

SUSPECTED POISONER MAY SOON BE BEHIND THE BARS

DETECTIVES ARE CLOSELY GUARDING CHINESE COOK IN THE STANFORD HOME

Ah Wing Will Not Be Allowed to Wander Forth Until the Mystery is Solved. Other Servants Being Watched.

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was poison in Mrs. Stanford's stomach, they have found two possible motives for the crime of poisoning. One is that some of Mrs. Stanford's employees, jealous of the confidence the good woman so openly reposed in Miss Berner, had planned to destroy this confidence by administering strychnine to their mistress through the medicines and drinking waters Mrs. Stanford was in the habit of taking, hoping that an investigation might direct suspicion to the secretary, who, it was known, was usually near Mrs. Stanford when she took medicine or mineral waters.

The other theory is the stronger with the detectives. It is the opinion of the officers that some beneficiary in Mrs. Stanford's will may have hoped to gain possession of the money the philanthropic woman designed for him or her. It is known now that Mrs. Stanford left a larger estate than was at first supposed and in her will had provided bequests for nearly all of her household employes from Miss Berner down to the restrained cook, Ah Wing.

These employes knew that they were to receive a bequest and the detectives are speculating on the possibility of one of them having secretly determined to hasten Mrs. Stanford's death in order to get a lump sum of money.

If Mrs. Stanford's death is shown to have really been due to poison placed in her bottle of bicarbonate of soda, the suspicions of the detectives will be centered around a very few of her employes. Since the announcement was received by cable from Honolulu that strychnine had been found in the bottle of bicarbonate the detectives have made careful search of Mrs. Stanford's California-street home and her place in Palo Alto. At both they have found in one-pound cans of imported bicarbonate of soda. The can at the Palo Alto home had not been opened, but from the one discovered in the California-street mansion there had been taken a small portion, presumably the amount needed to fill the small bottle that Mrs. Stanford carried with her to Honolulu.

Both of these cans have been analyzed by a local chemist, who has pronounced their contents absolutely free from any kind of poison. With this knowledge in their possession the detectives have been eager to discover who refilled the small bottle and possibly mixed the bicarbonate of soda with strychnine. But three persons, it is claimed, were close enough to Mrs. Stanford to gain the opportunity to place the strychnine in the small bottle, which, according to Miss Berner's statement in Honolulu Wednesday and also that of Miss Hunt, the maid, was packed away in Mrs. Stanford's trunk at the California street home a few days before the steamer carried Mrs. Stanford away to her doom in Honolulu.

POLICE ARE CONFIDENT.

The circumstances are so positive in so far as the soda is concerned that if a murder was really planned, as the report of the autopsy surgeons will today determine, the local detectives engaged in the case feel certain they will have no difficulty in narrowing the crime down to at most four persons, all of whom might have been a gainer in one way or another by the death of Mrs. Stanford.

The detectives have also been very busy investigating the charge that an attempt was made to poison Mrs. Stanford seven weeks before her departure for Honolulu, by placing strychnine in a bottle of Poland water of which Mrs. Stanford drank. What remained of the contents of the bottle was sent to Chemist Falkenau. His report, now in

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the hands of Attorney Mounford Wilson, says that "the Poland water examined by me shows perceptible tracings of strychnine."

It was later discovered that Mrs. Stanford had been in the habit of ordering the mineral water two cases at a time and the contents of several bottles found in her home were analyzed without revealing any poison. The water had been purchased from a local grocery firm, whose stock of the water was also examined without any better results.

DETECTIVE AT BERNER HOME.

Acting Chief Spillane, Detective Captain Burnett and Captain Callundan of Morse's Detective Agency, which was the first to be employed on the Stanford poisoning mystery, were in conference at the Hall of Justice for several hours yesterday, but just what plans they discussed is a matter they are keeping secret.

Captain Callundan was also in conference with Charles Lathrop, brother of Mrs. Stanford, for some time during the day, but later refused to make any statement.

When Charles Lathrop was asked if there was anything new in the case he politely referred his interviewer to Attorney Wilson, and the latter then shrewdly sent his visitor to Callundan, who promptly excused himself with the explanation that whatever information he had belonged to those who had engaged his services, and the privilege of making it public devolved wholly upon them. He was again appealed to last night, but refused to give out any information further.

