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EXTRAORDINARY CASE.

INQUEST ON MISS CATHERINE CASHIN.

A Coroner's Inquest was held on Saturday, at the Gate-house public-house, Hampstead-road, London, before Mr. Stirling, on the body of Miss Catherine Cashin, a young lady who died suddenly on Tuesday morning, at the house of Mr. Rhodes, a wine-merchant, Mornington-place, St. Pancras. Mrs. Rhodes, in whose house the deceased had resided, with her mother and sister, stated that she became acquainted with the deceased about eight weeks before her death, at which time she was in perfect health. Yesterday (Friday) week I was requested, by the deceased's mother, to accompany her daughter to Mr. Long's, in Harley-street, and to state the fears she had respecting the wound in the deceased's back. I complied with Mrs. Rhodes's request, and accompanied the deceased, and Mr. Long, and drew his attention to the state of her back. He looked at it, and said it was precisely as he wished it to be. The next thing I state is, that on Saturday morning I was called up to the apartment of the deceased, and found her in the greatest agony. Her back was in a violent state of inflammation, and she was troubled with incessant sickness. In the afternoon of the same day I wrote, in Mrs. Cashin's name, to Mr. Long, requesting his immediate attendance. He came between five and six o'clock in the evening. He then looked at Miss Cashin's back, and said he thought it was in a very good state, and said he would give one hundred guineas if he could produce a similar wound on the persons of some of his patients. I pointed out one particular spot upon her back, and asked him what could cause its appearance; and he said it was in consequence of inhaling, which was part of his system, and unless those appearances were produced, he could expect no beneficial result. He then inquired what I had done, and I told him I had applied a poultice, and given a saline draught to allay the irritation of her stomach. He said I could not have done better, and that he should make no alteration. I then begged him to order something that would allay the irritation of the stomach and bowels. He said it was of no consequence, as that irritation was the effect produced by his system, and it would be of ultimate benefit to her. I then begged that he would at least give her a composing draught, to which he replied that a tumbler of diluted port wine was a better composing draught than all the doctors in the world could make, for she had heated the very name of physic. I objected to this, but he insisted on its being given. I gave her a wine glass full, which was immediately rejected by the stomach. By Mr. Long's permission I obtained the poultices, but she gradually got warm. On Sunday morning last he came again, and said that doubtless I knew better the state of the wound than he did, because I constantly applied the poultices. On removing the poultice on one occasion, I again pointed to the dark spot in the wound, and he said that probably there would be a number of boils come out, and that it was what he wished to produce; and that she was going on as well as he could possibly wish. I then ascertained the state of the patient, and again pressed his attention to the sickness, as well as did the deceased's mother. He said he had a remedy with him, but that he would not apply it then, because he rather liked the sickness than otherwise. He then ordered her to have a little rhubarb and magnesia, which was immediately given. Between eleven and twelve o'clock on Sunday night he came again, and gave her some medicine which he had brought with him, but which was immediately thrown up by the stomach. On my saying that I thought her in a dangerous state, he said my fears were perfectly groundless, and because of my ignorance of his system it was that I was alarmed; and that she would be perfectly well in a few days. She passed a very restless night, and on the following morning I was still more alarmed at the increased inflammation of the wound. The deceased's mother and brother-in-law expressed great desire to have further advice, and Mr. Brodie was sent for, who saw her about six o'clock in the evening, and ordered a poultice to be applied immediately, and some saline draughts. The sickness was stayed by Mr. Brodie's prescription. Her night was very bad. On the following morning, at seven o'clock, I gave her a saline draught, and in half an hour afterwards she took a small cup of coffee with dry toast. I left her with her nurse under the impression that she was drowsy. During the time I was at breakfast, a bell rang violently, and I immediately ran up stairs and saw the deceased in the agony of death. Mr. Foulkes, a neighbouring surgeon, was sent for immediately. I tried to get a teaspoonful of brandy into her mouth, but her jaws were quite set, and she immediately breathed her last. [Here the witness was deeply affected, and it was with difficulty that her husband, who sat by her side, could with his utmost attention keep her from fainting.] I did not state in its proper place, that after Mr. Brodie had seen her on Monday evening, when Mr. Long called, on hearing that Mr. Brodie had been called in, he said it was perfectly unnecessary, for that no person could be better than Miss Cashin was. Mr. Long did not come or send after that.

