

CAUSE OF THE DEATH OF MISS DUFF

A CORONER'S JURY DECIDES THAT HER FIANCE,
MR. TITUS, GAVE HER CHLOROFORM.

Only three witnesses were examined at the inquest into the death of Miss Mary Duff at Sea Cliff, L. I., last night. Miss Duff was found dead in the bathhouse on her mother's summer place at Sea Cliff on October 17. There was no indication externally as to what caused death, and the autopsy showed it was heart trouble. Beside her body when it was found was that of Ellett L. Titus, who was to be married to the young woman next week. In his case the cause of death was evident, as there was a bullet hole in his head and the pistol lay by his side.

One of the witnesses last night was E. P. Floyd-Jones, who is married to a sister of the dead girl. It was he who first started out to look for the couple when Mrs. Duff became uneasy over their long absence. He was present when the bodies were found. Mr. Jones told of the search and the finding of the body. He testified to the finding of the two-ounce bottle containing chloroform in one of the dead man's pockets, with a handkerchief, which still retained evidence of having been saturated with the contents of the bottle. He had known of the condition of Miss Duff's heart for some time. There was no reason why Titus should have wished to kill the young woman.

Dr. J. W. Burns, of Sea Cliff, examined the bodies. He said there were no marks of any kind on Miss Duff's body. The traces of chloroform internally were too slight to be detected, if they existed. This was due to the fact that so small a dose would have killed the young woman that it would not show on the tissues. He had known Miss Duff a long time and knew her heart was weak. He considered the death accidental.

Mrs. Duff said the young man had a bottle of chloroform with him some time ago, and gave it to her for headache. It cured her, and at the time she warned him to be careful how he used it on others. Miss Duff, Dr. Burns had testified, was subject to headaches, which came on suddenly and were severe. This was corroborated by the witness. There was no reason why the drug should have been administered with evil intent.

The jury rendered a verdict that Miss Duff came to her death through chloroform administered by Titus. The inquest into the young man's death will take place on Saturday.