

Introduction.

April) to Mr. Disbrowe Rodgers, professor of toxicology at the London Hospital. No traces of poison could be discovered, but the complete absence of fat and the extreme emaciation of the body drove Professor Rodgers to the conclusion that death was due to starvation and neglect. He found also that the condition of the liver precluded the idea that the deceased had been addicted to intemperance.

The inquest was resumed on the 10th of May, and continued over the 11th, 14th, 15th, 17th, and 19th. Mr. (now Sir Harry) Poland appeared for the Treasury, and Mr. Percy Gye, afterwards reinforced by Mr. (now Sir Douglas) Straight for the three Stauntons and Alice Rhodes, all of whom elected to be sworn and give evidence. Louis, who was called first, said he had separated from his wife by mutual consent in the previous November; they had remained, however, on excellent terms, and saw one another two or three times a week. The separation was due to her intemperate habits; she was a heavy drinker, and they had difficulty in preventing her from getting access to spirits. Up to Monday, the 9th of April, his wife was in perfect health, eating well and having a craving for food, but on the Tuesday and Wednesday in that week she became seriously unwell, with perpetual drowsiness, and her memory appeared to fail her. He had never regarded his wife as being of weak intellect. She refused to see her mother and relatives because they had tried to shut her up in a lunatic asylum. She was always well clothed, and never complained of being neglected. On being pressed he admitted that Alice Rhodes had passed as his wife at Little Grays.

Alice herself was the next witness. She swore that she did not know the deceased was ill until Wednesday, the 11th of April, and even then she did not consider her very ill. The illness had come on quite suddenly and unexpectedly. Though Harriet was carried into the house in Forbes Road she was perfectly capable of walking; she undressed herself and took out her own ear-rings. Alice admitted that she had deceived Mrs. Butterfield by telling her that the deceased was living at Brighton with her husband and child, but she did so at the request of Harriet herself. She had never noticed that the deceased was in a filthy condition, and she had intended to share her bed at the lodgings. She had seen deceased the worse for drink on several occasions.