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Coroner's, Board of

1911

TELEPHONE | 4004 MAIN.
| 4005 MAIN.

Coroner's Office,

Rooms 1 & 3 Municipal Building.

Borough of Brooklyn.

Chief Clerk,

Michael A. Cunneen.

EDWARD GLINNEN,
CORONER.

ALEXANDER J. ROONEY, M.D.
CORONER

New York,

February 16th.,

1911.

HON. WILLIAM J. GAYNOR,

MAYOR'S OFFICE, NEW YORK CITY.

Dear Sir:-

We, the Brooklyn Coroners, desire to call your attention to a movement, which, if successful, would remove us from our present quarters.

Our little office and court-room, while insufficient in affording ample room, nevertheless, answer our immediate needs. In that portion of the Brooklyn Municipal Building (Rooms 1 and 2) allotted us, we hold our Examinations and Inquests on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; and, frequently on Mondays and Saturdays, in accordance with our calendars. The Examinations take place from 9.30 A. M. until 2 P. M. or thereabouts. Our Inquests beginning at 7.30 P. M. usually terminate close on to midnight. This office is open at all hours, day and night, during the year. Our attendance at the Inquests and Examinations averages about one hundred and eighty.

This is a renewal of the movement begun in the early part of last year, when, in calling the matter to your attention, all concerned willingly acquiesced in the judicious opinion given by you.

Knowing that you will give our letter consideration, we are

Respectfully,

Alex. J. Rooney, M.D.,
Edward Glinnen
Coroners

Coroner's Office,

Borough of The Bronx,
No. 531 Tremont Ave. cor. 3rd Avenue.

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A. F. SCHWANNECKE.
CORONER.

New York, Feb. 28th 1912

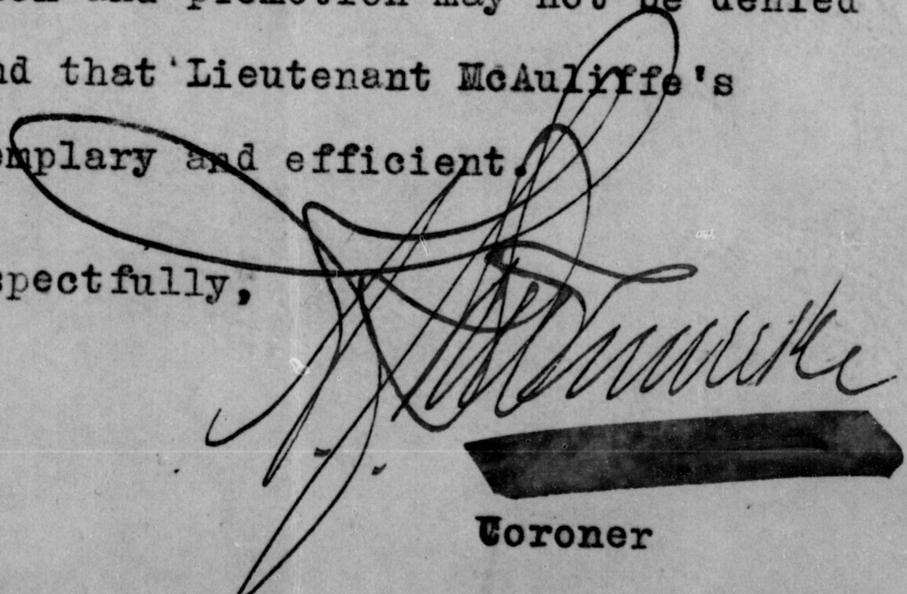
Hon. Wm. J. Gaynor.
City Hall,
N.Y. City

Dear Sir:-

Yesterday afternoon Lieutenant McAuliffe, now stationed at the 69th Precinct in the Bronx, called upon me, asking me to use my kind offices on his behalf with you to have the fine of thirty days pay, for which he was penalized on the 16th of June 1910, for conduct unbecoming an officer and using violent and abusive language to myself while conducting a Coroner's inquisition in the 61st Precinct in the Bronx, remitted. A great many friends of Lieutenant McAuliffe's have from time to time importuned me to intercede on his behalf.

