

# FINDS NICOTINE DOSE KILLED MARIE VANCE

## Chicago Coroner Says It May Be Murder—Urges Fullest In- quiry Into Girl's Death.

*Special to The New York Times.*

CHICAGO, April 29.—Nicotine caused the death of Miss Marie Vance, 32 years old, of Chicago, whose body was shipped here from Los Angeles early this month, Coroner Hoffman said tonight.

The death certificate which accompanied the body from California, gave the cause of death as "diphtheria" and "pernicious vomiting" a contributory cause.

"We found no diphtheria germs nor any trace of the disease," Dr. Hoffman said. "Instead we found two grains of essence of nicotine, enough to have killed five men instantly. There is no doubt that Miss Vance came to her death through nicotine taken through the mouth. This may have been accidental or premeditated suicide. It may be murder. The facts warrant the fullest investigation."

With the statement is revived a mystery in which there are involved Miss Vance, daughter of William V. Vance, a Chicago dentist; Robert S. Lockhart, her fiance, a wealthy retired merchant of Covington, Va., who is married and has five daughters; Miss Vance's aunt, Miss Flora Deldine of Los Angeles, and other relatives and friends of the girl.

Lockhart, it is said, disappeared from Los Angeles at the time of the girl's death. The Sheriff at Covington says that he never returned home.

At Los Angeles an investigation of the case is under way under the direction of State medical examiners.

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