

Olive Maybay on her oath saith: I am the daughter of Amelie Maybay and reside with her at the Gymbrowen Hotel at Gymbrowen

To Mr. Garnett - I recollect the night of the social on the 24th. of February. I remember the deceased making a complaint about the bitterness of the water. That would be about half-past Eight. I saw the Tierney party there that night. I saw them there before the social commenced. It was not before the complaint was made about the water, but they may have been there. My mother's evidence about the complaint by Miss Meehan is correct. Miss Meehan gave me half a packet of salts on the Monday morning before she went away. It was in her bedroom. She was getting ready to go, and she said "There Ollie: I will give you a present of that half packet of salts". I said "Oh, thanks Miss Meehan, but I do not think I will use them". I never took salts. I put them on the kitchen table, and my mother came out a few minutes afterwards. I said "There is half a packet of salts Miss Meehan gave me". She said "You do not want them" and she threw them in the fire. I saw the salts on the table before they were given to me. As far as I know, it was the same packet. They were destroyed in the fire.

To Mr. Power - The salts were done up in paper. There were some packets in a paper bag. When she took the one half she left the other half on the table. Anyone who went into her room would see the half packet on the dressing table if they looked. We had nothing to do with the catering that night. I was not very busy that night. After I went to the ball I never came back home, I might have come back after supper. I could not say whether Miss Bertram was at the hall when I got there. Mr. Tierney was there. I do not know whether Miss Bertram

Bertram took off her wraps that evening.

To the Jury - Miss Meehan took some salts away with her, I do not know how much.

To Mr. Garnett - As far as I know they were in ~~a~~^{the} paper bag that they were in on the dressing table.

To Mr. Grano - I think the social commenced about Nine o'clock. I just went over as it started. Miss Meehan had been backwards and forwards.

To the Jury - There was no concert before the dancing. It was simply a ball. There was no picnic in the afternoon. Miss Meehan was in the habit of leaving her door unlocked. It was unlocked ~~all~~^{on} this particular night.

To Mr. Power - There was a room set apart in the hotel for the girl visitors to take their wraps off. It was right opposite Miss Meehan's room. I was not in that room at all. I have no idea when Mr. Tierney and Miss Bertram came, but they were there when the social started.

To Mr. Garnett - Miss Meehan never used to lock her door when anything of that sort was on.

Olive Maybery.

Taken and sworn before me at Goroake on }
Friday the Fourteenth day of July 1905. }

V. Jellicoe J.P.

THOMAS MORCUM M A Y B E R Y on his oath saith-

To Mr. Garnett - I am the husband of the licensee of the Gymbowen Hotel. I remember the night of the social. I saw some of the Tierneys that night. I could not say the time. It was about Ten o'clock or a little after. The social commenced about Nine o'clock, to the best of my belief. They did not put up at the hotel that night. I know the room occupied by the deceased that night. I saw someone near her room that night. I could not say the time. It would be after Eight o'clock, it may have been a quarter or half-past Eight. I do not know who it was. It was a lady of some kind. I could not say the height. She seemed to be a woman of medium height. I could not say how she was dressed. She appeared to have a dark jacket on. It was dark at the time. It was a dark jacket. I could not say whether it was black or not, but it pointed that way. I could not say how long the jacket was. There was a light outside the door so that the light shone down the passage. It does not light the passage very well. It shows you down the passage. Miss Meehan's room was further away from the light.

To the Jury - It was light enough to walk down the passage, and to see to pass anyone. There was a light in Miss Meehan's room. This woman was standing half in and half out of Miss Meehan's room. She drew back as I was meeting her.

To Mr. Garnett - She turned her head behind the door, and as I passed on she went in and closed the door after her.

To the Jury - I could not say whether it was Miss Meehan. Passing along in a hurry I did not notice.

To the Coroner - I do not think it was Miss Meehan.

To the Jury - I think there was someone else in the room. I heard some talking. There was more than one in the room. I do not know what they were saying. I heard two different voices.

To the Jury - I went along in a hurry. I was going to the bar. The woman I saw had her two hands on the door, leaning on the door as if she was talking to someone. As I came towards her she turned in and as I passed she closed the door.

To Mr. Garnett - I heard two voices. I knew Miss Meehan's voice: it was not she that was talking.

To the Coroner - I believe the voices I heard to be the voice of a person in the room, and the person at the door.

To Mr. Garnett - I did not see any more. I passed on. The person went in just as I passed. Just as she passed in I heard the voices. It was women's voices that I heard. I did not hear or see anyone leaving the room.

To the Jury - I did not stay to listen to the conversation, I passed on.

