

Bertha Brennan

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Swallows Carbolic Acid

Mrs. M. Brennan Commits Suicide With Poison Patient Hurried to Hospital, Physicians Giving No Hope of Recovery -- Death Follows

Made ill by the heat and concluding she wanted to die, Mrs. Bertha Brennan, forty-nine years of age, about 5:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon swallowed carbolic acid at 423 K street, where she occupied an apartment. She died at 11 o'clock last night. Mrs. Brennan was found unconscious in her room by the colored domestic employed in the house. About two minutes before asking the poison she made a remark, the meaning of which was not fully comprehended until she was found unconscious. Then Mrs. T.C. Green, her landlady, understood what was meant.

Mrs. Brennan was the wife of Michael Brennan, who is employed at the Soldiers' Home. His work keeps him there at night. Mrs. Brennan had been working at a dressmaking establishment in 9th street, but was not at her place of employment yesterday afternoon.

About 5 o'clock she returned home and spoke to Mrs. Green as she walked up the steps to go to her room.

"If I don't come down again," the dressmaker called to Mrs. Green, "send up for me."

"What for?" the landlady asked.

Mention of Illness

"Because I'm sick," was the reply.

"Anybody who will run about in the hot sun as you have today," Mrs. Green commented, "ought to be sick."

"If you think that way," Mrs. Brennan retorted, "Don't bother about me."

Mrs. Brennan went to her room, the colored girl following closely. The latter had ironed a skirt and wanted to deliver the garment to Mrs. Brennan. She reached the room shortly after Mrs. Brennan had entered and found the latter lying across the bed. She did not respond when the colored girl spoke to her, and the latter returned to the lower floor to tell Mrs. Green of what she had seen.

"I believe Mrs. Brennan has taken something," the girl announced.

"Go back and see what you can do for her," Mrs. Green directed.

Just then Mr. Brennan appeared at the door and was told there was something the matter with his wife. He proceeded at once to their apartment and was shocked at finding her in so serious a condition. He telephoned for a physician, and then sent for a policeman.

Hurried to Hospital

The patrol wagon from the second precinct made a quick run to the house; Mrs. Brennan was placed in it and no time was lost in getting her to the Homeopathic Hospital.

"She has about once chance in a thousand," was what one of the physicians at the institution told her husband.

Mr. Brennan returned home, notified relatives of his wife of what had occurred, and the latter hurried to the hospital to see her. Her condition was so serious, however, when they reached there that the physicians deemed it advisable for them to remain away from her room.

It was said at the K street house last night that the Brennans had roomed there about nine months. They did not take their meals with Mrs. Green, however, and the latter saw little of them.

The hospital authorities notified the police of the death, and the latter communicated the sad intelligence to the husband.

Coroner Nevitt will probably give a death certificate without holding an inquest.