

INQUEST INTO DEATH OF EDITH CLARKE WAS COMMENCED LAST EVENING

Doctors and Nurses Tell of the Condition of the Dead Girl and of the Operation Performed--They Repeat a Conversation With Her in Which She Stated That Dr. Preston Had Attended Her.

(From Saturday's Sun, Dec. 2.)

The sensation of the hour and the chief topic of conversation in the clubs and about the streets, is the arrest of Dr. Edward A. Preston, a prominent physician, on suspicion of having performed an illegal operation on Edith F. Clarke, daughter of Robert Clarke, of Adelaide street.

In connection with the same case, Howard D. Camp, aged 33, well known as a yachtsman, and employed as a moulder in Fleming's Foundry, was also arrested. Both men are now in custody at the central station.

MISS CLARKE'S DEATH.

Miss Clarke died on Wednesday last, and it was supposed by her friends that the cause of her death was congestion of the lungs and pneumonia. The girl had been attended by Dr. Preston for some time, but her condition became so critical that it was decided to call in other physicians. Those summoned were Dr. W. F. Roberts and Dr. Scammell.

Dr. Scammell said when he and Dr. Roberts were called in the girl was in a very serious condition, but declined to state what was the nature of her illness.

It is not believed that the parents had any idea that an illegal operation was performed, in fact the Sun was informed on good authority that they had not, and arrangements were made for the funeral to take place yesterday afternoon at half-past two.

MR. MCKIM BECAME SUSPICIOUS. In the meantime, Rev. R. P. McKim, who was to conduct the funeral, had received information that an illegal operation had been performed, and he communicated with Chief Clarke by telephone on Thursday evening, giving an intimation of the state of affairs.

Yesterday morning the Chief called on Mr. McKim and secured all the information possessed by the clergyman, and which he deemed sufficient to warrant the arrest of Dr. Preston, and Howard D. Camp.

DR. PRESTON ARRESTED.

Dr. Preston was arrested at his office, 45 Sydney street, between two and three o'clock yesterday afternoon by Deputy Chief Jenkins and Detective Killen. He took the matter coolly, but later betrayed considerable emotion. He did not talk about the case to the officers after being told the nature of the charge on which he was arrested. He was placed in one of the cells at the central station, and the only persons allowed to see him during the day were his wife and his lawyer, B. L. Garow.

The charge recorded against Dr. Preston is: "Arrested on suspicion of having at the City of St. John, in the County of St. John, unlawfully used certain instruments upon the person of one Edith Clarke, with intent there and then to cause the miscarriage of the said Edith Clarke."

ARRESTED BESIDE THE CASKET OF HIS BETROTHED. Howard D. Camp, who is said to have been keeping company with Miss Clarke for several years, was arrested at the home of the dead girl between two and three o'clock by Sergeant Kilpatrick, having gone there to attend

1877, and Jennie in 1880. In 1880 Dr. Preston married Sadie M. Howard of St. John. She has borne him one child, Florence, who was born in 1882. The doctor is a member of the New Brunswick Medical Society, and of the homoeopathic medical society of Kingston, New York. Some years ago he conducted a private sanitarium for incurables, using what he called the "Bellinger Cure."

Laura G. Jennings, a west end young lady, who died on Monday last, and was buried on Wednesday in Cedar Hill cemetery, is also believed to have been the victim of an illegal operation, and it is quite probable that the body will be exhumed and a post-mortem examination made.

Chief Clarke last evening interviewed the mother of the deceased girl and questioned her as to whether her daughter had a lover or not. Mrs. Jennings told the chief that she had not, and made a similar statement to a Sun reporter.

Mrs. Jennings denied positively that Dr. Preston had performed any operation on her daughter and asserted that there had been no occasion for it, but stated that Dr. Preston had attended her during the illness which resulted in her death. "Laura had been in poor health for a long time as a result of an attack of diphtheria which she had last year, and frequently complained of pains around her heart. She told me one day that she had heard that Dr. Preston made a specialty of treating heart affections, and asked that he be called in. He only came twice, the first on Monday, I think, and again on the following Friday or Saturday preceding her death. When he came the last time he said she was suffering from typhoid fever, but did not seem to help her very much. Last Sunday I called in Dr. Ellis, but he did not say what was the matter with her. She died on Monday."