To the Coroner - When I turned the corner I nearly faced Miss Meehan's room. If the door was wide open I could see right into the room. That is all I know about it.

To the Jury - I swear I heard two voices in that room. I cannot swear to the voices. It was not a person talking to herself. From the position the woman was in at the door, she was leaning against the edge of the door. I can swear that neither voice was Miss Meehan's. It was not a loud tone of voice, ~~as~~ just talking quietly and naturally. It was not a whisper. It was an undertone, something like a private conversation.

To the Coroner - I did not seem to know the voices.

To Mr. Garnett - I am sure there were two voices. I saw Mrs. Buffham that evening about Eleven o'clock. She was with Miss Meehan. They went into the private ~~parlour~~. I do not remember seeing Tierney ~~next~~ next morning. I did not see him driving. I saw the deceased. I never saw Mary Bertram. On Friday the 19th. of May I saw Miss Bertram and Mr.

Mr. and Mrs. Tierney, just opposite the store, in a trap. Mrs. Tierney looked very white and ill. She did not seem to want to shake hands with me. I put my hand over, caught her by the wrist and shook hands with her. I did not notice anything peculiar. I said to her "You are cold". She drew her hand out as well as she could, but she was very slow. She seemed to be very dilatory at drawing ~~out~~ her hand from under her cloak. She seemed to have a difficulty in doing it. I could not say whether she was ~~not~~ able, or did not want to do it.

To Mr. Power - I could not say whether the woman I saw was dressed in absolute black: she appeared to have a dark jacket on. I think I would have seen if it was white. I can say it was not white: I am sure of that. It was a dark colour. The room was open to the public that night.

To the Jury - That was not the only room set apart for ~~ladies~~. There was a room opposite. Only Miss Meehan and her friends went to her room. It was her private room for her own lady friends.

To the Coroner - It did not strike me as being remarkable that two persons should be in that room.

To Mr. Garnett - When I say the dress was dark I am speaking of the jacket. The dress seemed to be all dark as I passed along.

Thos. K. Grayson
+
Witness his mark
J. B. Landohne

Taken and sworn before me at Goroke on
Friday the Fourteenth day of July 1905.

J. Gellatly J. D.

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M A R G A R E T R Y A N on her oath saith:-

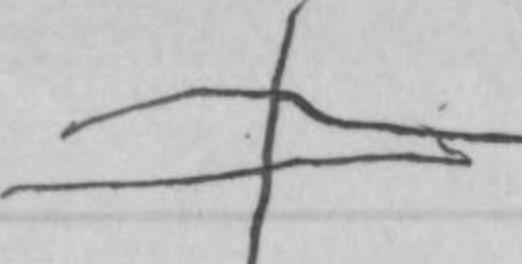
To Mr. Garnett - I am a nurse residing at Gymbowen. I recollect Saturday the 20th. of May. I went to Mr. Tierney's place. Mr. Bailey took me over. I did not notice the time: it was about Seven o'clock I think. When I got to Mr. Tierney's I saw Mrs. Tierney. When I went into her room she was dead. She was lying on her back. Until I began to undress her I did not notice anything. She seemed to be natural in her looks. Her hands and her legs were quite stiff. Her legs were stretched out. Her hands were clenched. The arms were by her side I could hardly move them they were so stiff. She was not exactly cold. She was a little warm about the stomach. When I arrived I met Mr. Tierney on the back verandah. He spoke, but I did not catch what he said. I said "I am very sorry for this trouble on you". I laid the body out. Mrs. Grace came in and was present. I laid the body out with the help of Mrs. Bailey, and Mrs. Grace came in and said "Is it possible she is dead. Is she really dead". Mary Bertram was there part of the time. She was assisting Mrs. Grace. She did not make any remark that I remember. She seemed ^{to} be extremely sorrowful, grieved, crying now and again. I took the ring off and put it in a glass, and I said "Mary I am taking the ring: when you have time will you put it away" and she did so. On the Monday I spoke to Mary Bertram about herself. I said "It must affect your limbs Mary" She said "No, I do not think it is that: it is more the fright". She was very lame. She said that Mrs. Tierney melted down a packet of salts and that they took it about Eleven o'clock, and she got sick ^{off,} and threw it ^{up,} and she thought it was ^{her} being sick that was ^{being} the cause of Mrs. Tierney sick. On the Saturday night I saw Mary Bertram in the kitchen. She seemed sorrowful. I saw her crying. She was hysterical, and I saw her coming from the kitchen to the big house on the Saturday night, and I heard her crying very bitterly

bitterly. I went on to the back verandah when I heard the crying down in the kitchen, and I saw her coming up from the kitchen going into the end room, or her own bedroom. I heard her sobbing after that. I think her mother was with her, and nurse Breen. They were walking up together. Nurse Breen was helping her ^{up} ~~along~~. She was close to her.

