

Introduction.

the evening Louis Staunton went twice for the doctor, who, however, was not at home, and the two brothers went back by the last Bromley train, leaving the women behind them. It was explained to the landlady that Louis Staunton was the husband of the invalid, and that Alice Rhodes was a young married woman who had come to help nurse her.

About ten o'clock next morning (the 13th) Mr. Longrigg was fetched by Alice Rhodes. He found the patient perfectly insensible, the arms rigid, the pulse quick and weak, the breathing stertorous and laboured. The body was emaciated, and all of it that was visible disgustingly dirty. The doctor saw at a glance that she was in a dying condition, and told the women he did not think she could recover. He prescribed absolute quiet, and ordered them to try beef tea and milk, and on his departure promised Mrs. Patrick to send in a trained nurse. When the latter, Ellen Gooding, arrived in an hour's time the patient was unconscious and lying as if in a fit. At noon she was appreciably worse, and the doctor was fetched again. The patient was dying rapidly, and Mr. Longrigg only remained a few minutes. At half-past one she died; the only person with her when she passed away was the nurse, though Louis Staunton and Mrs. Patrick were in the adjoining room.

It devolved upon Gooding to lay the body out, but on tearing off the chemise and nightgown she found it in so filthy a condition that the ordinary procedure was impossible. The head was alive with vermin, and the dirt on the trunk "was something like the bark of a tree." The brothers made the necessary arrangements for the funeral, which was fixed to take place at Beckenham on Monday, and the whole party quitted Pengo in the course of the afternoon, having entrusted to the nurse the key of the rooms in Forbes Road. The next morning (Saturday, the 14th) she registered the death at Bromley, at the request of Mr. Longrigg, whose certificate gave the cause of death as primarily cerebral disease, and, secondly, apoplexy. This was admittedly based on what Louis Staunton had told him rather than on his own observation. He had only seen the deceased for a few minutes, when she was beyond the possibility of examination, and what he saw showed nothing inconsistent with the information supplied to him.