Lieutenant McAuliffe has repeatedly apologized for his misconduct and, if it would not interfere with the discipline of the Department and your views in the matter, I would respectfully recommend the remittance of the fine in order to again place him in a position where competitive examination and promotion may not be denied him. I have made inquiries and find that Lieutenant McAuliffe's conduct since that time has been exemplary and efficient.

Yours respectfully,



Coroner

*Board of Coroners'
Borough of Manhattan,
New York.
Criminal Court Building,
Centre Street.*

~~JAMES B. WOODRUFF~~
CORONER.

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hundreds of persons injured by revolvers. The real cause of this is the ease with which pistols are obtained and carried. Make it difficult to purchase pistols and crimes by this method will be minimized.

While helping to prepare the annual report of the Coroners for 1910 I found we had forty-eight more homicides by shooting than the preceeding year. I became convinced the remedy for this marked increase was a law regulating the sale of revolvers. I drafted the enclosed Bill which I sent to Senator T. D. Sullivan, having learned that he had introduced a Bill making it a felony to carry concealed weapons. He amended his Bill to include the regulation of sale as I suggested, but did not include the license feature. This I think is important. However, if the Bill can be passed as it is now framed it will be a step in the right direction, and perhaps we can have an ordinance passed here licensing the dealers, and the duplicate system of issuing permits by the police department. The Bill has had two hearings before the Codes Committee. I tried to get a committee of citizens to appear before the Codes Committee in its favor, and also called on the Police Commissioner to take an interest in it, but did not succeed, however I presented facts and figures

Board of Coroners'
Borough of Manhattan,
New York.
Criminal Court Building,
Centre Street.

JAN 20 1911

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states will follow. In fact I am trying to form a permanent league to carry this out.

Yours Respectfully,

Geo. Petit LeBian

"Any person who offers for sale any gun, pistol, revolver, or other firearm or ammunition, whether such person is a dealer, pawnbroker, or otherwise, shall obtain a license for that purpose upon payment of \$10 per year.

"Every person desiring to purchase a pistol, revolver, or other firearm of a size that may be concealed upon the person shall apply to the police authorities of the city or town wherein he resides. It shall be the duty of the police authorities to inquire into the character of the applicant and for what purpose such pistol, revolver, or other firearm is required.

"Every person selling a pistol, revolver, or other firearm of a size which may be concealed upon the person, whether such person is a retail dealer, pawnbroker, or otherwise, shall keep a register in which shall be entered at the time of sale name, age, occupation, and residence of every purchaser of such pistol, revolver, or other firearm, together with the calibre, make, model, manufacturer's number or other mark of identification on such pistol, revolver, or other firearm. Such person shall also before delivering the same to the purchaser require such purchaser to produce a permit for possessing or carrying the same, as required by law, and shall also enter in such register the date of such permit, the number thereon, if any, and the name of the magistrate or other officer by whom the same was issued. Every person who shall fail to keep a register and to enter therein the facts required by this section, or who shall fail to exact

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the production of a permit to possess or carry such pistol revolver, or other firearm, if such permit is required by law, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Such register shall be open at all reasonable hours for the inspection of any peace officer. Every person becoming the lawful possessor of such a pistol, revolver, or other firearm, who shall sell, give or transfer the same to another person without first notifying the police authorities, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. This section shall not apply to wholesale dealers.

This act shall take effect September first, nineteen hundred and eleven.

TELEPHONE | 4004 MAIN.
4005 MAIN.

ALEXANDER J. ROONEY, M.D.
CORONER

Coroner's Office,

Rooms 1 & 3, Municipal Building.

Borough of Brooklyn.

Chief Clerk,

Michael A. Cunneen.

New York,

E. Glinnen
EDWARD GLINNEN,
CORONER
May 10 1911

April 28th., 1911.