Examined by a Juror.—The deceased was in perfect health before her medical attendant made the wound in her back—her younger sister was also his patient, and she died that morning (Saturday). Witnesses do not know when they became his patients, nor for what complaint. The deceased told her, she said, making the wound in her back would prevent a complaint to which she might be subjected hereafter.

Mr. Brodie, surgeon, stated that he saw the deceased but once, about six o'clock on Monday evening. He saw her sister in the drawing-room, who complained of some injury in the chest. He then went into the deceased's bed-room, and on examining her back, found a slough as large as the palm of his hand, all round which the spine was discoloured to a considerable extent, as if it had been inflamed, and was now threatening to become a slough; her stomach was very much disturbed, and he was told, rejected directly whatever she swallowed: he prescribed for her, and said he would call the following day, believing at that time, that although she was very ill, she was not in immediate danger; he was that the inflammation in the back, which produced the sloughing,

had been caused by an application made by a Mr. Long, who had been consulted respecting her; on the following day he called at her house, and found the young lady had died that morning; he requested to see the body, and, on examining the back, found that the sloughing had very considerably extended, and concluded that it was the cause of her death; that is all he can say of his own knowledge; the wound might have been produced by a blister; he was told that the wound was produced in order to prevent consumption, under which the sister laboured; he was not surprised at her death; he did not know what Mr. Long had done. Any powerful stimulating medicines might produce a sloughing, particularly in persons of a delicate constitution. The state of the back was sufficient to account for the state of the stomach, and also for the death of the deceased. If he had seen the patient some days before, he thought something might have been done for her. He was not informed of the nature of the application which was made; he never saw such an effect produced by eating plums; the disordered state of the stomach might have been produced by other causes than the state of the back; he did not think it probable that the disorder extended from within; the sickness could not produce the slough, but the slough might have been the cause of the sickness; he did not think that the wound was calculated to prevent consumption; he should not think that a patient was going on well with such a slough increasing. He should not think it a warrantable practice to produce such a sloughing to prevent disease; he did not say absolutely that the sloughing produced the sickness and death; what he meant to say was, that it was sufficient to account for them.

A Gentleman present said, that he knew of Mr. Long having used the same prescription for 50 patients, all of whom had recovered.

The Coroner and Jury, with Mr. Brodie and Mr. Wakley, then went to view the body, and on their return several of the Jury expressed a strong desire to have the body opened; one of the gentlemen observing, that although there could be very little doubt as to the cause of her death, and although they would willingly spare the afflicted mother any further trial of her feelings, yet the case was one of such vast public importance, every possible information must be obtained.

An elderly person sitting at the table, who said he was a Surgeon, said he hoped the Jury would hear the evidence that Mr. Long had to adduce on his own behalf. He (the speaker) could bring forward testimony in contradiction of what had been stated, and he himself knew of cases within these two months in which Mr. Long's system had been tried, and not one instance of a failure.

The Solicitor said, Mr. Long's professional reputation was at stake, and he trusted the Jury would hear both sides.

Mr. Sweetman, brother-in-law of the deceased, said there would be no objection on the part of the relatives to having the body opened, as it was necessary for the furtherance of justice.

It was then directed that the body should be opened immediately, and the inquest was then adjourned until Monday.

SECOND DAY—MONDAY.

Monday, at 12 o'clock, this extraordinary investigation was resumed at the Gate-house public-house, Hampstead-road, before Thomas Stirling, Esq. In consequence of the evidence adduced on Saturday, and the strong reflections which were cast upon Mr. Long, a medical gentleman of some celebrity, an extraordinary sensation was excited in the neighborhood; and as the hour approached when the inquest was to take place, the number of persons became immense, and the Jury-room was crowded nearly to suffocation. Shortly after the Jury had assembled, it was found necessary to adjourn the inquest to the Board room of the Commissioners, in Edward-street.

