WAS MURDER MOST FOUL

Officers Satisfied as to Maggie Hoel's Fate.

WOUND ON THE BODY

Right Arm Was Hacked by Some Sharp Instrument.

That Maggie Hoel did not have any cause to destroy herself through shame and that she was probably not assaulted before she was killed was determined by the autopsy held over the body of the dead girl yesterday morning. The mystery surrounding her death is as dense as ever and not a single clue has been developed to point the way to a solution. The suicidal theory has been so thoroughly disproved that it is no longer advanced and the officers believe confidently that it was a case of murder.

The autopsy was held by Dr. R. C. Robe and Dr. Hopkins who made a verbal report to the jury which had been impaneled by Coroner Fugard. In effect, they said that they had discovered no evidence of approaching maternity or criminal assault upon the body. The only mark of violence found was the wound in the right forearm at the elbow, which was in the form of a long and very deep gash, the bone being shattered. This wound, the doctors say, could have been made only by some sharp and heavy instrument, probably a hatchet driven with fearful force. It could hardly have been inflicted with a knife because no ordinary knife would have been heavy enough. There was a slight mark over one eye which might have been caused by contact with some object while the body was in the river. The wound in the arm severed the arteries and this would have caused death from bleeding. The shock of the blow would probably have rendered the girl unconscious.

The mark over the eye is not regarded as of much consequence. If caused by a blow it would not have produced death as the doctors found that the skull was not fractured and that there had been no concussion of the brain.

The theory of murder is that Maggie was enticed or dragged to the river bank; was struck with a hatchet by the murderer and thrown into the water. The blow was probably aimed for her head and she threw her arm up to ward it off, receiving the full force of the weapon on the arm. Maggie was a strong girl and would have undoubtedly made a fight against being forcibly taken away from the house. There was practically no evidence of a struggle found on the day she disappeared which would indicate that she was enticed to the water. That a tramp was the murderer is hardly probable under the evidence, for the only motive a tramp could have had would probably have been criminal assault and there seems to be no question that Maggie was not so assaulted. A tramp would never have been able to entice a timid girl such as she is said to have been away from the house and in using force would certainly have left some evidence of a struggle. For every crime there is usually some motive. Robbery, revenge or a desire to cover up a previous crime are some of the many ordinary causes. The first certainly could not have applied to the girl's case; the second is not as yet supported by any evidence and the autopsy shows that the girl was not in a condition that would cause any one to want her out of the land of the living, to remove incriminating evidence.

The wound upon the girl's arm must have bled frightfully the instant it was inflicted yet at the time she disappeared a close search was made all around the river banks for blood and not the slightest trace was found. It is of course possible that girl was forced into the river simultaneously with the blow and her life blood was washed away in the surging waters of the Arkansas.

A theory advanced by some is that the girl met an accidental death. It has developed that she was subject to occasional fainting spells and it is argued, she may have gone to the Eighth street county bridge, which is about 500 yards from the Beatty home, and while leaning over the railing became faint and fell into the water. The bridge is very high and the fall would probably have been fatal. The wound on the arm might have been inflicted, say the advocates of this theory, by contact with some object in the river but this is disproved by the testimony of the physicians who are positive in their opinions nothing but a fearful blow could have produced such a wound. It is said that the girl was very anxious to have her fiance, James Scoutt, who worked in Baker's gardens, come to see her that afternoon and the accidental theorists argue that she may have gone to the bridge to meet or summon him.

They say that the cut would have emptied the body entirely of blood, whereas if she had been drowned the blood would have remained in the veins. It is said that a little blood was still in the body when it was examined yesterday but the physicians do not think this is indicative of drowning as the body was probably frozen solid at some time during its stay in the river, which would have preserved the blood. They say the body was practically emptied of its life fluid. The fact that no blood could be found on the river banks, is one of the strongest arguments advanced by the accidental theorists.

The mysterious woman in black, who as was stated yesterday, was seen about the Beatty home by quite a number of people on the morning of the day Maggie disappeared, is coming in for serious attention on the part of the police. The woman was handsomely dressed in black and was wandering about the gardens between the Beatty home and the north side reservoir. She came near the house and Mrs. Beatty sent Maggie out to ask her what she wanted, presuming that she had lost her way. The woman is said to have given the girl some sharp answer and then went away. The officers think the woman was responsible for the hack drawn by white horses seen in the neighborhood on the same day.

It has developed that James Scoutt, the girl's intended husband, was a married man and had not been divorced when he became engaged to Maggie. His wife was understood to be living in Salt Lake and he was expecting to get the necessary legal separation at any time. This condition is said to have been thoroughly understood by Maggie and her relatives and Scoutt was acting entirely in good faith. It has been rumored, but not substantiated, that the mysterious woman in black bore a resemblance to Scoutt's wife. Scoutt left this section of the country about three weeks after his sweetheart's disappearance, absconding, it is alleged, with $30 belonging to his employer.

That the murderer of Maggie had more than an ordinary motive is certain. A jealous wife sometimes goes so far as to commit murder and revenge seems to be the only motive possible, now that there is no doubt that she was crazed when she met death. The officers were never able to trace the mysterious rubber-tired hack which may have been the conveyance that took the murderer of Maggie to the scene of the crime but it is said that the whereabouts of every hack in the city on the afternoon of Sunday, December 23 was satisfactorily accounted for at the time.

The statement that warrants are out for any suspected persons is erroneous. No one is connected with the murder by the officers as yet and they have no clues likely to result in arrests. Yesterday the witnesses examined before the coroner's jury were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Beatty, sister and brother-in-law of the dead girl, W. C. Beatty, Dr. Robe, Dr. Hopkins and J. W. Root. The jury adjourned until this morning. There are quite a number of witnesses still to be examined.

The funeral of the dead girl was held yesterday morning from the undertaking rooms corner of D street and Union avenue and was very largely attended. The services were conducted by Rev. A. C. McCoy, who spoke with great feeling of the tragic end of the young girl. The interment was held at Mountain View.