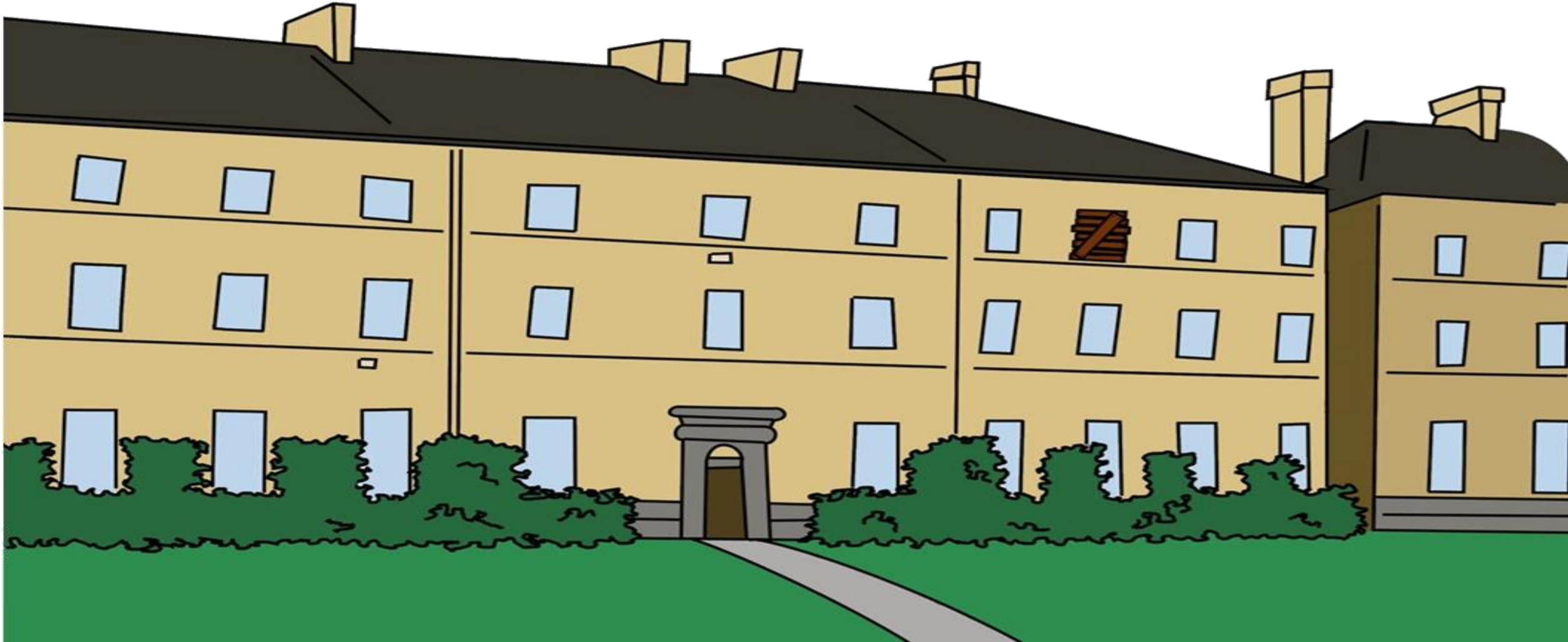


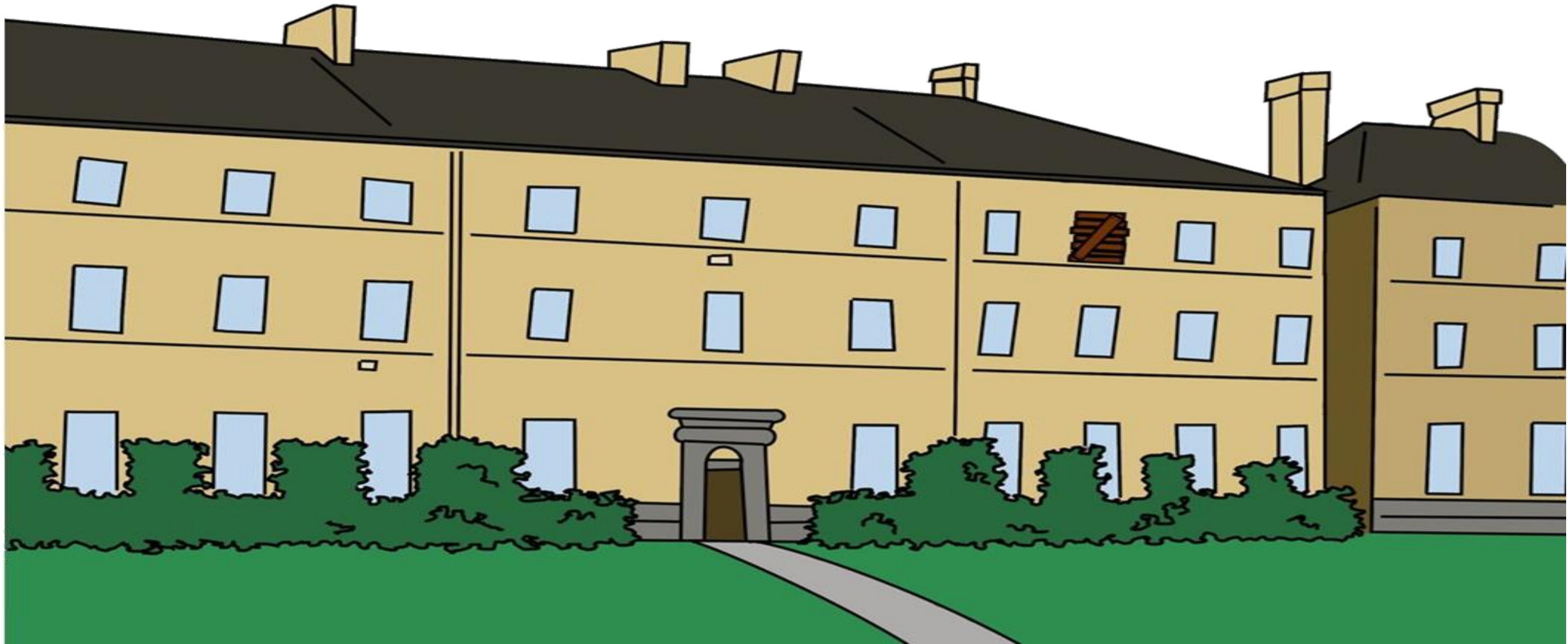
# Baker Street Elementary

PRESENTS  
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



# Baker Street *Elementary*

THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON  
# 017 -- PICK YOUR POISON -- JANUARY, 2022



*WELCOME TO TOPIC # 017... TODAY WE WILL BE  
LOOKING AT THE USE OF POISONS AS A MEANS OF  
MURDER IN THE SHERLOCK HOLMES' STORIES.*



THE SHERLOCK HOLMES' STORIES INCLUDES 263  
DEAD BODIES AND 119 MURDERS, ONLY A  
PERCENTAGE OF THEM CAN BE CONSIDERED  
'MURDER MYSTERIES'...



*...AND WHILE SEVERAL SUCH CASES INVOLVED POISON OR MEDICINES, ONLY ONE ('THE ADVENTURE OF THE VEILED LODGER') MENTIONS A SPECIFIC POISON BY NAME: PRUSSIC ACID OR CYANIDE.*



DESPITE MY KNOWLEDGE OF POISONS, THE LACK OF A PRECISE CAUSE IN MOST OF OUR CASES REFLECTED THE COUNTRY'S 19TH-CENTURY FEAR AND FASCINATION OF THE INTIMATE AND OFTEN CONTROVERSIAL, HOMICIDE CASES POPULATING THE POPULAR MEDIA OF THE DAY.

WELLS'S MISCELLANEOUS  
Of Romance, General Literature, Science, and Art.

SATURDAY, JULY 10, 1858.

