

ANALYSIS OF THE MAYBRICK CASE

He then spoke to me of De Quincey, the author of 'Confessions of an Opium-Eater,' and asked me had I read the work. I said, 'Yes,' and that I wondered De Quincey could have taken such a quantity as 900 drops of laudanum in a day. The said James Maybrick said, 'One man's poison is another man's meat, and there is a so-called poison which is like meat and liquor to me whenever I feel weak and depressed. It makes me stronger in mind and in body at once,' or words to that effect. I ventured to ask him what it was. He answered, 'I don't tell everybody, and wouldn't tell you, only you mentioned arsenic. It is arsenic. I take it when I can get it, but the doctors won't put any into my medicine except now and then a trifle, that only tantalizes me,' or words to that effect. After a pause, during which I said nothing, the said James Maybrick said: 'Since you use arsenic, can you let me have some? I find a difficulty in getting it here.' I answered that I had some by me, and that, since I had only used it for experiments which were now perfected, I had no further use for it, and he (Maybrick) was