Mr. Adolphus, who attended for Mr. Long, observed to the Coroner, that he had the honour to attend for a gentleman who was deeply interested in the proceedings, and whose name had been very much before the public. There was one favour he wished to ask the Coroner, which was, to take the evidence of Sir Francis Burdett. The Hon. Baronet was in attendance to speak in favour of Mr. Long, and it would be a great accommodation to the Hon. Baronet if his evidence could be received before any more witnesses were heard, as he had important duties to attend to elsewhere.

The Coroner instantly acceded to the request. Sir Francis Burdett sworn—I am living in St. James's-place, St. James's-street, and I have some means of being acquainted with Mr. Long. I have been to that gentleman's house, and have seen his practice several times, which, as far as I could judge, was not dangerous. His manner and conduct were very much that of a humane man. I went to Mr. Long, in consequence of being informed that he had cured two persons of the *tie dolereux*, with a view to see whether any relief could be afforded to the Marquis of Anglessea; and from what I saw, I was so convinced there was no danger in the practice, that I desired Mr. Long to use his remedy on the back of my hand, being at the time affected with the gout. This was done more with a view to be able to report to the Marquis of Anglessea than from any hope of a cure, and there certainly was no danger in the operation. I reported to his Lordship, who was afterwards attended by Mr. Long. I believe with success. So satisfied was I, from what I had witnessed, and from what I heard from persons who had been under Mr. Long's care, that one or two persons placed themselves under his care from my representation.

Coroner—You then know nothing of his practice relative to the death of the deceased?

Sir F. Burdett—I do not.

Mr. Wakley—I wish to ask a few questions of Sir F. Burdett.

Mr. Adolphus—Who is Mr. Wakley?

Mr. Wakley—I attend here on the part of the relations of the young lady.

Mr. Adolphus—Very well, Sir.

Mr. Wakley—What was the nature of the application to the Marquis of Anglessea?

Sir F. Burdett—I am not able to explain. The remedy was applied by friction, but of what it was

composed I am not able to say, although I considered it to be very beneficial.

Juror—Did you receive any benefit from the treatment of Mr. Long?

Sir F. Burdett—I did not.

Mr. Wakley—When did you first visit Mr. Long?

Sir F. Burdett—I should think about two months ago.

Upon entering into Mr. Long's house, did you enter into any agreement to keep whatever you saw a secret?—I was not asked to keep any secret.

Did you sign any book?—I think I did, but I am not aware of the nature or contents of the book.

Was it a spirit or ointment that was used?—I am not aware.

Mr. Wakley—What was the appearance on the skin after the friction?—It was red.

Did you witness the process of inhaling the gas?

I did.

Are you aware of the nature of the gas which was used?—I am not.

Have you made chemistry a study?—I have not.

Should you be able to tell the difference between prussic acid and water, if you only saw them in a phial?—I should not.

Mr. Alexander Thompson, a physician, sworn—I have examined the body of Miss Catherine Cashin, externally, as well as internally, but I did not examine the head nor the spine, which I wished to do; but the feelings of the family were against it, and accordingly I did not look at those portions of the body. At the time of the examination I was attended by Mr. Willgoose, a gentleman appointed by Mr. Long. On examining the body we found it well proportioned about the neck and collar-bone; we found it puffy, as if it contained air. The Learned Gentleman here read a very long report, describing minutely the formation of the human body, as well as each particular part of the interior, and the nature of the contents. Upon finishing the document, the Coroner inquired if he was able to state what were the causes of the death of the deceased, when he replied in the negative.

Mr. Adolphus—Was there any thing externally which would occasion the death of the deceased?

Mr. Thompson—The stomach appeared to be very much inflamed.

A discussion here took place between Mr. Wakley and Mr. Adolphus, upon the nature of the evidence; the former gentleman proceeding to make remarks upon the evidence which had been adduced, and to which Mr. Adolphus objected.

Mr. Wakley, in reply, observed, that if he was not allowed to make use of his own judgment, he should apply to the Coroner to adjourn the inquest, to enable Counsel to attend on the part of the relations of the deceased.