From other sources, however, it was learned that one of Morse's agents had been sent to Palo Alto in the afternoon to talk with Mrs. Berner, mother of Miss Berner, Mrs. Stanford's private secretary. Earlier in the day when Mrs. Berner was asked if her daughter, before going to the Orient, had expressed to her any suspicion as to who might have placed poison in the mineral water taken by Mrs. Stanford, she admitted that Miss Berner had strongly intimated that she and Mrs. Stanford at that time strongly suspected that the crime might be traced to Ah Wing.

Later yesterday, however, after Mrs. Berner had received a call from the representative of the Morse detective agency, she grew extremely reticent and refused to make any statement regarding the case or even reiterate the statement made earlier.

According to advices received last evening from Palo Alto the detective was still at the Berner home, which was built for its mistress by Mrs. Stanford, and was assisting Mrs. Berner in avoiding interviewers. Another report that reached this city late yesterday was to the effect that a man, supposed to be a San Francisco detective, was shadowing Elizabeth Richmond and Albert Beverly, the former maid and butler of the Stanford home, who are living at Beverly's house on San Mateo Heights.

In the early reports of the death of Mrs. Stanford in Honolulu her maid, May Hunt, who accompanied her mistress to the islands, was described as a newly employed servant. As a matter of fact Miss Hunt was in the employ of Mrs. Stanford for many years, but about four years ago she received financial assistance from the kind woman and opened a lodging-house in this city. Recently she abandoned that business and returned to the employ of Mrs. Stanford, who had always shown a kindly interest in her welfare.

Leib Will Call Meeting.

SAN JOSE, March 2.—S. F. Leib, vice president of the board of trustees of Stanford University, has not yet decided when he will call a meeting of that body, though he says he intends to call one before Mrs. Stanford's remains arrive for interment. He will consult the other trustees before deciding on the date. Mr. Leib declares that he cannot foretell what action will be taken by the board.

BROTHER AND TWO INTIMATE FRIENDS OF MRS. STANFORD, WHO GATHERED IN COUNCIL YESTERDAY AFTERNOON AND DISCUSSED AT LENGTH THE BUSINESS AFFAIRS AND ESTATE OF BENEFACTRESS.

THINKS DEATH WAS NATURAL

Miss Lathrop Refuses to Believe Her Aunt Was Murdered.

Miss Jennie Lathrop, daughter of Charles G. Lathrop and niece of Mrs. Stanford, granted The Call an interview yesterday. She said: "We are utterly in the dark as to the tragic occurrence at Honolulu. To be frank, I am hoping for the best, and in doing so must disbelieve the press dispatches that have been published thus far. I have no opinion whatever to give out, but I cannot believe that my aunt was the victim of a cruel murder. Who in the world could wish to do her harm? Who could have motive of a will that would not rather seek the life of such a good, noble woman? I can't believe that any human being could have destroyed the life of the sweet, womanly woman who lived here in Honolulu. I prefer to wait until my father receives authentic news from Hawaii before I will accept anything as true."

"My aunt never discussed with me the reported attempt at poisoning her in San Francisco in January. I never knew anything of it until the newspapers made mention of it. I did not believe the story when it came out in print, and I will not credit it now. The fact that I have stopped reading the newspapers now, I do not want to see their accounts of what is going on in Honolulu. I prefer to wait until my father receives authentic news from Hawaii before I will accept anything as true."

"I was given to understand that my aunt went to the mid-Pacific islands for the benefit of her health. She was suffering from a bronchial affliction, and I was told that she was advised to seek a healthy climate. I do not believe the press dispatches when they say that she had explained to friends in Honolulu that she left San Francisco because of the fear that some one was trying to poison her. I could not for a moment think that any one connected with Mrs. Stanford's household is implicated in any crime against her. She was always kind and considerate and always generous toward them. I think it is outrageous for the police of Honolulu to place Miss Berner under surveillance. I do not know where she is, but I feel assured that there would be no one about her aunt and looking after her care who did not come to love her."