Hon. William J. Gaynor,
Mayor, City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

We desire to call your attention to a suspicious case of opium poisoning of the two children (twins), age one week old, of Mrs. Amato of 147 Skillman Street, who died April 21, 1911. An autopsy was performed by Doctor Wuest, Coroner's Physician and it will be necessary to have the viscera analyzed to find evidence of poison if such be there. The mother is under arrest charged with homicide in having administered a drug to do away with her children. Our office has no fund to pay the expense of such analysis. We believe the Department of Health should make such examination; but, Dr. Lederle refuses to do such work for our office. We enclose Commissioner Lederle's letter refusing to make such examination. We have asked District Attorney Clark to have this analysis made and paid out of his fund; and, he says he cannot afford the expense as the cost may be \$500 to \$1,000.

We cannot proceed with the inquest until such work has been done and we respectfully request that you require the

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CORONER

ALEXANDER J. ROONEY, M.D.
CORONER

New York,

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Department of Health to do this work for our office also such other analyses as may be necessary to properly perform the duties of our Department.

Respectfully,

Alexander J. Rooney
Edward Glinnen
CORONERS.

Ernst J. Lederle, Ph.D.
Commissioner

City of New York,
Department of Health,
Office of the Commissioner of Health.

966-1910

Analysis of contents of
stomach of Michael Reilly.

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May 28, 1910.

Hon. Edward Glinnen,
Coroner,
Municipal Building,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

I have your letter of the 18th inst. requesting this Department to make an examination of the sample as above described. I regret to inform you that it will be impossible for this Department to make any examinations in the chemical laboratory which do not bear directly on the work of this Department, for the reason that I find it impossible, with the facilities at hand, to obtain prompt reports in our own cases and, in many instances, certain lines of investigations cannot be carried out at all.

Very truly yours,


Commissioner.

C.

Board of Coroners'
Borough of Manhattan,
New York.
Criminal Court Building,
Centre Street.

Desert
Oct 20/11

HERMAN HELLENSTEIN,
 CORONER.

October 19th, 1911.

Hon. William J. Gaynor,
 New York, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
 Office of the President.
 RECEIVED

OCT 21 1911

Honored Sir:-

Acknowledged.....
 Referred to.....
 Answered.....

Permit me to write you relative to a peculiar situation in which I as a Coroner of this Borough find myself, to wit: I am investigating the cause of death of one Anita M. Ketcham, who died under peculiar circumstances and who, I believe, committed suicide by administering a poison. The original certificate of death was rejected by the Board of Health because it did not state the particular poison which caused death. I then caused the contents of the stomach of the said deceased to be delivered to the Board of Health with a letter to the Commissioner asking them to make a chemical analysis of same for us, which, however, they refused to do.

I believe that we are in no position to compel them to do so. However, as we have no funds out of which to pay for a chemical analysis by private chemists, I appeal to you to either direct the Commissioner of Health to have the said analysis made for us and for such further cases as may become necessary, or else, to provide the Board of Coroners with

Board of Coroners'
Borough of Manhattan,
New York.
Criminal Court Building,
Centre Street.

HERMAN HELLENSTEIN,
CORONER.

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a contingent fund for said purpose.

Awaiting your reply, I am

Most humbly yours,

Herman Hellenstein
Coroner.

Board of Coroners'
Borough of Manhattan,
New York.
70-74 Lafayette Street,

*Heard to
 Oct 20/11*

ISRAEL L. FEINBERG,
 CORONER.
 HARRY LEISERSOHN,
 SECRETARY.

New York City, Nov. 1st 1911.

Hon. W. J. Gaynor,

My Dear Mayor:

We are in receipt of your communication in reference to Dr. Lederle's answer to our communication to you. We thank you for the kind interest shown in the matter and appreciate your efforts to clear the situation. But we are still in the peculiar position that the people who are interested in the results of the cause of death of those that they dearly love and which can only be determined by the chemical analysis and also the fact that our records can not be completed for final filing.

Thanking you for any suggestion that you may make as to the method of procedure we shall follow. I am

Very truly yours,

Heriman Helleusteni
from

H. H. / M. R.

Coroner's Office,

Borough of The Bronx,
No. 531 Tremont Ave. cor. 3rd Avenue.