To the Jury - I said what a pity it was that Mrs. Tierney did not take the doctor's medicine instead of the salts, and Miss Bertram said she said 'What did I want with doctor's medicine as I am so well'! Miss Bertram said that Mrs. Tierney took the salts because her head ached.

Margaret Ryan

Witness

F. B. Lincoln 
her mark

Taken and sworn before me at Goroke on
Friday the Fourteenth day of July 1905.

J. J. Jelbart C. J. P.

(63)

J E R E M I A H T I E R N E Y on his oath saith :-

To Mr. Garnett - I am the brother of William Tierney. I am a farmer living at Gymbowen. I remember going to my brother's place ^{on} ~~of~~ the night of his wife's death. I had no conversation with anyone except my brother and my brother-in-law. It was Twelve o'clock at night when I got there. I went on Sunday to Chetwynd to bring the deceased's sister to Mr. Tierney's. I got back on Sunday evening between Five ~~and~~ and Six o'clock. I had a conversation with Miss Bertram after I ~~came~~ home from bringing Miss Meehan there on the Sunday night, between Eight and Nine o'clock. I heard Dr. Bird asking her questions about the cause of Mrs. Tierney's death and so on. When the doctor came in he asked Mary Bertram how they got home from Natimuk, and what happened; did they have dinner. She said yes. Did Mrs. Tierney seem well. Yes. Went about her work. Yes. and kept on doing the general house work until they had some afternoon-tea. I think it was before Four o'clock Miss Bertram said they had some tea. After that they had a half packet of Epsom salts. I think the doctor ordered medicine, and the only medicine in the place then was one ^{of salts} half packet that remained in the tin, and Mrs. Tierney offered Mary ^{the} a portion of this half ~~packet~~ of salts, and ~~her~~ ^{she} reply was there was not sufficient for two. She said "There is only enough for one", so Mrs. Tierney took it, and after this, inside of an hour I understood, she was dead. In the conversation that Mary Bertram had with me she told me about this half packet of salts on the Sunday evening. We talked over the matter. I asked Mary Bertram did she know ~~where~~ where Mrs. Tierney kept those things. I cannot say whether she said we would see or not. We both left with the intention of looking for the tin of salts. From where we were talking in the front verandah she walked into the pantry, and returned with a tin. I did not go into the pantry. I stood at the door. I struck a match at the door. There

There was a little salts in the tin. It was a fine powder. I did not
~~tin~~,
take much notice of the ~~tin~~ but as far as I know, it was something
similar to the one produced. She gave me the tin. I just struck a
match and she came back directly with the tin: there was no delay.

We both went to the dairy to see what was in the tin. We went to
the dairy door, and she left me at the dairy door, to get a candle.

She said she was going to Will's room to get a candle. I stopped

She was not very long. When she returned
outside the door until she returned. We went in and saw the contents
of the tin. I had the tin in my pocket all the time. After I opened
the tin and looked at it I handed the tin to Mary. There was a
little powder in the tin. Mary left it on the top of the milk safe
in the dairy. I saw Dr. Bird on the Monday. I left the tin on the ta-
^{ble where}ble ~~while~~ the doctor was, in the ~~big~~ room and he took it.

To the Jury - When we were going for the tin she said not to let anyone
know what we are after, but after that there was no conversation.
I did not attach any meaning to her saying that.

To Mr. Garnett - I noticed a label on the tin like the one produced. I
did not notice what was on it. There was about as much power ^d as
would go on the small blade of a pocket knife. The doctor did not
ask me for the tin. After the doctor had talked about the water I
told him we had ^{the} a tin containing ^{the} salts, and I went to get the tin. I
found Mary Bertram ^{had} and asked her for the tin. She said "It is
where we left it" and she went to the dairy and gave me the tin.

To the Jury - I went to the dairy to get the tin of salts.

To Mr. Garnett - I was at the dance at Gymbowen. My brother was there.
I saw him before I went into the ball-room: I cannot say the ex-
act time. I went in directly after I came there. He cashed a cheque
for me, and I bought a ticket of him. He was ticket-seller.

To the Jury - I could not say whether the ball had started when I got
in. There were several people there. There was a dance just start-
^{ing}

starting when I got in. I had that dance with Miss Meehan. She did not complain of feeling unwell. It was hot very long after dark. I just had my tea and dressed, and came down. It would be earlier than Nine o'clock that I got to the hall. I cannot say if she danced the next dance. Directly after the dance we had a game of cards in a back room. I never heard that she was ill that night.

