

CLAIMANT OF EASTON FORTUNE IS LOCATED

Mrs. F. D. Johnson, Bloomville, Ohio, Says She Is Daughter of Recluse.

MORE HEIRS APPEAR

Three Sisters File Petition Asserting That They Are Grandnieces.

\$250,000 IS INVOLVED

Mystery of Lonely Old Woman's Life Probably Will Be Revealed in Action.

The identity of Mrs. F. D. Johnson, named as the chief beneficiary in the alleged "will" of Mrs. Margaret Easton, the recluse who died at 40 Putnam avenue, Brooklyn, leaving a fortune of \$250,000, was cleared up last night when Mrs. Johnson was found in Bloomville, Ohio. She explained that she was the daughter of James Easton and that Mrs. Margaret Easton was her stepmother.

At the same time Mrs. Johnson, who was Josephine Easton, was saying that she had not heard of any fortune having been left her by her stepmother, a new set of heirs came forward to claim a share of the estate. Mrs. Johnson made a mysterious trip to this city two days after the funeral of her stepmother and then disappeared. The appearance of the new claimants, and the complications caused by the appearance of the "will," threaten a contest which may settle many questions of relationship and explain why, even before the death of James Easton in 1914, the Eastons had ceased communication with their nearest relatives.

The new claimants are Miss Dorothy Easton Wicks, a nurse in the Brooklyn Hospital, and her sisters, Eleanor E. and Harriet Miller Wicks of West Orange, N. J. They are, according to a petition filed in the Surrogate's Court, the grand nieces of James M. Easton. Their father, Harry E. Wicks, who died eleven years ago, was the son of George Wicks, whose wife, Anna, was James M. Easton's sister. Their mother, Mrs. Harry Wicks, lives in West Orange, and the two younger daughters live with her.

Their contention will be that they are entitled to such part of the estate of James M. Easton as would go legally to the next of kin. They probably will assert that Mr. Easton left no probated will, that his widow acquired her property from him and that as she left no will one-half and possibly all of the estate belongs to her husband's closest relatives—the Wicks family.

Seek to Clear Mysteries.

Miss Dorothy Wicks, through her attorney, Mark H. Ellison of 132 Nassau street, has started action in the courts by petitioning the Brooklyn Surrogate to increase the bond of the administrators of Margaret Easton's estate from \$5,000 to \$250,000. An order to show cause why the increase should not be ordered is returnable on November 29. The administrators are Mrs. Mary McDonald and her son, Allen J. McDonald, of 121 West Kingsbridge road, The Bronx. Allen McDonald and his sisters, Miss Allene McDonald and Mrs. Lawrence Sweeney, are the nephew and niece of Mrs. Easton. Up to the time of the appointment of the executors no other heirs had appeared.

Mr. Ellison, the lawyer representing the Wicks family, said yesterday that his next step after having the amount of bond raised would be to petition the

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Surrogate to have the letters of administration revoked. He said this would be no unfriendly move directed at Mrs. McDonald and her son but would compel them to submit legal proof of their relationship and would bring into the open all the available facts regarding the Eastons, their property and their intended disposition of it. Mr. Ellison said that as near as he could find out James M. Easton did leave a will which was never offered for probate, the reason given at the time being that he had no property to leave. Mr. Ellison's understanding is the McDonalds will contend that Mrs. Easton's fortune was her own and did not come to her from her husband, who was an employee of the Mutual Life Insurance Company. If this contention is set up it will be disputed.

Mrs. Harry Wicks, mother of the new claimants, said yesterday that she knew little about the Eastons; that many years ago there was a family quarrel of some sort, the circumstances of which she did not know. She said that James M. Easton's middle name was Milnor, and that he was a relative of Dr. Milnor, long ago a rector of St. George's Church, in Stuyvesant Square. Dr. Milnor's body was buried beneath the pulpit, Mrs. Wicks said, and among the burials in the Green-Wood Cemetery plot presented to the Milnors by the parishioners of St. George's were those of James M. Easton and his wife. She also said that the late Dr. William T. Bull, noted New York surgeon, was related to the Wickses, and that there are members of the Wicks family in Illinois.

A man who said he was Augustus H. Skillin, lawyer, of 61 Broadway, telephoned yesterday to John H. McCooey, clerk of the Surrogate's Court, and told him about John V. Bacot. Bacot, the Johnson "will" said, was the attorney who drew it, who guided Mrs. Easton's hand while she wrote, and whose name was rudely signed as that of a witness.

Skillin told McCooey he knew Bacot well. He said that Bacot was president of the Utica Water Company, was formerly a lawyer with a lucrative practice in New York and New Jersey, was finely educated and never would have spelled "clothes" c-l-o-s-e and "jewelry" g-e-w-e-l-e-r-y, as whoever drew the alleged Easton will did. John V. Bacot died about a month ago. The illiterate "will" of Mrs. Easton was dated June 3 last.

DR. LORENZ OVERWHELMED BY WAVES OF CRIPPLES

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height, brushed glowing beads of perspiration from his forehead with the back of a hand, inhaled two or three long breaths and then went to work on the other leg.

By an interesting coincidence one of those children of 13 years ago, now an attractive young woman, lingered at the hospital yesterday to pay her homage to the man who had made for her life worth living. She was Miss Charlotte Beck of 137 Coerck street, this city. The girl had suffered from a congenital dislocation of the left hip. As a child she could walk painfully and only with the use of a surgical shoe with its sole "built up" to a thickness of three inches. Dr. Lorenz, on his first American tour, operated upon her in the old Hospital for the Crippled and Ruptured, which stood on the present site of the Hotel Commodore.