Mr. Adolphus objected to this course of proceeding, and cited several cases in support of his argument.

Juror—Do you consider the spine was injured internally?

Mr. Thompson—I am not able to say, from not having examined the part.

Juror—Do you consider the deceased to be consumptive?

Mr. Thompson—She certainly was not consumptive.

Juror—Did you observe any stuff or mortification on the back?

Mr. Thompson—Certainly not.

Juror—Was there no dead part on the back?

Mr. Thompson—I should say, certainly not.

Juror—Do you consider that plums in the body would have caused death?

Mr. Thompson—I found no plums whatever.

Juror—From your examination, did you discover any thing in the body to cause death?

Mr. Thompson—The appearance I found in the body was similar to what I had seen when examining three bodies at Chelsea, which had died from poison.

Juror—Do you consider there was any poison in the stomach?

Mr. Thompson—I do not consider there was; but different drugs would produce the same appearances.

Juror—Do you consider the internal state of the stomach was sufficient to cause death?

Mr. Thompson—I have known death produced with less inflammation than I found in the deceased; also with less inflammation in the pleura, with the exception of the appearances on the back; for in none of those cases have I witnessed any such appearances.

Juror—Do you think the wound in the back would have produced that inflammation?

Mr. Thompson—Perhaps, in the absence of any other disease, that might have caused it.

Mr. Adolphus—Taking all the appearances of the case, can you say that the wound in the back would cause death?

Mr. Thompson—As far as my examination went, I cannot say whether it would or not.

Mr. Wakley—Can you say whether the application to the back had any effect upon the spine or marrow?

Mr. Thompson, in reply to this and several other questions, stated there existed a considerable disorganization, and that a dose of tartaric acid would produce such an irritation.

Juror—Had you been called in to the deceased, would you have acted in the same manner?

Mr. Thompson—I certainly should not have done so to a healthy person.

Mr. Wakley—Did you find any internal disease which would have authorized you to produce such an extensive external sore?

Mr. Thompson replied in the negative.

Mr. Wakley—If you had proceeded in your examination and have found no disease in the brain or spine, what would you have considered the cause of death?

Mr. Thompson—I should say the inflammation in the back.

To a question arising out of the last, Mr. Thompson said that he should not answer any such questions for the future.

Coroner—The only way to put an end to this question will be to have the head and spine examined.

A discussion here took place between Mr. Wakley and Mr. Adolphus rather of an acrimonious description.

One of the Jury observed that it was a very extraordinary case, and which was proved by their having the honour of his being in attendance.

Mr. Adolphus replied there was nothing known about extraordinary proceedings.

A Juror stated that the discussion would be put an end to.

Mr. Thompson, in reply to the cause of the wound on the back, said that he could not say from what cause it had originated, but he had and would again apply a red-hot iron to the back and other parts of the body. A portion of the body of the deceased was here shown to the Jury in a phial, which had a most horrid appearance, the discoloration being most extensive. Mr. Thompson, observed that the specimen which was now produced was not in a state of disorganization.

Juror—What do you mean by disorganization?

Mr. Thompson, in explanation, said that disorganization arose from improper matter getting into the cilia, and when the blood-vessels were cut off.

The specimen was here handed round on a plate to several medical gentlemen, the major part of whom stated that a complete disorganization had taken place.

Mr. Adolphus—If any gentleman is going to give an opinion let him be sworn.

Juror—There are several medical gentlemen present who are ready to give evidence upon the subject.

The Coroner observed that from what had taken place it would be necessary that the head and spine should be examined before they proceeded any further, if the Jury wished to hear the opinions of the medical gentlemen present.

The former questions were again repeated to Mr. Thompson in a variety of shapes, to which similar answers were returned without any new fact being elicited.

Mr. Van Buchell here handed a prescription to Mr. Thompson, which he had received from Mr. Foulkes, a chemist, on Saturday.