New York, Nov. 14, 1911

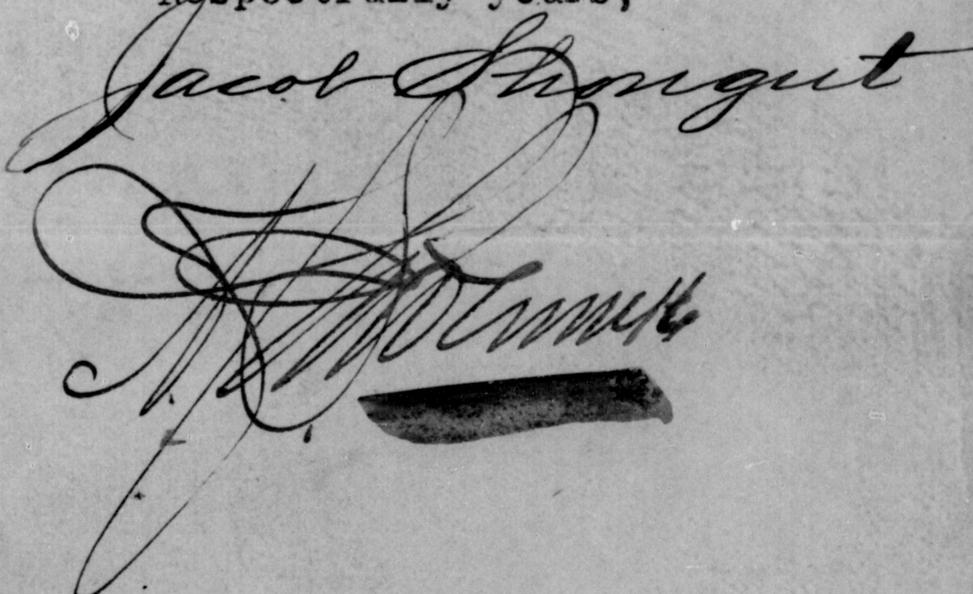
A. F. SCHWANNECKE,
JACOB SHONGUT,
CORONERS.
WM. T. AUSTIN,
CHIEF CLERK.

Hon. William J. Gaynor,
Mayor, City of New York.

Dear Sir:

The Board of Coroners, Borough of The Bronx, respectfully requests that a transfer of \$100 be made from Account 1107, which shows an unencumbered balance of \$909.38, to Account 1108, within the Account for the year 1910, to cover outstanding bill against Account 1108.

Respectfully yours,

Jacob Shongut



Board of Coroners'
Borough of Manhattan,
New York.
70-74 Lafayette Street.

ISRAEL L. FEINBERG,
CORONER.
HARRY LEISERSON,
SECRETARY.

New York City, Dec. 19th 1911.

Hon. William J. Gaynor,
City Hall,
New York City.

My Dear Mayor:-

I am in receipt of your letter of Dec. 18th 1911 enclosing a letter of the Rev. M. Charlmers. I am carefully examining the matter in detail getting all the facts that I possibly can ascertain and interviewing those who are directly considered in the handling and management of this case. As soon as my investigations are completed I shall either call upon you in person or give you further details by letter.

Thanking you for your courtesy in so promptly calling my attention to this matter I am

Very truly yours,

Israel L. Feinberg
CORONER.

I.LF/M.R.

Board of Coroners'
Borough of Manhattan,
New York.
70-74 Lafayette Street,

ISRAEL L. FEINBERG,
 CORONER.
 HARRY LEISERSOHN,
 SECRETARY.

New York City, Dec. 28th 1911.

Hon. William J. Gaynor,
 City Hall,
 City.