Although Mrs. Jennings says that Dr. Preston told her daughter was suffering from typhoid fever, the death certificate which he issued, the cause of death was stated to be "septicaemia."

The coroner's inquest into the cause of Miss Edith A. Clarke's death was begun at the Court House last evening, Coroner Berryman presiding.

Owing to the sensational nature of the case, in connection with which Dr. Edward A. Preston and Howard D. Camp are now under arrest, there was much clamoring for admission. So violent did the demonstration become that eventually Chief Clarke approached the coroner and asked whether he should admit the crowd or not. The coroner gave permission for as many as the room would accommodate to come in, and the place was quickly filled. The chief said there were a number of aldermen in the crowd, and the coroner remarked that he saw no reason why there should be discrimination against them.

Dr. A. W. Macrae was present in the interests of Mr. Camp and Scott E. Morrill, and B. L. Garow on behalf of Dr. Preston.

MRS. ROBERT CLARKE. Mrs. Robert Clarke was the first witness sworn.

"My name is Edith Clarke, and I am the wife of Robert Clarke. Edith Clarke was my step-daughter. I have been her guardian for twelve years. She was always a delicate girl. I knew that some doctors were called in about two weeks ago. She had been ill for Wednesday the 15th, she was sick enough to have the treatment of a doctor. I sent Miss Nellie Reynolds, Dr. Roberts, Dr. Roberts came between 4 and 5 o'clock on Wednesday, the 15th of November, and made a hurried visit on that day, and came again on Thursday and made a more thor-

ough examination. He then said she was suffering from congestion of the lungs, and then changed the medicine. I did not know that Miss Clarke was taking any medicine previous to the 15th of November. I saw a bottle of medicine in her room on Wednesday which I think I could recognize. Dr. Roberts was there Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and on Sunday he called in Dr. Scammell. On Saturday night I became alarmed at Edith's condition. I sent Miss Reynolds on Saturday afternoon to tell Dr. Roberts to come again.

Dr. Roberts and Miss Reynolds and a prescription to get some medicine, and

Miss Nellie Reynolds, a close friend of the deceased girl, gave evidence that Miss Clarke had told her she was engaged to Mr. Camp. She also was ignorant of the fact of Miss Clarke's pregnancy until after her death.

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lungs of the deceased were in a diseased condition. He believed that the deceased had died as a result of blood poisoning following a miscarriage, but said there was no evidence of instrumental violence. A skillful operator could use an instrument without leaving any traces of its introduction.

This seemed to help her for a while, then she got worse again. The pains were intermittent. On Sunday Dr. Robert Dr. Scammell and two nurses were in attendance. I understood there was an operation performed on Sunday. Dr. Roberts told me that this was necessary in order to save her life. On Saturday Dr. Roberts said Edith was in a very critical condition. I did not know what was wrong with the girl until after she was dead. She never told me that she was engaged. Howard D. Camp had been keeping company with Edith for about five years. His attentions to Edith were not distasteful to me. I never suspected that Edith had been pregnant up to the time of her death. I never thought any medicine for her."

MISS NELLIE REYNOLDS. Miss Nellie Reynolds was the next witness.

"I reside at 65 Adelaide street, next door to the Clarke house. I have known Miss Clarke for about sixteen years. I have seen her since last March. She told me she was engaged to be married to Howard Camp. She had been complaining of being out of sorts all the fall. I did not know what was the matter with her during the two days previous to the time Dr. Roberts was called. On Wednesday the 15th, Mrs. Clarke told me to go and get Dr. Roberts, who she said would come as soon as possible. He said he thought she had congestion, and left a prescription to be filled. Mrs. Clarke asked me to go again on Saturday. He gave me a prescription, and Mrs. Clarke went later in the evening. During Saturday evening she seemed to be in great pain. While I was with her she did not sleep. I was not present at the operation on Sunday. Dr. Roberts said she had got cold and an operation would be necessary to save her life. She lamented a good deal.