Mr. Foulkes, chemist, sworn—The prescription which I now produce is an exact copy of the one which was sent to me to make up for the deceased, and which is as follows:—Carbonate of potash, 2 drachms; spirit of nutmegs, 1 drachm; mint water, 3j oz.; and 10 drops of laudanum. This prescription was sent from Mr. Brodie, and which was intended to allay irritation. One-sixth part of this was to be taken at stated periods.

The Coroner here inquired if any other medical gentleman wished to give any evidence on the subject?

Upon the application of a gentleman present the evidence of Mrs. Rhodes, the first witness who was examined on Saturday, was read.

After the clerk had read the evidence, Mr. Thompson begged of the Coroner and Jury to order a re-examination of the body, and which he should insist upon being done.

The Jury coincided in the opinion of Mr. Thompson, and it was then proposed that either Mr. Brodie or Mr. Macellan should assist in the investigation; and the latter gentleman instantly gave his consent.

After some further conversation the inquiry was adjourned till Wednesday.

THIRD DAY—WEDNESDAY.

Wednesday morning, at ten o'clock the Coroner and jury assembled at the Commissioners' Room, Edward-street, Hampstead-road, to continue the investigation of this most important and interesting case. The jury-room, as before, was crowded with medical men, and several persons of distinction in the fashionable world were also present. Mr. Adolphus, and two solicitors, were also present on behalf of Mr. Long.

Dr. Alexander Thompson was then sworn, and the evidence he gave on Monday was read over to him, and some corrections, merely verbal, made. He went on to state that the cause of the hyper-organization of the piece of flesh cut from the back, produced on Monday, was the stimulants which had been applied to the part before death, and which had augmented the quantity of matter in the secreting vessels. Witness had examined the spine and brain of the deceased since the last investigation. The brain was in the most perfect state that he had seen for a long time. About four inches of the spinal marrow, immediately underneath the wound on the back, was of a red colour, and much inflamed. Dr. James Johnson, Mr. Goodbeal, Dr. Hagg, Mr. McKee, Mr. Willgoose, Mr. Bolton, and other surgeons, were present at the examination, and assisted therein. Free access was given to any medical man who chose to present himself. Witness was now enabled to state, as his opinion, that the sore in the back was the first cause of the death of the deceased, and the stimulants which had been applied to the back produced irritative fever, and from that proceeded the inflammation of the pleura, and the venous congestion of the lungs. All these causes combined produced death. It was the practice among the natives of Arabia and America, to produce counter irritation by stimulating applications externally, and the bodies of the natives of those countries were often found covered with sores. Witness could state that no medical practitioner would be justified in producing counter-irritation to any extent at all on a healthy person for the purpose of preventing disease, and especially to such an extent as appeared on the back of the deceased. He should not have considered her going on well if he had seen her on the evening before her death. He should not have given her mulled port wine as a fit beverage when her stomach was in such a state of inflammation as it must have been from the appearances after death, and from the statement of Mrs. Rhodes. It was highly improper, of course, to give any stimulating medicine to a person in whose system inflammation existed. He should have considered, if he had ordered Miss Cashin port wine in the state she was when Mr. Long ordered her a tumbler, that the patient would not have survived 24 hours. Mr. Long, or whoever attended the young lady, ought certainly to have attended to the symptoms which showed themselves, and have prescribed remedies to reduce the inflammation. He ought to have prescribed medicine if he wished to save his patient. No medical practitioner ought to have neglected such symptoms as conti-

nued vomiting and a high state of fever, but should have administered colic and bleed the patient and used every other means to lower the inflammation.