"Miss Berner had been in the employ of Mrs. Stanford as long as I can remember. She was devoted to my aunt and my aunt held her in the highest esteem. Miss Berner's mother and brother live here in Palo Alto and of course they are shocked over Mrs. Stanford's death and grieved at the action of the police in Honolulu."

"I do not know May Hunt, the maid. I have never seen her. She was engaged by Mrs. Stanford a short time before starting from San Francisco. I do not know where May Hunt came from or who she is. I only know that she must have come well recommended, or otherwise she would not have been engaged. I am sorry that I cannot furnish any definite information. But my father, mother and myself are all in absolute darkness owing to the lack of news from Honolulu. Meantime we are hoping for the best and that no mystery of crime will mark the close of so noble a life as that of my aunt."

Progress in Guatemala.

GUATEMALA, March 2.—The National Congress of Guatemala assembled here today. The President's message gives statistics showing that constant progress has taken place during the last seven years under the administration of President Cabrera.

ROBERT BERNER IS INTERVIEWED

Denies That His Mother Suspects Any One of the Poisoning.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, March 2.—What Mrs. Berner, the aged mother of Miss Berner, secretary to Mrs. Stanford, might say in regard to the alleged poisoning of Mrs. Stanford, her son does not wish her to tell. Late last night she declared to a reporter that her daughter and herself had direct suspicions against a "certain individual." Mrs. Berner also said she believed this Honolulu poisoner was the same person who attempted to murder Mrs. Stanford in San Francisco last January, but she refused absolutely to name that person.

Today Robert Berner, the son and brother, has guarded the doors of the Berner residence at Monte Verde, just above the university, and declares that he will shoot any reporter that attempts to see his mother. He angrily said: "They would never have seen my mother last night but for the fact that I was away. I have guarded her closely ever since the middle of January to keep her away from you newspaper men, and the minute I leave you swoop down and she tells the very thing that I didn't want her to say."

"My mother is 75 years of age and she did not know what she was talking about last night. She is prostrated today over the effects of that interview. I do not know whether Berner will ever come back alive to us or not, there seems to be so much poison floating around everywhere. The statement that Mrs. Berner is reported to have made a remark that she could place her hand upon the person who committed the crime is entirely without foundation. It is horrible to have these insinuations cast about my mother and sister. I don't know what we will hear next. Mother is terribly grieved over the situation of affairs. It is an appalling blow to us. Mrs. Stanford has been such a good friend to Berner that we cannot express the terrible grief we feel at her death."

Mr. Berner has been away from Palo Alto much of the time. He returned to his mother's home here last January and has been with her continually ever since.

Mrs. Berner has received several letters from her daughter since her departure with Mrs. Stanford for Honolulu. In one of them, written three days out, Miss Berner says: "The storms are terrible, but we do not mind, because they are less terrible than the things we left at San Francisco. Mrs. Stanford worries all the time. It is terrible to see the face that is so dear to me grow so suddenly old. Except for this feeling of depression Mrs. Stanford feels quite well." This was the last heard from Miss Berner. The mother of the daughter who also became a victim of the poisoning.

SAYS MISTRESS WAS POISONED

Miss Berner Describes Scene at Death of Mrs. Stanford.

Special Cable to The Call.

HONOLULU, March 2.—Miss Berner, private secretary to the late Mrs. Stanford, is positive her mistress was poisoned. "Yes," she said, "I believe she was poisoned, but by whom, or how, or why, I have not the slightest idea. Mrs. Stanford herself believed she was poisoned. She said so repeatedly while we were working over her before she died. She exclaimed almost as soon as I entered her room: 'Oh, Berner, I believe I have been poisoned.'"

"When the doctor came she told him to get a stomach pump, as she believed she had been poisoned. He said she must be mistaken, but she repeated it and certainly believed she had been poisoned. Mrs. Stanford told me to tell the doctor what had happened before, meaning the previous attempt on January 14 to poison her at her home in San Francisco. She realized that unless she could vomit she would not recover. Her mind was perfectly clear."

"While we were working over her, giving her hot water to drink and bathing her feet she was in convulsions, but her mind was clear until the last moment. She did not say anything as to who had poisoned her."

