is the original source for the formula for ‘Dover’s Powders’, as given by Thomas Dover, a student and associate of Thomas Sydenham.

GOUT, OR ARTHRITIS

This has various names, according to the parts affected: ‘Tis termed *podagra* when in the foot, *chiragra* when in the hand, *gonegra* when in the knee, *sciatica* when in the hip.

‘Tis strange to see how often physicians call this distemper a rheumatism, and rheumatism the gout. The difference between them will plainly appear from the description I shall give of these two distempers.

Of the several names above set down, a regular gout may most properly be termed *podagra*, because it begins in the first joint of the great toe, and that usually about midnight; where, after it has racked the patient forty eight hours with a violent fixed pain, a small tumor begins to appear, increasing gradually; after tha, an inflammation, and then the violence of the pain abates.

The first fit may last a fortnight, or three weeks; but a great weakness, and tenderness in the part afflicted, remains much longer.

The patient may feel no more of this dsease for two or three years, or at soonest a twelvemonth: But what adds much to the misfortune of this distemper, is, that every fit becomes more painful, and the paroxisms more frequent and lasting.

The gouty matter increasing, [it] rises to the ankles and knees, which, as was said before, swell with inflammation: This degree of distemper, by some authors, is called *morbis articularis*, and is always attended with a symptomatical fever; for as the pains wear off the fever abates.

Thus it takes its progress, increasing by degrees, till the poor patient is lacerated, and torn to pieces; chalk-stones working out of the joints, attended with other melancholy circumstances.

It must be observed, towards the latter end of this disease, when the fluids are almost wholly changed into gouty matter, the fits are not so regular, nor the pains so vilent; but then the patient is seldom free from them.

Physicians have been much mistaken about the cause of this distemper: That it is matter, appears from the tumors and inflammation that attend it; but the difficulty lies to find out the *nature* of this matter. I shall venture to affirm ‘tis an alkali: That the chalk-stones that work out of the joints are such, appears from the fermentation occasioned by acids, which in small quantities cause pains in gouty persons: These pains proceed from the acids meeting with a contrary quality, whereby a preternatural fermentation is raised in the distempered part; and this creates a heat and burning, the heat being an effect of that fermentation or motion, according to the learned Dr. *Willis*, whose Treatise of Fermentation I prefer to his other Works:

⁵⁰² Dover, T. (1732). *The ancient physician’s legacy to his country*. London: Thomas Dover.

If I mistake not, he gives this definition of it, viz. "*Motus intestinus ad perfectionem alicujus corporis, vel ad interneccionem ejusdem.*"

There have been so many unsuccessful attempts made to master this disease, that patients have very little faith left, and (as they commonly say) have no hopes from any thing but patience and warm flannel: But with submission, keeping the part warm is wrong, because 'tis *proprium Caloris attrahere*; and does, beyond doubt, attract gouty matter to the part.

Notwithstanding the many fruitless attempts that have been made to cure this miserable distemper, Providence has in this, as well as in all other diseases, left means for our recovery, which in many instances I am able to make appear. I shall refer to one where the curious may be satisfied: The coachman of the Right Honourable the Lord Viscount *St. John* had a long and tedious fit of the gout, and was hardly able to stire without crutches: I gave him a very pleasant easy sudorific, which had its desired effect: Insomuch that the day following, he walked from *Albemarle-Street* to *Cecil-Street*, to give me thanks. He came to me without the help of a stick, and with strait shoes on: The swelling was entirely gone: He affirmed that he was never better in his life; and that he was able to walk from one end of the town to the other. This is about fifteen years ago.

The fellow has never had any return since, though he was much afflicted with it many years before. It may be asked, will he never have it again? The same question may be asked of any fever, (except some few with eruptions;) for many persons are very subject to fevers every Spring; yet I presume no body will say a patient was not cured of a fever he had fifteen years since, though he should happen to have a fever again this year.

It will, I hope, at least, be granted, that such long intervals add much to the comfort of life; and I am confident there is no body can have the gout to that degree, but that there may be a rebate given to his pains. He may find great relief without opiates, or painful remedies, which I am a stranger to, and very much dislike.

"Take tamarinds half an ounce, leaves of senna two drams, rhubarb one dram, boil them in water to three ounces, strain them off; and dissolve in them of manna, and the purging syrup of roses, each one ounce, syrup of buck-thorn and Elixir Proprietatis, each two drams. Drink posset-drink, or thin gruel, between motions. Taking this once or twice a week, will lessen the gouty matter, and break the force of the fits."

"Take opium one ounce, salt-petre and tartar vitriolated, each four ounces, ipecacuanha one ounce, liquorice one ounce. Put the salt-petre and tartar into a red-hot mortar, stirring them with a spoon till they have done flaming. Then powder them very fine; after that slice in your opium; grind these to a powder, and then mix the other powders with these. Dose from forty to sixty or seventy grains in a glass of white-wine posset, going to bed. Covering up warm, and drinking a quart or three pints of the posset-drink while sweating."