My Dear Mayor:-

In reference to the communication sent by you on the 18th day of December 1911 which was acknowledged by me stating that I would investigate the letter of Rev. Mr. Chalmers in reference to the case of Rev. David B. Gwilym who died on the 13th day of December 1911 and it was alleged by Rev. Dr. Chalmers that there was unusual delay in reaching the scene by the Coroners office or the representative of the Coroners Office. I enclose a copy of the report of Dr. Otto H. Schultze which was sent to me at my request. I also investigated personally and found the following facts on the blotter. That on Wednesday Dec. 13th 1911 the case was reported at 8.47 P. M. ~~to~~ Rev. D. B. Gwilym-over the telephone-from the Hollanders Hotel 160 E. 126th Street that a body was found in the room-steam heated-in which it had been laying for some time until discovered. That at 12.12 A. M. December 14th 1911 a period of about three hours after investigation the body was ordered removed by the permission of Coroner

Board of Coroners'
Borough of Manhattan,
New York.
70-74 Lafayette Street.

ISRAEL L. FEINBERG,
CORONER.
HARRY LEISERSOHN,
SECRETARY.

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Winterbottom to the Establishment of one R. E. Carpenter 2192 7th Avenue, that the said Carpenter having no facilities subsequently had the body removed to 160 E. 126th Street which is the premises of the New York and Brooklyn Casket Company where the body was laid upon a table, was not undressed or iced allowing further decomposition to set in. Otto H. Schultze the Coroner's Physician was informed on the succeeding morning, the morning of December 14th 1911 that the death was a sudden one and nothing suspicious. The Grand Jury through Mr. Mc Donald of Mr. Whitman's staff urged the attendance of Dr. Otto H. Schultze before that body for testimony. It was early in the afternoon before Dr. Otto H. Schultze was released from the Grand Jury room, with a number of other cases on his list some of which needed autopsy. The list will be found in the Report of Dr. Schultze to me. Dr. Schultze under the impression that this body was carefully iced left it last on the list and reached there as I understand late in the afternoon. If anyone is to blame for the advanced stage of decomposition the Undertaker in this case is the only one in my mind who is guilty of carelessness in not immediately icing the body so as to prevent the decomposition which had already set

Board of Coroners'
Borough of Manhattan,
New York.
70-74 Lafayette Street.

ISRAEL L. FEINBERG,
CORONER.
HARRY LEISERSOHN,
SECRETARY.

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in when the body was discovered having been pronounced dead for about nine or ten hours when first seen by Dr. Martin of the Harlem Hospital.

In reference to the other statements in the letter as to what happened a great many years ago in the Coroners Office I know nothing and can learn nothing in regard to them because of no specific names or addresses being given.

Hoping I have made myself fairly clear and placing myself at your further services should you wish my efforts in further investigation, I am

Very truly yours,

Israel L. Feinberg
President of the Board.

I.L.F./M.R.

To Hon. Israel L. Feinberg -

President of Board of Colored People's Borough of Manhattan

Report of Dr. Otto H. Schultze on the case
of Rev. David B. Gwilym.

According to the statement of MR. Vistor Preisler
Manager of the Hollander Hotel, the Rev. David B. Gwilym
came to the hotel December 13th, 1911, at 7 a.m., and
was assigned to room #7. During the afternoon
of that day Jim Evangeline, porter, knocked at door of
room #7 and received no response; he informed
Mr. Preisler, who about 7 p.m., ^{who} not receiving any
response had the door of the room forced open and found
Mr. Gwilym lying dead upon the bed in a natural
position partly dressed in underclothing, shirt and
socks; red fluid was flowing from mouth of deceased.
Mr. Preisler went to station house in West 125th
street and informed the police. Ambulance call was sent
to Harlem Hospital. According to the record of the
hospital this call was received at 7.49 p.m. marked
"dead on arrival", return 8.30 p.m. An officer was sent
to the Hollander Hotel. Mr. Preisler on his return
to the hotel found the ambulance surgeon Dr. Martin of
Harlem Hospital, who pronounced Mr. Gwilym dead and from
complete rigor mortis estimated the time since death
between eight and ten hours.

According to the statement of Dr. Martin
he arrived at the Hollander Hotel at 8.05 p.m., and re-
mained there about ten minutes. Deceased was lying

on the bed upon his right side partially dressed in shirt, trousers and socks, blood was flowing from his mouth, the room was small, about eight by ten feet, window and transom closed and steam heat on.