"I got the medicines out of the trunk for her just before she retired to bed Tuesday night. I got a cascade capsule and about a half teaspoonful of powder from a bottle marked 'bicarbonate of soda.' She told me to get them, saying she would take both. She told me to take some soda. I replied I was going to take a capsule and would not take soda. I have seen the bottle marked 'bicarbonate of soda' for some time. It had the label of an Adelaide (Australia) druggist, but I do not recall the circumstances of its purchase."

"For some reason she kept that bottle. My mind isn't clear as to the bottle, but I am under the impression that as fast as its contents were used by Mrs. Stanford she either sent it out to have it refilled at a druggist's or got powder in quantity to have the bottle filled at home. I never had anything to do with that. I am at present unable to recall anything about it. Mrs. Stanford was in the habit of taking bicarbonate of soda when her stomach did not feel well, but she didn't take it regularly or in any large quantities."

"The bottle which is believed by the police to have contained the strychnine that killed Mrs. Stanford was packed in a steamer trunk by Miss May Hunt, Mrs. Stanford's maid."

RELATIVE SEES NO MOTIVE.

NEW YORK, March 2.—"I am absolutely at a loss to understand why any one should have wished to take Mrs. Stanford's life," said Colonel George Perkins Lawton, Mrs. Stanford's nephew-in-law. "I am also unable to understand how such an enemy could approach her. She was always a careful woman and was guarded by her servants and attendants, and although I am her nephew by marriage and the relations between us were most friendly I was not always allowed to see her when I wanted to."

"That any of her servants could do the deed is to me quite unthinkable. Such a crime is not committed without a motive, and I don't see how any of her servants could have had such a motive. Her relations with them were always, so far as I know, pleasant and amiable."

POLICE OF TWO CITIES FOLLOWING UP CLEWS

Startling Developments Are Likely to Result After the Autopsy Is Held.

Special Cable to The Call.

HONOLULU, March 2.—Honolulu is awaiting with undisguised impatience the result of the autopsy on the body of Mrs. Jane Stanford, which High Sheriff William Henry stated today will be finished to-morrow. If the result shows that the bicarbonate of soda taken by Mrs. Stanford Tuesday night, shortly before she died, contains strychnine, as the chemists have reason to believe, it is understood that arrests will follow and the first of the sensational developments surrounding Mrs. Stanford's tragic death will ensue.

This information was given out late this afternoon by one high in authority, and indicates that the detectives of San Francisco have the strange case well in hand and are ready to act promptly. From the same source it was learned to-night that the authorities in San Francisco, who have been carrying on a voluminous correspondence during the last twenty-four hours with the officials here, have their suspicions directed toward at least four persons, who were closely connected with Mrs. Stanford in her private life.

Of this number it was learned here today that one is already practically under arrest in San Francisco and that his detention was the result of Miss Berner's open accusation that she had reason to suspect him. Although the authorities refuse to discuss the case for publication, having been advised to take this stand by the Police Department of San Francisco, it was learned that the man now under arrest in San Francisco is the Chinese cook, who had long attended Mrs. Stanford.

MISS BERNER IS RETICENT. When asked to-day if she had really made an accusation against the cook or had been in any way responsible for the suspicion directed against him, Miss Berner refused to make any answer, explaining that she did not mean to conceal anything that might materially aid in sifting to the bottom the mystery that surrounds her mistress' death, but had been instructed, in the interest of justice, to refrain from discussing the matter.

Keenly appreciating that they are involved in solving one of the greatest criminal cases in the history of the Hawaiian Islands, the detective force of Honolulu is to-day exerting every effort to gather together valuable clues that will aid their fellow sleuths in San Francisco in running to earth the poisoner or poisoners, should to-morrow's results of the autopsy clearly suggest that a crime has been committed.

Although the detectives have not given the slightest intimation to Miss Berner that she is being carefully watched, it is nevertheless a fact. A watch is also being kept upon May Hunt, the maid. Both women seem to realize that some suspicion is directed toward them, and Miss Berner, fearful at times, complains that public opinion is unjustly questioning her loyalty to her dead mistress.