"After the operation she seemed easier. She was conscious until about an hour after her death. I did not know until after her death what was the matter with her."

MISS EDITH MAXWELL. Miss Edith Maxwell, sworn: "I have been a Victorian nurse since June last. Two weeks ago Sunday I went to the Clarke house to assist Dr. Scammell and Dr. Roberts. I knew what the operation was for. Dr. Roberts performed the operation. I daily visited Miss Clarke from the operation until her death. On Sunday morning when I saw Miss Clarke she was in a serious condition. She was not feverish, but was weak. After the operation I thought she rallied. She commenced to go back the next morning, and I thought her chance was dim.

The operation was performed about eleven o'clock on Sunday morning. She was so weak that it was necessary to stop giving the anaesthetic. We were there about two hours. Both Dr. Scammell, who assisted me, and myself had a conversation with Miss Clarke relative to her condition. We told her again that her condition was very serious.

On Sunday night Mrs. Clarke gave me a bottle which she said had contained medicine that her daughter had been taking. Dr. Preston's name is signed to this prescription. The prescription called for ergot. Miss Clarke said that she had been taking the medicine to her. Ergot might be given for checking the uterine hemorrhage. Half a teaspoonful is a large dose to be taken every hour.

When I got this bottle of medicine my suspicions were aroused, and Dr. Scammell and I called on Monday morning. Dr. Scammell suggested that it might be wise to get a statement from Mrs. Miss Maxwell was the only other person present.

Dr. Scammell asked her if Dr. Preston had used any instruments. She said, "Yes," but she could not describe them.

I asked her what the charge was. She said \$25. I asked her if Dr. Preston had given any medicine, and she replied, "No." I asked her if anyone else had got any medicine for her, and she said her friend had. I understood that she referred to Howard Camp. I consider that Miss Clarke believed that she was in a critical condition, and might die. She continued to live until her death. I am satisfied that the girl had been pregnant. I believe that death ensued from blood poisoning.

BURFEE E. BROWN. Burfee E. Brown, druggist, was then sworn. "I am familiar with the signature of nearly all the practitioners in the city."

Given a prescription and asked if he recognized it, he said: "I do not know whether it was destroyed or not. The date of the prescription is Nov. 15th. The prescription calls for half an ounce of ergot. Dr. Preston wrote it."

The number of the prescription corresponds to the number on the bottle obtained in Miss Clarke's room. My authority for putting up prescriptions is the name of the doctor on the prescription. In the case of what I thought was an overdose, I would notify the doctor, and if he ordered it dispensed, I would comply with his request."

Camp was brought into court and the witness asked "whether he was the man who got the prescription in question filled. The witness said he thought not. He did not remember having dispensed it for him. "I would not swear that he was not the man who got it."

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Open Tonight till 8 o'clock. St. John, N. B., Dec. 4th, 1905. OVERCOATS & SUITS Going Fast

Saturday was another big day in Suits and Overcoats. Our regular prices were declared, by those who came here and bought after they had been looking elsewhere, to be below the so called "Sale Prices" at other stores, but we have now Suits and Overcoats away below our regular prices and they are being picked up quickly.

Overcoats, Sale Price \$5, \$6, \$7.50, \$8 and \$8.75. Regular \$6 to \$12. Men's Suits, Sale Price \$3.95, \$5, \$6 and \$6.98. Regular \$6 to \$12.

J. N. HARVEY, Men's and Boys' Clothing, 199 and 207 Union St.

day I made a thorough examination of her chest, but found no physical signs of pneumonia. I saw her again in the evening and she was still complaining of the pain in her side. Up to that time I thought it was congestion or pneumonia. On Friday she was weaker, her temperature having dropped to 78.8. I did not change her treatment at that time, nor on Friday night.

On Saturday at two o'clock her pulse was feeble, but her temperature was about normal. Miss Reynolds was sitting up with her every night. About half-past three Miss Reynolds came for me. Miss Reynolds said she had been sent by Mrs. Clarke, but Miss Clarke did not know I was to be sent for until after every night.