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CASE OF POISONING BY COAL GAS, IN TORONTO.

A very important and interesting case of the poisoning of a whole family, consisting of four adult persons, by common coal gas, occurred during the night of the 12th February, in Toronto. The family comprised Captain G. Henderson, Miss McLean, Miss Mary Kerr, the subject of a subsequent inquest, and a servant named Mrs. Armstrong. Miss Kerr was a visitor at the house, in attendance upon her friend Miss McLean, who was unwell. With the exception of Miss McLean who was sick, the others retired on Sunday evening the 12th, to bed in perfect health. On the morning of the 13th, a grand daughter wishing to enter the house was unable to do so, and went to Mr. Kerr's informing him of the fact. He instantly repaired to the house, and finding the doors all locked, and unable to effect an entrance by them, he finally succeeded in forcing open the cellar door, after which he made his way to the upper story of the house. He found the inmates all in their beds, and insensible, the house smelling strongly of the coal gas. He immediately threw open the doors and windows, with the object of effecting as complete a ventilation as possible, and sent at the same time for medical assistance, which was immediately rendered by Drs. Small, Thorburn, Wright and Agnew, with whom was afterwards associated Dr. Rolph. In the course of the afternoon of the same day, the 13th, all had recovered from the effects of the poison, with the exception of Miss Kerr, who lingered until the following Friday morning, when death put a period to her sufferings, the phenomena of which were evidently the effects of cerebral congestion. The report of the inquest says, "Drs. Small, Thorburn, F. Wright and Agnew, all handed in written statements. As their evidence did not differ, it is unnecessary to give the whole. The following will suffice."

"Dr. Thorburn first saw Mary Kerr, the deceased, on Monday afternoon, about six hours after the discovery of the accident. At that time she was in a state of complete insensibility, and incapable of being roused by any means whatever. The usual remedies for patients in her condition were resorted to. The respiration was loud, hurried, and irregular; the circulation was quick, short, and intermittent. The body was rigid. The countenance rather flushed, and considerable heat of head. The pupils largely dilated, and insensible to light. Frothy mucus escaped from the mouth. The powers of deglutition were imperfect. On the morning of Tuesday the muscular system lost its rigidity. The above condition remained until Wednesday noon, when the vital powers became still lower. The lower extremities became cold, and sloughing occurred upon