WOMEN CLOSELY WATCHED. While there is no chance of either woman leaving the island without the knowledge of the police, the latter, taking a precaution that their official position demands, have both women under their eyes, thus insuring themselves against even the remote possibility of one of the women falling off a cliff or destroying herself during a fit of nervous excitement, which would mean a loss of a valuable witness to the prosecution in the event of a charge of murder being preferred against any one in the mysterious case.

To-night it was announced that the next steamer from San Francisco, the Alameda, which leaves there on Saturday, will have among her passengers one or more of San Francisco's cleverest detectives, sent here to make a hurried investigation of the facts leading up to and following Mrs. Stanford's death. It is expected that the Alameda will arrive early on March 10. The steamship China, it is due here the following day and will convey back to San Francisco the remains of Mrs. Stanford, unless in the meantime the detectives here are able to show that the commission of the crime was here and the guilt is charged to some one here, a probability that no one at present offers much hope for. The China will arrive in San Francisco March 17. During the voyage the detectives who will return with the body and Miss Berner and Miss Hunt will have ample time to closely question the two women and gain whatever valuable information they may possess.

DR. BOERICKE GIVES OPINION

Says Strychnine Might Have Caused Illness in January.

Dr. William Boericke, the physician who attended Mrs. Stanford subsequent to the alleged poisoning of January 14, said last night that although he treated Mrs. Stanford for grippe, she told him on the occasion of his last visit that she had been poisoned. At the time Dr. Boericke made his three visits Mrs. Stanford was in bed and seemed very weak.

Dr. Boericke said that although she manifested all the symptoms of grippe, such as coughing and high temperature, which was 103, the fever and high temperature might have been the after effects of strychnine. In telling the doctor of the effects of drinking the mineral water Mrs. Stanford laid great stress on her belief that an attempt had been made to poison her and despite the doctor's reassurances nothing could change her mind. Mrs. Stanford, however, made no mention of taking bicarbonate of soda with the mineral water and the doctor says he did not recommend or forbid her to take the harmless combination. At that time Mrs. Stanford spoke only of the mineral water and declared that poison was undoubtedly placed in it.

One of Mrs. Stanford's friends is the authority for the assertion that Dr. Boericke prescribed medicine for his distinguished patient in little candy jububs to do away with the unpleasant taste of the drug, but Dr. Boericke denies that he made any such prescription. If Mrs. Stanford had such medicinal pellets in her possession they were without his recommendation or knowledge, he says.

Prior to his call on Mrs. Stanford on January 21, the first of the three visits he made after the attempted poisoning, Dr. Boericke had not attended upon Mrs. Stanford for nearly two years. In fact, during that interval she was not attended by any physician, having a strong disinclination to consult doctors except in extreme sickness. The fact that Dr. Boericke was summoned seems therefore to point to the idea that Mrs. Stanford deemed herself in serious danger, whether from grippe or from the effects of strychnine.

On his second visit the doctor still treated her for grippe and the condition of his patient was about the same. There seemed nothing in her condition to arouse suspicion of poisoning, and after prescribing simple remedies and cautioning her against exertion, he departed.

It was not until the third visit that Mrs. Stanford spoke of the poisoning. She related to him how, after drinking from a bottle of Poland water, she was taken deathly sick and despite the doctor's attempts nothing could shake from her mind the idea that she had been poisoned. One of the things that bothered Mrs. Stanford was to account for any enemy who would want to

UNIVERSITY WILL BE IN MOURNING FOR WHOLE MONTH

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, March 2. Stanford University will go into deep mourning for a month in respect to the memory of the beloved benefactor. Though there has been no official bulletin to this effect, yet it is the wish of Dr. Jordan that such a course be adopted and the students are glad to follow the suggestion. All entertainments are postponed until in April. "Every Man in His Humor," the old Ben Jonson comedy that was to have been revived by the English Club on March 11, will be produced on April 29. The junior farce will be given on the 20th of the same month. The annual dance given by the junior class is also postponed until late in April. The athletic teams will of necessity practice and there will probably be ball games and track meets, but these will be conducted as quietly as possible. The university will impressively honor Founder's day on March 3. The regular work of the university, however, will probably go on uninterrupted until the date of the funeral of Mrs. Stanford.

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