

## EVERY INDICATION IN VERMILYA CASE POINTS TO DISEASE; CASE NOT LIKE THAT OF BELLE GUNNESS

### Today's Developments in Vermilya Poisoning Case

Coroner Hoffman goes to Crystal Lake to exhume body of Chas. Vermilya second husband of accused woman.

Police Lieutenant Ernest Smith, Town Hall station, confirms belief of Sergt Scrivner that Mrs. Vermilya attended trial of Johann Hoch daily.

Dr. L. L. Hertzell, who signed death certificate of Richard T. Smith, says he believes Smith was poisoned.

Brother-in-law of Fred Brinkamp, first husband of Mrs. Vermilya, says Brinkamp died of poisoning.

Police investigation into insurance companies with which Mrs. Vermilya was connected begun.

Police following trail of "pepper box."

Coroner Peter M. Hoffman and city detectives left Chicago today for Crystal Lake, where is buried the body of Charles Vermilya, second husband of the woman accused of being a modern Borgia.

Although he refused to make a definite statement before leaving, it is believed that the coroner intends to order the exhumation of Vermilya's body.

If this is done, it will bring the total number of bodies exhumed in connection with the case up to three.

The trip of the coroner and detectives was hurriedly decided on

after a conference in the office of State's Attorney Burnham.

It is thought that new evidence is in the hands of the state, inasmuch as Coroner Hoffman announced publicly yesterday that no more bodies of those whom the police say are the victims of Mrs. Vermilya would be exhumed until reports were received on those of Richard T. Smith and Frank Brinkamp.

Charles Vermilya died August 1, 1909. The death certificate gives the cause of death as "acute gastritis."

This was the cause given in the cases of Richard T. Smith and Policeman Arthur Bissonette.

The symptoms of acute gastritis are almost identical with those of arsenical poisoning.

After a sleepless night, Mrs. Vermilya is in a state of almost total collapse at the county jail today.

According to Mrs. May Small, who was in attendance on Mrs. Vermilya during the night, the woman who is the central figure in the strangest poisoning case since the days of the Medici, did not sleep twenty minutes during the whole night.

"She was restless all night and tossed to and fro on the bed," said Mrs. Small. "Once I heard her make a sort of moaning noise. I went over and asked her if there was anything she wanted. She looked at me with red eyes, and said there was nothing that could