Mr. Thomas King, of Hanover-street, Hanover-square, surgeon, sworn. I attended the examination of the body of the deceased yesterday, and saw on the back, between the shoulders, a large eschar, or disorganized or burnt piece of skin. All the surrounding parts under the skin were gorged with serum; there was no process of separation evident. The spinal marrow had exactly the same appearance as I have always seen after violent local injury, when the body has been examined ten days after death, and especially when it has been kept tolerably cool. Every part of the cranium appeared to me to be perfectly healthy. The body had the appearance of being in good condition—that is, to have been that of a person in a healthy state, who had died after a very short illness. That, I believe, is all I know on the subject. I did not examine the stomach and pleura. I took notice of the back; it had the appearance of being produced by a scorching heat; for instance, if you held very near the skin a red-hot iron, as broad as the crown of my hat, for a quarter of an hour, it would produce the same appearance as I have mentioned. I cannot form an idea of what application did cause the appearance, but it was such as would have been produced by what I have described. Any violent caustic would have produced the same appearance; an arsenical application would have produced that appearance. I cannot say what was applied, but I should think it was something of that sort. Judging from the examination which I made yesterday, I should say that the death was occasioned by the local injury. Very few persons would recover from such a local injury; the strongest might have recovered, if proper care had been taken immediately upon the sore making its appearance, but it would have required the utmost skill and attention. God forbid that any surgeon should produce such a sore. I have seen the derivative system practised to the fullest extent in all parts of Europe; but I certainly never saw one-fourth of the injury which I saw on the back of this young lady, produced by any surgeon. Judging from what I saw, I should say that the wound in the back was the sole cause of death.

Mr. W. Willgoose, surgeon, deposed as follows:—Having read the depositions that had been taken, found it difficult for him so say what the cause of death had been. Having nothing else to go by than the appearance after death, he was bound to suppose that the injury which had been inflicted had been the cause of death, but he could not swear it was. The internal surface of the stomach and duodenum were inflamed. Inflammation of the stomach could not exist for any length of time without killing the patient, independent of any other injury or disease. Had seen the back, and if he (the witness) had nothing to go by but the back alone, he should not have supposed it would have caused death.

By a Juror—Could not tell whether the inflammation of the bowels could have been occasioned by the state of the back or not; it might or might not be sympathy. Had been in the habit of examining bodies after death; the appearance of the back was somewhat like as if lunar caustic had been applied to the part. The skin was mortified, but the muscles were un injured; had seen such injuries before; had seen deeper ulcerations produced by caustic; had never seen an injury intentionally produced to such an extent on the back of any individual; had been called in, and supposing the inflammation of the stomach to have been sympathetic, he might have done something for the relief of the patient; had no means of knowing what had caused the wound—he should not like to see such a wound on the back of any patient of his. Knew nothing of Mr. Long's mode of treatment.

By Mr. Adolphus—Knew Mr. Long; had heard from very respectable people that he was a successful practitioner; had known him for some years, and seen many patients go to him.

By a Juror—Did not know until this investigation had begun, whether the persons he had seen go to Mr. Long were patients or visitors, as he had never been inquisitive respecting Mr. Long's affairs; believed that his plan of treatment to be counter-irritation—that was, to produce an external illness for the purpose of drawing off an internal disease; would not have made a wound so large as this on the back under the circumstances; from what he had seen since death, he did not think he should have been justified in making so large a wound. Consumption consisted of tubercles of the lungs; his conduct in treatment would be much influenced by a mother, or an old woman, saying other branches of a patient's family had died of a consumption, but not so much as to be induced to make such a large eschar as this was.

By Mr. Wakley—Mr. Long was not studying the profession, nor was he an authorised surgeon when he (the witness) first knew him; could not say how many years, but it was before he began this system. (Great laughter.) Did not know that he had received a medical education; did not know what trade or profession he was of some few years ago; a short time ago he was a palmer; and was not now of the medical profession, but was what was called a professed curer of consumption.

Dr. John Hogg sworn—Was present yesterday in the vault in Moorsfield (Chapel), and assisted in examining the head and spine of the deceased. The first thing that struck him as remarkable was the state of the back. It presented between the shoulder blades a very large kind of eschar; it appeared as if it had been scorched by fire; the body itself was not at all emaciated, but muscular, symmetrical, and in many respects well formed. Dr. Thompson, witness, and others, proceeded to examine the spine; obtained a full view of the spinal cord. There was certainly an appearance on the sheath of the spinal cord, opposite to where the external sore was, of discoloration. This was very minutely examined. On removing it to the day light, it exhibited a crimson appearance. The other part of the sheath was of a more natural colour. On opening the sheath, it was evidently thickened at the part where it was discoloured; but had no appearance of di-

For continuation see Fourth Page.