Miss Beck yesterday was accompanied by a younger sister who carried in a paper parcel the old time worn surgical shoe. It is preserved by Miss Charlotte now only as a relic, for she dances, plays tennis, walks and runs without the slightest trace of a limp. Also she brought as a little souvenir of her gratitude a pretty silver pencil case which she had engraved with the names of Dr. Lorenz and herself.

Operates on Newboy.

The second surgical operation of the morning and the only other one of the day was performed for the welfare of Ralph Gibbons, 12 years old, a newboy of 12 West 124th street, who suffers from a condition of knockknee and has had to wear a brace. In this demonstration also the only instruments employed were the Austrian's famous hands. Before the lad was brought to the operating table, however, the surgeon had not fully decided whether to employ manual manipulation exclusively or to use the knife in the process known as the trans-planting of the tendons. After a careful inspection of his subject he determined to depend upon his sturdy strength alone, springing the knee back to normal placement by a forcible stretching of the

ligaments. Dr. Lorenz called attention to the scars left from previous ineffectual operations with the knife when attempts had been made to transplant tendons.

While the boy lay stretched flat on his back the surgeon raised the left ankle by means of a block. Then he applied the full weight of his massive body upon the lad's left knee, which was flexed and held clear of the table by about six inches. With his elbow resting upon the kneecap, Dr. Lorenz thrust himself vigorously downward upon the bridged leg, springing it up and down time after time until the straining of the overtaxed tendons seemed almost visible to the eye.

Then the attending surgeons turned the boy over upon his face. With the refractory leg still jacked up upon the block, Dr. Lorenz renewed his crushing pressure, exerting it this time behind the knee upon the hamstring muscles of the thigh. After he had completed this operation the master turned over the anesthetized newboy to the house surgeons, who, as they already had done in the case of the little girl, set about increasing the lad in a plaster cast to hold the knees in their present over-corrected position. He predicted recovery within a period of about six months.

So clamorous was the throng eager for clinical examination that the expert, with only a moment's rest, turned directly from the operating table to his new task. He had completed the two operations in slightly less than one hour.

Dr. Herman Freunthaus, of the house staff, earlier in the day had appeared at the hospital doors still crowded in his white togs and cap. His purpose was to select from the waiting crowds cases that seemed to him most urgent. He found it no easy task. No sooner had he suggested that the expert should be called to the operating table, than the multitude, some of them mistaking him for Dr. Lorenz, thrust forward their own stricken child.

"For God's sake, doctor, fix my Sammie!" This and like prayers volleyed about the surgeon's ears as friends and relatives of crippled hundreds almost fought with one another to be in the van at the doorway. The police detail herded them back into order and finally Dr. Freunthaus made his selection. It was intended to make 15 the limit. But when, at a quarter of an hour past noon, Dr. Lorenz, emerging from his last visitation into the little cubicles where the examinations are conducted, finished his clinical work for the day, it was found by a count of the record slips that he had personally examined and advised 394 cases. They were of both sexes, of all ages and of every stage of deformity. Among them were patients who had come from Toledo, Philadelphia and Clarisburg, W. Va. James R. Daniela, a nephew of Joseph Daniels, formerly Secretary of the Navy, was examined and operated upon on December 2 for clubfoot. He is sixteen years old, one of a pair of twins, and lives at 245 West Seventieth street.

Accompanied by her brother and a professional nurse, a young woman, who had been brought from Wilkesbarre, Pa., was lifted from a limousine and carried bodily into the clinic. At a glance, subsequently confirmed by examination, Dr. Lorenz recognized her case as hopeless. Her disease, of neurotic origin, had caused a complete paralysis of the motor sensory nerves and had produced a condition of semi-idioty. The girl was 22 years old.

Life-guard Hero There.

Another case examined was that of Samuel H. Berg of 1613 Prospect place, Brooklyn, a life guard who was honored for his brave work in the steamer Gun. Slocum disaster. Berg recently contracted tuberculosis of the hip and leg, and he now finds it impossible to walk except with the aid of crutches. When he emerged from the clinic he was smiling. "I feel so encouraged," he said, "that I'm tempted to chuck away my crutches and try to go on my pins."

Dr. Lorenz after luncheon rested an hour in his Murray Hill Hotel apartment. In the afternoon he received three and either advised or examined a dozen private patients. The man seemed a glutton for work. It was learned yesterday that about 88 per cent of whatever fees the specialist is receiving from his private practice here he is sending to his beloved Vienna for the aid of sufferers there. For his current expenses while in America, he is being financed by the generosity of enthusiastic American friends.

St. Mark's Hospital, Second avenue and Eleventh street, announced that arrange-

ELLIS ISLAND ALIENS HANDICAPPED BY GOVT.

Americanization Work Not Supported, Finley Says.

Discussion of the "problem of filletage" at a two-day conference of educational heads in the Waldorf closed yesterday with a consideration of the laws of various States and new aspects of the problem. Hope of remedying filletage was expressed by many of the speakers.

Dr. John H. Finley said the Federal Government has not properly supported the Americanization work at Ellis Island, and that subsequent efforts to aid these people were complicated thereby.

Dr. A. E. Winslow, editor of the Journal of Education of Boston, said the world has been toying with compulsory education for 100 years, but only in the last five years has begun to enforce it. He was certain that soon all the States will require a boy to be 15 and a high school graduate before being permitted to work.

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Gowns of rare elegance, of metal brocades or studded with paillettes or beads.
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Drawstring, vanity or envelope types in antelope, mocha, suede or seal, also gold leaf purses.
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