

is laid down in *Jervis on Coroners*, p. 34: "Evidence ought never to be excluded on the ground that it may criminate a witness. The proper course is to tell him that he is not bound to criminate himself and to allow him to make any statement he may wish. *Wakley v. Cooke*, 4 Ex. 511."

As to the latter part of the above quotation the warning was, we understand, duly given, and counsel for the Crown on several occasions invited the principal witness to make any explanation she desired, so as to clear up any doubtful points, and, if possible, remove any suspicion.

It would seem that those who have had charge of this inquiry have industriously followed up all clues and suggestions, some of which came from the members of the afflicted family, and neither time nor trouble has been spared to investigate all incidents collateral to, or which could in any way be said have any connection with this dreadful tragedy. But nothing has been elicited which in the slightest degree points to any one as being the person who is said by Florence Kinrade to have been the criminal, and all suspicion as to all those who were spoken of as possible participants has been dissipated; so that after a fruitless search the detectives came back as wise as they went, having ascertained nothing of value, except information which shews that the statements made by the principal witness were largely fabrications or hallucinations.

This last word is suggestive. May it not point to a solution of the mysterious part of this ghastly tragedy? It has been suggested that the explanation of these apparently mysterious features may be found in the theory that the crime was committed by some one with a diseased brain, and therefore possibly not responsible as a criminal. This theory grows upon one and seems to solve many difficulties.

One of the facts of the case is that Florence Kinrade has been under the surveillance of specialists for the purpose of forming an opinion as to her mental condition, and further that their report to the authorities is unhesitatingly that she is afflicted with some species of dementia which might bring on paroxysms of violence.