

"No, sir. To my knowledge it hasn't been used, and no one would interfere with it in any way."

"Before the man went into it, do you know if it had first been cooled?"

"Yes."

"Had it been properly ventilated at the bottom and at the manhole at the top before he entered it?"

"Yes," answered the foreman. "It had been opened for several hours."

"And steamed and cooled?" continued the expert.

"Yes. Steamed for four hours as usual and then cooled," affirmed Walter.

"Everything is just as he left it?"

"Yes, sir."

The expert picked up a "muzzle." He examined this carefully; then the wooden buckets for carrying out the debris; looked in at the small opening near the bottom; ascended the ladder and surveyed the interior from the manhole, returning to Walter's side.

"I do not see how I can help you. I cannot conceive how by any process or even chance arsenic could get into that 'still.' In fact, I can state positively there is no chance at all."

"But you will at least make a chemical analysis of the 'mud'?" demanded Walter, quite nettled.

"Where's the use? Even you must know arsenic does not enter into the manufacture of the ingredients."

For answer, Walter grabbed up a bucket and hurried up the ladder. When he was half through the manhole, the factory doctor drew up alongside the "still" on his way to an injured workman.

"What's up now, Hart?" he queried, as he reined in his horse.

"Oh, Mr. Mason has brought an expert up from Montreal to see if Byrne could have got any arsenic from the 'still,'" and Walter disappeared, as he did not want to have any words with the factory doctor.

"Never heard of such a thing in a bleaching-powder 'still,'" muttered the doctor in the direction of Walter, as he whipped up his horse and hurried to his call.

With the wooden bucket Walter scooped up some of the "mud" at the bottom. It was a semi-liquid or pulutaceous, greenish-colored deposit when brought to the light. The expert admitted he might have been hasty in his pronouncements. Walter was determined to have the expert analyze that "mud." He took him to the nearest drug store, where the chemical examination revealed arsenic in decided quantities. But how it got there was yet a puzzle. Walter knew as well as the expert that arsenic was in no way employed in