To Mr. Garnett - I saw the Tierney party when I went there. When I came down I went into the hall. I had come in about ~~the main~~^{a mile}. I did not take notice of the time when I left my own place. The usual hour of tea is about Seven o'clock.

(signed) Jeremiah Tierney.

Taken and sworn before me at Goroke
on Friday the Fourteenth day of July 1905.

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E L E N A B R I D G E T B R E E N on her oath further saith:-
To the Jury - I do not remember the time when it was said that Mrs. Tierney had takent the last dose of salts: I think it was before Six O'clock. I think it is usual to take salts in the morning or late at night before going to bed.

(signed) Elena Breen.

Taken and sworn before me at Goroke
on Friday the Fourteenth day of July 1905.

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ANNIE BUFFHAM on her oath saith:-

To Mr. Garnett - I am a widow residing in Gymbowen. I knew the deceased very well. She had a very kind generous disposition. She was very cheerful and bright, not low-spirited at all. I remember Sunday the 21st. of May. I saw Mr. Tierney then at his place. He said he thought she died from ptomaine poisoning. He took her to Dr. Bird and he thought it was ptomaine poisoning. I do not know whether it was Dr. Bird or Mr. Tierney himself that he meant. He told me she had eaten some apple tart for her breakfast, and it was very bitter. I think that was all that was said. The impression I got was that the ptomaine poisoning had arisen from eating the apple tart. He said she died in terrible agony, convulsions and screaming. I saw Mary Bertram. I asked her what Mrs. Tierney died of, and she said she did not know; she thought it was ptomaine poisoning. She told me she ate an apple tart, and it had made her ill. She said it tasted very bitter. I did not ask her very much because she was crying, and she was very hysterical. I think she said she tasted it, and she said she was ill and vomited after tasting it. I do not remember her saying she ate it. I know she said she was ill after it, and vomited, and after vomiting she got better, and Mrs. Tierney got worse. I understood her to say that while Mrs. Tierney was holding her head she got sick, and she got worse, and Miss Bertram got better. She did not say that Mrs. Tierney had done anything with the tart. I do not remember her telling me anything about it. She was crying. I do not remember her saying anything about the tart after. I heard them speak in general conversation about the tart being thrown out in the garden, but she was not speaking to me about it. I heard them say that Mrs. Tierney had thrown some tart out in the garden. I could not tell you who it was. There were a lot there. Miss Bertram may have been there, but I do not remember who was ⁱⁿ the

the room. I remember her picking up the tart and bringing it in.

Miss Bertram came and told Mr. Tierney she wanted to speak to him.

~~They~~
and went out, and Mr. Tierney returned with two pieces of tart. I

did not see him pick it up. He brought it into the kitchen. That ~~w~~ was on Sunday about One o'clock I think. They were having dinner.

Miss Bertram said they took one piece of tart to Natimuk. Mary Ber-

tram said Mrs. Tierney said the tart was very bitter when she tast-

ed it, and she threw it out in the garden. That was after she came

back from Natimuk. Mary Bertram said she was sick too, and vomited,

and Mrs. Tierney held her head. Mary Bertram was very hysterical,

and I was afraid to ask any questions. She seemed to be very much

upset. I found one piece of tart on Monday afternoon, about three

or Four O'clock in the afternoon. It was lying on the side of the

path on some green barley grass. I pointed out the place to consta-

ble Dunham. It was a ~~peice~~ about two inches square. It looked like

a piece cut out of the top of a tart. There was some fruit on it.

It looked like apple tart. Mrs. Widdicombe was with me when I found ~~it~~

it. It was plainly visible. I was walking alongside, and I happened ~~to~~

to look down, and I saw it lying on the grass. I should think it

could have been seen at some distance. I picked it up and said "

"Here is a piece of tart." Mrs. Widdicombe said "If I was you I
under

would throw it ~~in~~ the hedge. They might think you were trying to

"make mischief, so I threw it under the hedge; ~~and~~ there were some

children running about, and I thought they might get hold of it. In

the evening I saw Mr. Tierney after Dr. Bird had been speaking to

Mr. Tierney. He said he wished he had the tart he missed out of his

room ~~he~~ would have got Dr. Bird to examine it. I told him there was

a piece under the hedge. He asked me to get it. I said it was dark.

