

**WYATT.** I swear by Almighty God that the evidence that I shall give shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

*(The USHER puts the Bible and oath card on the ledge of the witness box, crosses and resumes his seat.)*

**MYERS.** You are Dr. Wyatt?

**WYATT.** Yes.

**MYERS.** You are a police surgeon attached to the Hampstead Division?

**WYATT.** Yes.

**MYERS.** Dr. Wyatt, will you kindly tell the Jury what you know regarding the death of Miss Emily French?

**WYATT.** *(reading from his notes)* At eleven P.M. on October fourteenth, I saw the dead body of the woman who subsequently proved to be Miss French. By examination of the body I was of the opinion that the death had resulted from a blow on the head, delivered from an object such as a cosh. Death would have been practically instantaneous. From the temperature of the body and other factors, I placed the time of death at not less than an hour previously and not more than, say, an hour and a half. That is to say between the hours of nine-thirty and ten P.M.

**MYERS.** Had Miss French struggled with her adversary at all?

**WYATT.** There was no evidence that she had done so. I should say, on the contrary, that she had been taken quite unprepared.

*(MYERS resumes his seat.)*

**SIR WILFRID.** *(rising)* Doctor, where exactly on the head had this blow been struck? There was only one blow, was there not?

**WYATT.** Only one. On the left side at the asterion.

**SIR WILFRID.** I beg your pardon? Where?

**WYATT.** The asterion. The junction of the parietal, occipital and temple bones.

**SIR WILFRID.** Oh, yes. And in layman's language, where is that?

**WYATT.** Behind the left ear.

**SIR WILFRID.** Would that indicate that the blow had been struck by a left-handed person?

**WYATT.** It's difficult to say. The blow appeared to have been struck directly from behind, because the bruising ran perpendicularly. I should say it is really impossible to say whether it was delivered by a right- or left-handed man.

**SIR WILFRID.** We don't know yet that it was a *man*, Doctor. But will you agree, from the position of the blow, that if anything it is more likely to have been delivered by a left-handed person?

**WYATT.** That is possibly so. But I would prefer to say that it is uncertain.

**SIR WILFRID.** At the moment the blow was struck, would blood have been likely to have got on to the hand or arm that struck the blow?

**WYATT.** Yes, certainly.

**SIR WILFRID.** And only on that hand or arm?

**WYATT.** Probably only on that hand and arm, but it's difficult to be dogmatic.

**SIR WILFRID.** Quite so, Doctor Wyatt. Now, would great strength have been needed to strike such a blow?

**WYATT.** No. From the position of the wound no great strength would have been needed.

**SIR WILFRID.** It would not necessarily be a man who had struck the blow. A woman could have done so equally well?

**WYATT.** Certainly.

**SIR WILFRID.** Thank you. (*He sits.*)

**MYERS.** (*rising*) Thank you, Doctor. (*to the USHER*) Call Janet MacKenzie.