Dr. Martin said he noticed an odor. Mr. Preisler said he noticed a strong odor like faeces.

Mr. Preisler who knew the Rev. Mr. Gwilym, but did not know his address, looked over his effects on the dresser in the room, found a bottle of Veronal tablets, and a paper wrapper with address "Holy Trinity Church, 88th street and 2nd avenue" through which means Mr. Preisler called up the Rev. Dr. Chalmers and informed him of Mr. Gwilym's death, ~~between eight and nine p.m.~~

The Rev. Dr. Chalmers and Mrs. Gwilym, the wife of the deceased arrived at the hotel between eight and nine p.m., according to the statement of Mr. Preisler, and between nine and ten p.m. Mrs. Preisler called up Mr. R. E. Carpenter, undertaker, of 2192 7th avenue. The record of the case in the Coroners' Office shows that the death of Mr. Gwilym was reported on December 13th, 1911, at 8.47 p.m., and that the permit to remove the body was given to Mr. R. E. Carpenter at 12.12 A.M., on December 14th, from the hotel to 160 East 126th street.

According to the statement of Charles Donaldson of the New York & Brooklyn Casket Company, of

160 East 126th street Mr. Carpenter called up this company on December 14th at 2.30 a.m., to remove the remains of Mr. Gwilym from the Hollander Hotel. The body was brought to 160 East 126th street at 3.15 a.m., and placed upon an undertaker's table. Mr. Carpenter, according to the statement of Charles Donaldson gave the New York & Brooklyn Casket Company no directions whatever. The body was not even dis-robbed; it was not iced. At this time seventeen hours had probably elapsed since death, and decomposition had set in. The body should have been promptly iced. The chance for successful embalming was past in all probability when the body was found.

On December 14th, 1911, at 9 a.m., the following list of cases reported to the Coroners' Office between 6 p.m., December 13th and 9 a.m., December 14th was reported to Dr. Otto H. Schultze, Coroner's Physician over the telephone by the night clerk, on the assignment of Coroner James E. Winterbottom for investigation of cause of death.

Gwilym,	160 East 126th street.	Sudden death.
Sperber,	346 East 20th street.	Sudden death.
Wolf,	844 11th avenue.	Sudden death.
Minster,	Washington Heights Hospital,	Run over.
Berlin,	522 West 44th street.	Suicide by hanging.

Immediately thereafter, Dr. Schultze was called on the telephone by Mr. McDonald, of the District Attorney's Staff, to appear as a witness before the Grand Jury, in

a homicide case, and was there detained until 12.30 p.m., and then immediately proceeded to the Washington Heights Hospital, in West 165th street, arriving after 1 p.m. The case at the Washington Heights Hospital was a "run over" with no marks of violence apparent externally, insufficient history to determine the cause of death, and therefore required an autopsy to establish the cause of death. This autopsy was immediately done by Dr. Schultze and completed to the best of his recollection between 3.30 and 4 p.m.. Dr. Schultze went directly from Washington Heights Hospital to 160 East 126th street where he arrived some time between four and five p.m. No history of the case of Mr. Gwilym was obtainable at the New York & Brooklyn Casket Company, upon which the cause of death could be certified. Mr. Charles Donaldson called up Mr. Carpenter, the undertaker, but the latter could not supply the necessary information, but stated that he would call up Mrs. Gwilym and request her to call up the New York & Brooklyn Casket Company and communicate with Dr. Schultze. Mrs. Gwilym gave Dr. Schultze over the telephone a history of repeated attacks of asthma and sleeplessness, and stated that the deceased was accustomed to taking baths at Hollanders' on that account. There being no suspicion of suicide this history seemed sufficient with the inspection of the body to certify "chronic endocarditis" as cause of death, and the certificate of death was immediately given by

Dr. Schultze to Mr. Charles Donaldson. Dr. Schultze afterwards learned that the body was embalmed after 6.30 p.m. that evening, was placed in a casket the following morning between nine and ten a.m., and that the funeral services were held 1.30 p.m., December 15th.

Otto W. Schultze