

## Were They Poisoned ?

**Additional Charges Against Mrs. Earhart—She is Alleged to Have Caused the Death of her Son's Second Wife — Examination to be Made this Week.**

Special Dispatch to the Cincinnati Gazette.

DAYTON, O., June 22.

Another poisoning sensation is on the tapis, in which the old woman Earhart and her son Michael again figure. I have heretofore casually referred to a rumor that Michael Earhart's first and second wives died suddenly, under circumstances which led their relatives to suspect that they were poisoned. These rumors have been given definite shape, and are made tangible by the affidavit of the father of Earhart's second wife, Mr. Wm. McLain, who resided in the vicinity of Farmersville, in this county.

Saturday Mr. McLain came to Dayton, and had a conference with the Coroner and Prosecuting Attorney regarding the death of his daughter, wife of Michael Earhart, about two years ago; and, thereupon, he made affidavit to the statement that his daughter died from the effects of a dose of poison, administered, as he verily believes, by Sarah Earhart, mother of Michael aforesaid. His affidavit is somewhat lengthy, detailing the sickness and death of his daughter, and the peculiar circumstances attending the case.

Mr. McLain's statement is, in short, something like this: Somewhere about four years ago Michael Earhart married a Miss Feutz, with whom he lived only about three months, when she died very suddenly in convulsions. At the time it was mooted around that she had been poisoned; but the gossip subsided when it was affirmed by the family that "she had taken the wrong medicine," an accident which might innocently happen in the best families. Between one and two years after the death of his first wife Earhart courted Miss McLain, and they were soon engaged to be married. The objection urged by her family against the union was, that it was rumored that he had been married, and that his wife died suddenly under suspicious circumstances. He denies this story in toto, and he was taken at his word. After the wedding, it was shown to the satisfaction of the McLain family that Michael had been previously married; and he admitted it, but pleaded that he denied it on account of the false and slanderous accusations which had been made against him. He lived apparently quite agreeably with his second wife, but at the end of twelve months she was taken ill, and was pronounced in a critical condition by her physician, Dr. Henkel, of Farmersville, who was at a loss what to term her affliction. She at length recovered from her illness, but she remained very weak from its effects, and on complaining to her mother-in-law, Mrs. Earhart, of this fact, the old lady said to her she would give her a dose that would strengthen her, and she had taken it herself, when she felt it, and it had a powerful effect. There are two sons living who can corroborate the story of the medicine, as related by the dying woman who took it. It is stated that the old lady mixed a white powder in molasses, which she offered her daughter-in-law. She at first refused to take it, but did so, when greatly urged to take it. Shortly afterward the patient complained of severe pains in her stomach, and the symptoms were those attending the administration of poison. Dr. Henkel was called, but he was unable to relieve the poor woman, and she died in a few hours. At the time, the doctor did not hesitate to say that the woman had been poisoned.

The sad incident created a good deal of talk in the neighborhood, but the McLain family refused to have any investigation made, feeling that it would be a greater affliction to parade the matter before the world than to suffer in silence. The examination of the Hanna family poisoning brought the affliction up anew, and since the indictment of Mrs. Earhart and her son for the poisoning of the Hanna family, the death of his daughter by poison, as he verily believes, has so worked on his mind that he could eat and sleep but little, and he was impelled to make the prosecution of the woman whom he believes caused her death, determined that justice shall be done in the case.

Next Tuesday I learn Prosecutor Thompson and Coroner Kunz will proceed to Farmersville, near where the remains of Earhart's second wife are interred, and they will have the body exhumed and an inquest held. The contents of the stomach in the meantime will be submitted to analysis. I learn from Mr. McLain that he does not charge Mike Earhart with direct complicity in the death of his wife. He thinks he is the dupe of his mother, who is a fiend in human shape. This last case promises to make it more disagreeable for the Earharts than the Hanna case.