

Sarah A. Wilson

(- 19 Dec 1900)

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Woman Dies in Lodgings

Husband and Wife Had Been Drinking Heavily

Both Had Taken Paraldehyde to Quiet Nerves and Woman Got Overdose

The police of the first precinct found a sad condition of affairs in the boarding house of Mr. Hess, No. 618 9th street northwest, about 9 o'clock last night, where they were called in response to a summons from the keeper of the house. Mrs. Sarah A. Wilson was found dead in bed, and her husband, Richard J. Wilson, a printer, employed in the government printing office, was in a stupor. Her body was removed to the morgue, while the sick man was taken to the Emergency Hospital for treatment. A bottle found in the room, in which was a small quantity of paraldehyde, explained the condition of affairs, and the finding of a number of empty whisky flasks satisfied the police that Wilson had stated the facts when he said he and his wife had been drinking to excess.

The paraldehyde, Wilson explained, had been taken for the purpose of quieting their nerves and putting them to sleep. He expressed the belief that his wife had taken an overdose accidentally and not with suicidal intent.

About six months ago Richard J. Wilson and Sarah A. Connell were married and the couple boarded at the 9th street house, where Wilson had lived as a bachelor. It is stated that the Wilsons had been drinking heavily for several days, and the conclusion of the spree was not altogether a surprise, although death had not been anticipated.

Husband Summons Help

It was about 7 o'clock last night when Wilson called at the door of a room occupied by Mrs. Rasky. He was clad only in his night garments. His physical condition was such, however, that he scarcely realized anything beyond the fact that his wife was dead. Mr. Hess was summoned, and a doctor, who was visiting the house, was also called. He found that the woman's body was still warm, but life was extinct.

The man was hurried to the Emergency Hospital, where he was given prompt treatment, and Deputy Coroner Glazebrook directed that the woman's body be taken to the morgue. Dr. Glazebrook was satisfied, from statements he heard, that her death was the result of an overdose of paraldehyde taken accidentally. Paraldehyde, it is stated, is a poison that has about the same effect as laudanum, although it is even more dangerous, and is not generally used because it is expensive.