He said to get Mrs. Widdicombe to go with me. We got a candle and

went out, and got it. I think it was just where we left it. I think

it was in the same state. I took it up and gave it to Mr. Widdicombe

I knocked at the parlour door and Mr. Widdicombe came to the door and I gave it to him, and asked him to give it to Dr. Bird or Mr. Tierney. When I looked for it the second time, Miss Bertram came up while we were looking for it. ~~now~~ She asked if we had found anything. I said "No, not yet". She joined in the search to the end of the ~~garden~~ hedge. She said she did not think we would find anything. She knew what we were looking for, I suppose; she was standing there when Mr. Tierney asked me to go and find the tart. She went between Mrs. Widdicombe and me, and searched along the hedge. She did not say anything until we got to the end of the ~~garden~~ hedge, and then she said she did not think we would find anything. That is all I heard her say. I never saw her any more, and she seemed to go towards the kitchen, and we turned back along the hedge, and found the tart. It was about a quarter to Eight when I went to the social. I do not remember seeing any of the Tierneys there. My song took a ticket before I went in. I saw Mrs. Tierney there about a quarter to Eight. That was the first time I saw her. I spoke to her. She came up and told me she thought she was poisoned. I passed a joke to her, and she caught me by the arm and told me she meant it. She had a horrible bitter taste in her mouth, and asked me if I knew anything that would take a disagreeable taste out of the mouth. I said I had heard that carbonate of soda or Epsom salts was good. She said would I come to her room with her. She had some salts in her room. I said "Yes" and went to her room. She took a packet of salts off her wash-stand, and put it into her hand, and chewed it, and then got a cup of water and rinsed her mouth out. I asked her how was that, and she said she was better. She did not complain of the taste of the salts. I never took notice whether it was a packet or a half packet that she took them out of. She did not complain that the salts were bitter.

To

(75)

To the Jury - We had just got in and sat down. We might have been there a minute or two. I was with Mrs. Mc Cann. It was before the social commenced.

To Mr. Garnett - She showed me a glass that was on her washstand. That was after she took the salts and came back. She said "Look at that glass Mrs. Buffham: do you think that is poison". She handed me the glass. It was as if the glass had been damp, and salts had been in and thrown out again. It was crystallised on the side. It was a drinking glass. I never noticed whether she said it was that glass she drank out of. I did not think it was poison. The salt that was in the glass seemed to be quite dry and adhered to the glass. There did not seem to be any water in the glass. I did not see ~~a~~ the decanter at all. It was in the kitchen. I think Miss Meehan asked me to taste the salts in the glass. I tried to persuade her it was only salts, and she tried to persuade me to taste it. I did not taste it. I do not remember her saying anything about the decanter. When she showed me the glass I said "It is Epsom salts. You have spilt the salts in the glass". She said "No, I always keep my salts in a tin". I said ~~it~~ might be some of the chemicals she used for painting, and she said she did not keep them in the bedroom. I did not notice what she took the salts out of. I think I saw a tin on her washstand. It was a tin something like the one produced (E), but it was a newer label as far as I remember. It looked like a Borthwick baking powder tin, but it looked new. There was a label on it, but it was clean.

To the Jury - I know Miss Meehan's writing. I do not think the writing on this label is much like her writing. It is something after the style of her writing.

To Mr. Garnett - I went out with her the second time about a quarter to Eleven. We were sitting playing cards on the stage. She asked me to get

get somebody to take our places. I took Mrs. Knight her baby. She was standing alongside me. I said "Do you not feel well Miss Meehan". She said "No, I feel all gone at the knees. I feel so shaky". I said "Come on. I will give you a run down here behind those people". She said "Do not do that. I will fall over". I noticed she was very pale. I said "We will go down to Mrs. Maybery's, and I will get you a drink of brandy or whiskey. You are nervous about that poisoning". She said perhaps she was. I asked her would I get her some brandy hot. She said no she would have some sherry wine. On the first time she said she ~~had~~ felt nervous, she seemed nervous.

To the Jury - Miss Meehan danced after we went back from the hotel after she had the wine. She went into the dining room, and got some plates. That was a few minutes to Eleven. We went over to the hall and prepared the supper, and after supper she was dancing. After we When we went back after she rinsed her mough out, I think she had the first dance with Mr. Jerry Tierney. I persuaded her to go to the hall and get about, because she seemed ~~to~~ nervous. That was not long after we arrived. She attributed her illness to drinking the water out of the bottle.

(signed Annie Buffham.

before me at Goroke
Taken and sworn a
on Friday the Fourteenth day of July 1905.