In two or three hours, at farthest, the patient will be perfectly free from pain; and though before not able to put on efoot to the ground, 'tis very much if he cannot

walk the next day. When it is taken, keep your bed till next day noon. This remedy may be taken once a week, or once a month.

Mynsychy's Elixir of Vitriol taken often in large quantities, most certainly destroys gouty matter, yet for some time it may cause pain; but taken in its due latitude, if water will quench fire, it must in the end have its desired effect.

Directions for using Perry Davis' Painkiller (n.d., c. 1900?)

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PERRY DAVIS

**DIRECTIONS FOR USING
PERRY DAVIS
PAINKILLER**



**PREPARED IN CANADA BY
DAVIS & LAWRENCE CO.
Manufacturing Pharmacists
NEW YORK and MONTREAL
Established 1839**

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PAINKILLER

PERRY DAVIE

To Check Chills and Break up Common Colds and thus prevent the Development of La Grippe or Bronchitis

When Chilled—to restore the body warmth and check the development of common colds, etc. Take one to two teaspoonfuls of Painkiller in a glass of hot sweetened water or milk. Repeat at half hour intervals until the feeling of body warmth is restored. Repeat again at bedtime. If the throat is sore, at bedtime, put two teaspoonfuls of Painkiller (one for children) into half a glass of hot water. Soak a flannel strip in same, wring out and wrap around the neck covering with another cloth to protect the clothing. If the compress feels too hot, run a finger around inside of same which will loosen it a little and let in some air. Leave the compress on over night. It will soothe and draw out the soreness and induce sleep. Also rub the chest thoroughly with Painkiller clear night and morning. Keep warm and dry and limit the diet for a few days.

An excellent Cough Mixture for Common Coughs from colds.

One tablespoonful of Painkiller, half a cup of honey or molasses, juice of half ($\frac{1}{2}$) a lemon. Take one (1) teaspoonful every half hour until relieved. [3]

PAINKILLER

PERRY DAVIS

For Colic, Cramps in the Stomach and Bowels and Diarrhoea

To relieve the pain of—Acute attacks of Colic or Cramps in the stomach due to chills or unwise eating of unripe fruit or improper food, and to check the Diarrhoea usually accompanying such attacks. Take a teaspoonful of Painkiller in a glass of hot sweetened water (children, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoonful) every half hour until 3 doses have been taken or relief is felt. If the trouble is due to improper food or over-eating give also a dose of castor oil. Rub the stomach and bowels with the bare hand wet with Painkiller clear, or apply flannels wrung out in hot water to which a tablespoonful of Painkiller has been added. Stay in bed and keep quiet and warm until attack has passed.

PAINKILLER

PERRY DAVIS

For Common Sore Throat and Children's Croupy Attacks, Frost Bites and Chilblains

At bedtime put two teaspoonfuls of Painkiller (one for children) into half a glass of hot water. Soak a flannel strip in same, wring out and wrap around the neck covering with another cloth to protect the clothing. If the compress feels too hot, run a finger around inside of same which will loosen it a little and let in some air. Leave the compress on over night. It will soothe and draw out the soreness and induce sleep. Especially recommended for children inclined to have frequent Croupy attacks.

Frostbites—Apply bandages wet with Painkiller, and keep wet until the pain begins to stop.

Chilblains—Rub in clear Painkiller several times a day, and at bedtime. Keep the feet warm and dry.

PAINKILLER

FERRY DAVIS

for

Sprains, Bruises, Stiff Neck

For Sprains rub Painkiller in well every two hours until the pain subsides. Between times keep the injured parts at rest. Then wrap a bandage soaked in Painkiller around the affected part and cover with a dry cloth. Renew twice a day until the swelling subsides.

For Bruises—If possible raise the bruised part so that the blood will run away from it. Apply first, cloths wrung out in ice cold water; change often to keep them cold. Then wrap a bandage soaked in Painkiller around the part.

For Stiff Neck—Apply Painkiller freely. Rub it in briskly with the hand. Repeat at frequent intervals until relieved. Keep the painful parts dry and warm.

PAINKILLER

PERRY DAVIS

**As a Liniment for Muscular Cramps
and as a Rubdown to Relieve
Strains after Violent Exercise**

For Muscular Cramps and Rheumatic Pains.—Bathe the painful parts freely with Painkiller clear and wrap around at night a bandage soaked with Painkiller covering with a flannel. As an after exercise rubdown, pour a little Painkiller in the hand and rub gently where the muscles feel strained.

Neuralgic Headache—Moisten the finger tips with Painkiller and rub both sides of the forehead and temples taking care not to get the Painkiller into the eyes.

PAINKILLER

FERRY DAVIS

for

Cuts and Scratches, Insect Bites and Stings, Toothache

Cuts, Scratches, etc. First cleanse the wound, then bind together the injured parts firmly with a linen cloth wet with Painkiller clear.

Bites and Stings of Insects—Apply Painkiller clear to the injured parts frequently until the pain begins to stop, then cover with a bandage wet with Painkiller.

For Toothache—Saturate a small piece of absorbent cotton with Painkiller and place around the inflamed gum or in the cavity of the tooth. It also helps to rub Painkiller on the outside jaw near the seat of the pain.

[8]