

by chance. The term "accident," as used in the policy, is presumed to be employed in its ordinary, popular sense, which means "happening by chance," "unexpectedly taking place," "not according to the usual course of things." So that a result ordinarily, naturally flowing from the conduct of the party cannot be said to be accidental, even where he may not have foreseen the consequences.

It is not deemed essential to a vindication of the correctness of the conclusion reached to review the various American decisions illustrating the application of the term "accidental" in such policies further than to note the palpable distinction between them and the case at bar. Death by drowning is accidental, as there is present the *vis major*, external and violent, producing asphyxia, and in the act producing the injury there is something unforeseen, unexpected and unusual. *May Ins.*, § 516. In *Association v. Barry*, 131 U. S. 100, the assured, after two other persons had jumped from a platform five feet from the ground with safety, also jumped therefrom, followed as to him with serious consequences, producing stricture of the duodenum, from which death ensued. In that case the deceased intended to and thought that he would alight safely, and it was a question for the jury to say whether or not it was an accident that he did not. The court say:

"If the death is such as follows from ordinary means voluntarily employed in a not unusual or unexpected way, it cannot be called a result effected by accidental means; but if in the act which precedes the injury something unforeseen, unexpected, unusual occurs, which produces the injury, then the injury has resulted through accidental means."

In *Association v. Newman*, 84 Va. 52, the assured was found dead in his bed early in the morning, caused evidently by inhaling coal gas. The case turned upon the question whether or not this gas was a poison or poisonous substance, within the meaning of the exception contained in the policy. The controversy among the experts was as to whether death resulted from carbonic oxide or carbonic acid, and as to their resultant poisonous power, both causing death by suf-

focation. Such a death clearly came within the term "accidental," and it was left to the jury to determine whether or not carbonic oxide is poisonous within the meaning and intent of words "poison" and "poisonous" as used in the policy. This course was pursued by the court in view of the conflict in the testimony as to whether such gases were strictly "poisonous" in the ordinary acceptance to be imputed to such term in the policy. These cases do not present the question of an accident and disease as in the case at bar. In *Bacon v. Association* (Ct. App. N. Y., Oct. 14, 1890), 25 N. E. Rep. 399, it was held that death resulting from a malignant pustule, caused by the infliction upon the body of diseased animal matter containing *bacillus anthrax*, is death from disease, and not within the terms of an accident policy similar to the one under consideration. It was likened to what is called "wool sorter's disease," because it happens to people who handle wool and hides, such as tanners, butchers and herdsmen. Although the medical experts admitted that this species of malady belonged to pathology, yet they attempted to except this instance from the classification of diseases by defining it as "a pathological condition, and succumbing of the body to the infliction of this particular poison." But the court held that a pathological condition "means neither more nor less than a diseased condition of the body," and therefore, as the policy expressly excepted bodily infirmity or disease, there could be no recovery. The court say: "No abrasion of the skin is needed to produce the contact of the *bacilli*, and what follows from such contact seems to be as plainly a disease as in the case of small-pox or typhoid fever." Sun-stroke seems to be recognized by the courts in New York as a disease. In *Boos v. Insurance Co.*, 6 Thomp. & C. 364, the contention was as to whether the court should take judicial cognizance of the fact that sun-stroke was "a serious disease," within the terms of the policy. There seemed to be no question made that it was not a disease, but whether the fact of its seriousness should be left to the determination of the jury. Courts may take cognizance of facts generally known and recognized in nature, science and history. They