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further
AMELIA MAYBERY on her oath saith :-

To the Jury Miss Meehan did not complain to me of being ill. Wheh she told me she had taken the poison she went over to the hall. She took salts on the previous Monday before the social. She did not take any salts that night. She generally took the salts in the morning but she was not particular about that. It would be nothing unusual for her to take them in the afternoon. I never saw the salts in a tin. The only salts I saw were in a paper bag on her dressing-table. I never heard of her illness : it was never mentioned to me. The next morning I went to her room door and knocked, and asked her if she would have a cup of tea. She said "No, thank you", she would get up to breakfast. I asked her how she was. She said she was fine. She said nothing more about the bitter taste in the water. She gave me the bottle, and I gave it three washings. I did not think it was poison at the time: I do so now. I emptied the bottle myself. I am positive the half packet of salts that Miss Meehan gave to my daughter was burnt.

(signed) Amelia Maybery.

Tajen and sworn before me at Goroke
on Friday the Fourteenth day of July 1905.

MARY JANE MC CANN on her oath saith:-

To Mr. Garnett - I am a married woman residing with my husband at Oakville near Goroke. I knew the deceased. I had known her for some time. I saw her at ~~Book's~~ Rosel's Hotel, Natimuk, about half-past Eight on a Saturday morning. She said she had come down to see the doctor. She said she had taken ill on the Friday, after eating some tart, and drinking some tea, and Mr. Tierney had taken her in to see the doctor. She said the tart was very bitter, and the tea was also bitter. She tasted it but threw it out. They made tea later on, after she had had her breakfast. She said that was bitter too; that was about Ten o'clock, and she threw it out. Mrs. Tierney then made a fresh cup in another teapot. She said that was all right. She did not say who made the tea at breakfast. She said she came out last and had this tea and tart, but when they had the tea at Ten o'clock she said that Harry suggested that they should have another cup of tea. She did not say whether she made the third cup of tea herself. She only said "We had another cup, and that was all right". She said after they had the tea they went over to where Mr. Tierney was working. She said "If we go over there and tell Will we do not feel very well, he will laugh at us, and we will forget there is anything the matter with us", so they went over to Mr. Tierney, and came back to the house, and that was the time they took the salts after they came back. She said after taking the salts she felt ill, and she took some salt and water. It did not make her sick, but it made Miss Bertram ill. Miss Bertram took the salt and water because she had tasted the tea and tart as well, and was feeling ill too.

To the Coroner - She said Miss Bertram also took salts.

To Mr. Garrett - She did not say what she thought was the cause of it. (She only remarked that being Friday, had they had fish she would

would have thought that was the reason; that it was fish poisoning, but they had no fish that day. She said that Miss Bertram was vomiting, and had to lie down on the bed. She seemed worse than she was herself. She said just as she was draining the potatoes for dinner, this weakness came over her again. Her legs seemed to go and she had this twitching of the body. ~~She said Mary said "I would like a cup of tea" or "We will have a cup of tea". I understood Mrs. Tierney to mean that she also ate some of the tart, and that that cup of tea was bitter, and they threw it out, and made a fresh cup of tea. She said Mary went and lay down on the bed.~~ She said after a little while she herself felt better, and went about her household duties. She was preparing the dinner and was draining the potatoes for dinner when she took this weakness in her limbs and twitching. She said that Mr. Tierney proposed, as they were in Natimuk, they should go on to Horsham for an outing. She said she did not feel well enough for that; she would rather go home. She said she did not feel inclined to go to Horsham that morning, not being able to dress herself; she just bundled herself into her clothes, and she was so ill they had to lift her into the buggy. The doctor suggested it was ptomaine poisoning through this tart, and asked did she make the tart on ^a tin plate or ^a delf plate. She had two on each, but it was one on a delf plate that she ate. I asked Miss Bertram how it affected her. She said she felt dreadfully ill, and had this vomiting attack, and that she still had this headache on that morning when I was speaking to her. I thought it was meant that they both had the tart and the tea. I thought the tart was cut, and put down and that Miss Bertram had it when she had the tea with Mrs. Tierney. Mrs. Tierney looked as usual: I did not think she looked any worse, and she was in the same spirits. I remarked to Mrs. ^{Bertram} Tierney that Miss ~~Tierney~~ looked the worse of the two. I was at the social

social at Gymbowen. I met Miss Meehan as soon as I went into the room, about a quarter to Eight. I did not see Miss Bertram until I saw her dancing, some hours later. I do not know when she came. The deceased did not complain when I saw her at a quarter to Eight, but later on in the night she told me she had something to drink, and thought she was poisoned. She told me about being weak in the limbs and feeling sick. I went to the Tierneys' on the Sunday morning. I was speaking to Mary Bertram. She was greatly upset. It was about half-past Ten when we got there. Mary Bertram was hysterical, just as I would expect her to be. Mr. Tierney spoke of the meeting in Natimuk. He told me about their coming home, and having their dinner. He told me she had had some ~~tarts~~^{salts} and that after she had taken the ~~tarts~~^{salts} she had ~~had~~^{had} this attack again. When Mrs. Tierney told me about taking the tarts the previous day I said "I would never take ~~tarts~~^{salts} when I was ill. What a pity you did not take castor oil. ~~on Saturday~~^{"next day"}. Mr. Tierney or Miss Bertram told me they looked for castor oil for Mrs. Tierney to take when they came home from Natimuk, and when they could not find the oil she took the salts.

