

WAS IT THE HYDROPHOBIA

OLD AND NEW SCHOOL DOCTORS HOLDING OPPOSITE VIEWS.

A YOUNG MAN'S DEATH IN JERSEY CITY— BITTEN BY A DOG ELEVEN YEARS AGO— SUDDEN ILLNESS LAST WEEK—DYING AFTER PAINFUL SUFFERING.

Between 4:30 and 5 o'clock yesterday morning, as Mrs. Greene, wife of Henry A. Greene, ex-Postmaster of Jersey City, went down stairs to the basement of her residence, No. 145 Grand-street, she discovered a young man, apparently in great agony, lying in the area. She went to call her husband, and the two recognized the sufferer as Henry L. Martinette, their daughter Annie's accepted suitor. They carried him into the house and laid him on a sofa. Dr. Abercrombie was first summoned, and then Dr. Youlin, but despite their efforts Martinette died in great agony about 9 o'clock in the morning. Both the physicians pronounce it an unmistakable case of hydrophobia. Martinette was well known in the city. He was a member of Company F, Fourth Regiment, and was also connected with Hook and Ladder Company No. 1. He was nearly 26 years old, and had always been in the employ of his father, who keeps a grocery store at the corner of Sussex and Van Vorst streets. The family resided over the store. Eleven years ago a small pet dog belonging to him was attacked and bitten by a rabid dog. A Policeman endeavored to destroy both animals and succeeded in killing the mad dog, but only wounded the other. Youne Martinette found his pet animal bleeding and covered with mud and dirt. He took it to the canal near his home to wash it, but the animal seemed terrified at the sight of the water and attempted to run away. Martinette tried to throw it into the water when it seized his thumb and bit it, causing the blood to flow. The boy ran home and told his parents what had happened. They immediately took him to Dr. Headden's office, where the wound was cauterized. The next day the dog developed symptoms of rabies and was killed. Martinette's parents remained in a state of alarm for some time, but finally their fears subsided and the bite was forgotten.

On Wednesday of last week Martinette went with the Fourth Regiment, escorting the remains of Gen. Torbert, to Philadelphia. On his return he complained of pains in his right arm and on the right side of his neck. The next morning his condition had grown worse, but he attributed his illness to a cold contracted while away. On Thursday evening Martinette took to his bed, and Dr. Abercrombie was summoned. The patient grew rapidly worse and was seized with a succession of spasms, during which he foamed at the mouth, snapped his teeth violently together, and gagged and choked. He was unconscious the greater part of the time, and was possessed of remarkable strength. As his unfavorable symptoms rapidly developed, information of his illness was sent to Miss Greene and her parents. They visited him and found him delirious and extremely violent. Miss Greene approached and spoke to him, and immediately a change came over him. The tones of her voice seemed to have an influence which calmed him. The delirium appeared to have left him, and he conversed quite rationally. The visitors had no sooner left the room, however, than he again became violent and the attacks of spasms returned with increased fury. Martinette took an aversion to Dr. Abercrombie, and had a delusion that he and his own parents had in some way formed a conspiracy to send him to a hospital.

On Sunday morning Dr. Abercrombie pronounced the case one of unmistakable hydrophobia, and so informed Martinette's parents. Sunday afternoon Dr. Youlin was called in and he agreed that the patient was suffering from hydrophobia. Yesterday morning at 4 o'clock Martinette got out of bed, dressed himself, and started to go down stairs. He had reached the hall door, when his parents intercepted and tried to detain him. He violently broke away from them and ran down the street. His father went back to put on his clothing, but when he reached the street the fugitive had disappeared. It was shortly after that time that Mrs. Greene found him lying in the area and removed him into the house. Dr. Abercrombie was immediately called. He found the patient foaming at the mouth and gasping spasmodically. Martinette recognized the Doctor and refused with great violence to let him approach him. Dr. Youlin was then sent for, and on seeing the sufferer was more convinced than ever that it was a case of hydrophobia, and said he could not live more than a few hours. Mr. Greene was very indignant at the doctors for expressing their opinion in the patient's hearing, but they said he could not comprehend anything that was said. Mr. Greene denied this, and said that Martinette had talked with him very rationally. Martinette repeatedly begged the Greenses not to allow him to be sent to the hospital, and they assured him they would not. Mr. and Mrs. Martinette were informed of their son's whereabouts, and on their arrival a consultation was held. During its progress Dr. Abercrombie remained in the room with Martinette, but the latter got up and drove him out, throwing a spittoon at him. At 9 o'clock the sufferer went into violent spasms. He writhed and foamed at the mouth. His face and neck grew black, and he went into a fit, in which he died.

Drs. Abercrombie and Youlin are physicians of the homeopathic school. Dr. Youlin said yesterday afternoon there never was a more clearly defined case of hydrophobia in the world. He had never before heard of a case in which the disease developed 11 years after the bite was given, but he had heard of a case in which the disease made its appearance after 7 years. The Doctor said that when he first saw the patient one of his complaints was of a pain in his thumb, where he had been bitten. During his paroxysms he became perfectly furious and uncontrollable. Dr. Abercrombie and he determined to give him chloroform, but before they could administer it he died in a spasm. His sufferings were terrible to witness. "I believe," added Dr. Youlin, "Martinette's aversion to Dr. Abercrombie was due to the fact that Abercrombie had told him he had hydrophobia." Dr. Varick, Surgeon-General of New-Jersey, and his son, Dr. W. W. Varick, both physicians of the old school, are positive in their belief that Drs. Abercrombie and Youlin were wrong in their diagnosis of the case. Dr. W. W. Varick said: "If the patient was told that he had hydrophobia, his death probably resulted as much from fright as from any other cause."