

A WOMAN DIES IN A CISTERN

**MRS. SUSAN BIXLER DROWNS
HERSELF IN CISTERN AT
RANSOM SANITARIUM.**

HER MIND DEFECTIVE

**Body Found by Dr. Ransom Early
This Morning—Previous Attempt
at Self Destruction Failed—Wo-
man Feared Insanity.**

Mrs. Susan Bixler, an inmate of Dr. P. W. Ransom's sanitarium north of the city, committed suicide early last evening by jumping into the cistern at the sanitarium. The unfortunate lady suffered from chronic melancholia and had evidently contemplated self destruction for some time. Her body was discovered shortly after 6 o'clock this morning by Dr. Ransom, who had arisen early to see if he could find any trace of the missing woman. Mrs. Bixler has been a patient at the institution since last July and was brought here from Mt. Morris where her son, M. E. Bixler, is a practicing attorney. Mrs. Bixler has been in a very despondent frame of mind ever since she has been at the sanitarium. She suffered with a chronic disease which gave her much pain which the physicians could not control. With this, she also was haunted with the fear that she was losing her mind. Her fear of insanity made her very low spirited and seemed to haunt her constantly. Her letters to her son were filled with expressions of fear that she would soon be shut up in an asylum. She frequently referred to her possible death as a solution of this problem and argued in her letters that she and everybody else would be better off if she were in her grave. While this attitude gave the doctor and the attendants some anxiety, and caused them to keep a close watch on her movements, it was not thought best to put any definite restraint upon her, and she was allowed to move about the house without hindrance.

Last evening she ate her supper at the regular time and appeared to be in no worse condition than usual. Shortly after 7 o'clock she went out of the front door and when she did not reappear within twenty minutes

that she was not about the premises and the worst was feared.

On the chance that she might have wandered to the city, the police were notified that she was missing. Dr. Ransom said this morning that he did not think that she had come to the city but did think that she had taken her life by jumping into the river which flows within a hundred feet of the door. Owing to a heavy mist that covered the river, no search could be made during the night. This morning Dr. Ransom arose as soon as it was light enough to see, with the intention of continuing the search. While he was dressing, he thought of the cistern and he said later, that from the moment that it occurred to him, he was sure that he would find the unfortunate woman in the water there. He dressed as hurriedly as possible and went down stairs. When he passed around the side of the house and came in sight of the cistern he noticed that the wooden cover had been removed from the top, which immediately confirmed his suspicions. The body was easily found and taken out.

About two months ago Mrs. Bixler made an attempt to end her life by drowning in the river, but thought better of it when she got into the water and came back to the house of her own accord. She left her room in the middle of the night and went down to the parlor where she raised a window and clambered out. She went to the river and threw herself into the water but it was not deep and she waded ashore and came back to the house. Some of the nurses heard her come in and thus her attempt became known. After this some special watch was kept on her but without letting her know it.

Dr. Ransom said this morning that he thinks her attention was attracted to the cistern on last Saturday when some repairs were made to the curb. He remembers that Mrs. Bixler came out of the house and watched the men working for some time.

A telegram was sent to Mr. Bixler last evening apprising him of his mother's disappearance and another this morning as soon as the body was discovered.

Mrs. Bixler was a widow sixty-five years of age. She made her home with her son at Mt. Morris until she was brought to the sanitarium last July.

PRICE ADVANCES NOV. 15

**Torgerson Bros.' Valet Service Costs
\$1.50 a Month After That Date.**

That Torgerson Bros. did the popular thing when they inaugurated their valet service is attested by the big list of patrons who have taken out tickets for this service. They now have hundreds of patrons who will have their shoe shining stand at their command at all times and can have their clothes sponged and pressed as often as desired—all for one dollar per month.

After the 15th of the month the price of the first ticket taken out by a patron will be \$1.50 per month, but the second ticket will be sold for \$1 if it is taken out within five days of the expiration of the first ticket. All

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