To Mr. Power - I knew Mrs. Tierney pretty well. I have known Miss Bertram for a number of years. I know who were Mrs. Tierney's companions. I believe latterly she was a close friend of Miss Bertram's. It was public property for a considerable time that Miss Meehan was engaged to Mr. Tierney. We all understood that. I never met Mr. Tierney and Miss Meehan together at other people's houses, except that one social. Miss Bertram was in great grief when I got there that Sunday morning.

To Mr. Grano - Mrs. Tierney said that when the doctor saw her he expressed his opinion it was a slight derangement of the stomach caused perhaps by ptomaine poisoning, through eating the apple tart. He did not seem to blame the tea, but he thought it was the tart that upset her. It might have been through the tart or through being cooked on a tin plate.

(signed) Mary Jane Mc Cann.

Taken and sworn before me at Goroke
on Friday the Fourteenth day of July 1905.

(81)

ELEA N O R MEE H A N on her oath saith:-

To Mr. Garnett - I am a single woman, a State school teacher at Happy Valley. I am the sister of the deceased. I was present at the wedding at Horsham on the 1st. of March. I was not at the social on the 24th. of February. I went to stay with my brother-in-law. I went to stay for a month. We drove out from Horsham on the day of the wedding. Mary Bertram was in the house staying with them. I occupied the front bedroom, and she occupied a back bedroom. During the time I was there I noticed a light footstep come in from the back at two o'clock in the morning. The door of Mary Bertram's room ~~creaked~~^{presently} ~~mainly~~ I heard her move as if on the bed, and presently she began to pull the clothes up. I asked her in the morning if she had been out, or had she heard anyone about. She said no. I told her about the door creaking, and she said the house made noises. The wall is made of paper and lining. There is no plaster: I think there are laths. My door was not open. I heard the noise through the wall. I only heard her coming in. The clock just struck two as I heard the footsteps.

To the Jury - The footsteps seemed to come from the back: they did not seem to pass my door. I am positive they were footsteps, and her door creaked as if it was pushed open from the outside, and I heard her turning on the bed as if she had been asleep. She gave a heavy sigh. That was the first occasion I heard her.

To the Coroner - I did not hear the back door open. It was the summer time, and the hall doors were open.

To Mr. Garnett - I had been staying there about a fortnight when I heard this. I heard her returning to her room after that on two or three occasions at different times. I heard her two or three times after that. It was about two nights after that I heard her again. I heard her returning to her room. I never heard her go out. I just

heard her getting into bed. I never heard her in the passage. I heard her walking into the room. I ~~had~~ ^{had} an idea she was out of it. It was a light footstep. The first time I heard her she was going very silently, walking very quietly. She seemed to have no boots ^{or} on, in her stocking feet.

^{bed}
To the Jury - The ~~bed~~ I was in was near Miss Bertram's room: my head was near her wall.

To Mr. Garnett - I heard quite distinctly. On the second occasion it was about an hour and a half after we went to bed. It would be something ^{big} before Twelve o'clock. They went to bed at different times, about Ten or about that, from something after Ten up to Twelve or after. On the first occasion we were in bed very late: it was after ~~Twelve~~.

On the second occasion the person was coming back to bed: that was about Eleven. I do not exactly remember when we went to bed.

To the Jury - Miss Bertram was in her room when I went to bed on the first occasion. She went to bed at the same time as everybody else.

^{said I}
To Mr. Garnett - After the second occasion I ~~had~~ heard someone walking about the house, she said I only fancied it. After that I closed the passage doors opening on to the verandahs. I just shut them. You would have to turn the handle to open them. She got out then. She let me hear her going out. She would say she was not well. That was about half-past Ten or Ten. We all went to bed together. She went out at the back. She said she was not well: she had occasion to go out. She let me hear her go out on the third occasion. We had just gone to our rooms when she went out. She was away about an hour and a half or an hour. She did that two or three nights. She said she was not well.

To the Coroner - I heard her on two or three other occasions. I heard her on half a dozen occasions or more. ^{altogether}

To

To the Jury - I thought it strange that she should go out when we had all retired. I had an idea that she was ^{listening} to my brother and sister talking together in their room, as they had a habit of talking when they went to their room, and I told my sister not to talk anything private as Mary Bertram was listening. She said she never was out of her room on the first and ^{second} ~~other~~ occasions. On the other occasions she gave the reason for being out.

To the Jury - I taxed her on every occasion when she went out. On the third occasion I asked why she had been so long. She said she had not been well, she was down at the fire warming her feet. At another time she ^{had} ~~said~~ to set the bread. I do not remember whether she did set the bread. It is usual to set bread, but not after we go to bed. It was never done after we went to bed except on this occasion.

To Mr. Garnett - During the day she did not complain of being unwell. This was going on for a fortnight before I left. Miss Bertram was there when I left, but she was to go the week after I left. I left at the latter end of March.

To the Coroner - She might have done the same thing before the fortnight without my hearing her. That was the first occasion I heard her.

To Mr. Garnett - On either verandah she could hear them talking. I could hear them talking though I could not distinguish the words. It would be better to hear on the verandah because their bedroom is on the opposite side of the hall. She used to go out as soon as ⁹ the family had gone to bed.

To the Jury - I did not speak to my brother-in-law about it: I mentioned it to my sister. She said "Surely she would not do that: besides, if she does she cannot hear anything private."

To Mr. Garnett - My sister told me about the Gymbowen matter. She told me she thought salts got into her water bottle at Gymbowen, and it made

crystals

made the water very bitter, that she saw salts on the side of the glassy. Mary Bertram was not present then. I was at William Tierney's place on the Monday following her death. I saw Mary Bertram on the ^{evening} Monday ~~morning~~. I just spoke to her. She just said to me "This is an awful affair". She looked altered I thought. She was very lame when I came. Coming out from Horsham the man that drove us out told us they had both been poisoned. I was speaking to Mary Bertram on two occasions. One night she seemed to be trembling. I asked her what was wrong with her. She said she was all right, she was splendid. I cannot account for the trembling in any way. She did not try to account for it. No reference was made to Mrs. Tierney's death. On one occasion she told me she was bad one night, and she thought she was holding my sister down in a fit: it was a kind of dream, and she got up and sat by the fire. She was trembling and worried looking.

To Mr. Power - It was a dream or an idea she had in her head. I do not remember what brought it up. We asked her what was wrong with her, what made her so troubled looking. She said she thought she was holding my sister down in a fit. That was all. That was the night of the funeral. I did not take it that she had wakened up from a sleep dream. She had not been in bed very long. If she says she told me she had a dream that she was holding Mrs. Tierney down in a fit, that may have been the case. It was stated in court that Miss Bertram held my sister down on two occasions in a fit, and I heard the evidence that upon the fatal seizure of my sister Miss Bertram was in the room holding her while she was in the fit. I have formed ideas about this case. My sister met her death by poison. I know of no direct evidence implicating any particular person. I would not like to think anybody guilty of poisoning her until it was proved. I know it was done, and must be done by somebody. I have not formed any

any opinion as to whether Mary Bertram did it. On the first occasion I heard Miss Bertram coming back to her bed it was about two o'clock. Next morning I asked her had she been out: she said "No". On the second occasion I heard her moving across her room on to her bed, and getting into bed. I did not hear her sigh. On the third occasion she said she was going out. She was complaining from the room that she was sick and had occasion to go out. Two or three nights she did that. On the second occasion I spoke to her in the morning and she said she had not been out. On the third occasion she spoke to me through the partition and said she was not well. She was out for about an hour. I remained awake all the time. I asked her when she came in what kept her so long: she said she had not been well. It was after the second occasion I told my sister. I do not know whether on the latter occasions she went out to repeat the eaves-dropping. She seemed to stay out a long time. She may have been eaves-dropping, I do not know. She stayed out longer than I expected. It was her place to set the bread. If people were occupying the kitchen she could do it while they were there. My sister said she thought she would not do anything like that. She was very unsuspecting. She would not believe that anyone would do it. I think my sister knew her better than I did.

To Mr. Grano - During the month I stayed there everything went on happily and smoothly. I had letters from my sister after I left. They all were very happy indeed. Those goings out at night assumed some importance in my mind at the time. They have assumed greater importance owing to subsequent events.

To the Jury - My sister never mentioned seeing Miss Bertram or any other person at her door at Gymbowen, nor anyone of the name of Mac: if such a thing had occurred she would have told me before anyone else. She would tell me before a stranger. (Signed) Elinor Meehan.

Taken and sworn before me at Goroke
on Friday the Fourteenth day of July 1905.

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