[Price 6d.]



**IN 1815, THE CASE OF ELIZA FENNING SEIZED THE PUBLIC'S ATTENTION AND BECAME AN OBSESSION AS NEWSPAPERS ACROSS THE NATION TOOK SIDES IN HER CASE.**



THE COOK FOR THE TURNER FAMILY WAS CHARGED  
AND TRIED FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER OF FIVE  
MEMBERS OF HER EMPLOYER'S HOUSEHOLD.



THE  
**C A S E**  
OF  
**ELIZA FENNING**  
*Who was convicted of attempting to Poison the Family  
of Mr. Turner, by mixing Arsenic in*  
**YEAST DUMPLINGS,**  
CONTAINING HER  
**TRIAL**  
AND THE PARTICULARS OF  
**HER EXECUTION,**  
*Including, among other interesting Documents, several*  
**AFFECTING LETTERS,**  
Written a short Time previous to her Execution, and printed  
from the Originals, in  
**HER OWN HAND-WRITING.**

---

LONDON:

by JOHN FAIRBURN, 2, P.  
Ludgate-Hill.



**DESPITE ALL THE FAMILY MEMBERS RECOVERING  
AFTER INGESTING SOME PRESUMED TAINTED  
DUMPLINGS, MRS. FENNING WAS FOUND GUILTY AND  
EXECUTED... ON ONE SIDE, THE PRESS VILIFIED HER  
BECAUSE OF HER STATUS PRIMARILY AS A MEMBER  
OF THE WORKING CLASS AND TO BE LESS BELIEVED  
THAN THOSE OF THE MIDDLE CLASS.**



THE  
**C A S E**  
OF  
**ELIZA FENNING**

*Who was convicted of attempting to Poison the Family  
of Mr. Turner, by mixing Arsenic in*

**YEAST DUMPLINGS,**

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---

LONDON:

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Ludgate-Hill.

THE OTHER SIDE USED HER CASE TO POINT OUT  
THE PROBLEMS WITH CURRENT GOVERNMENT AND  
THE JUSTICE SYSTEM.



SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE

THE EXTRAORDINARY CASE

OF  
**ELIZA FENNING**

WHO WAS EXECUTED IN 1831

for Attempting to Poison the Family of *Orville Towner*, by Miss  
*Armitage* in *Yeast Dough*.

WITH

A STATEMENT OF FACTS,

WHICH ESTABLISHES, BEYOND ALL DOUBT,

HER INNOCENCE OF THE CRIME.



LONDON:

PRINTED BY FONGER AND STRANGE, PATERNOSTER

ROW, WARDOUR STREET, SOHO.

TO BE HAD OF ALL VENDORS OF PAMPHLETS.

[Price ONE PENNY]

EVEN DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE EVIDENCE PRESENTED POINTING OUT MANY FLAWS IN THE PROSECUTION'S CASE AND APPEALS FOR MERCY DID NOT SAVE THE WOMAN FROM THE GALLOWS... NOT LONG AFTER HER DEATH, SHE WAS IMMORTALIZED ON THE STAGE AND REFERENCED DURING OTHER CELEBRATED LATER CASES OF POISONING.



*THE ATTENTION GIVEN TO THIS TYPE OF MURDER  
FAR EXCEED THE ACTUAL CASES EVER MAKING IT  
TO COURT.*



IN 1849, OF 20,000 SUSPICIOUS DEATHS IN ALL OF ENGLAND AND WALES, ONLY ELEVEN INVOLVED POSSIBLE MURDER BY POISON (AND NOT ALL WERE FOUND GUILTY).



*PUBLIC FEAR, HOWEVER, FUELED AN INCREASE IN ARRESTS AND PROSECUTION, WITH THE NUMBER OF TRIALS RISING FROM SEVEN IN 1829-1838 TO 23 FROM 1839 TO 1848; TO 17, 1849-1858, BEFORE DROPPING TO SEVEN THE NEXT DECADE.*

**THE EXTRAORDINARY  
CHARGE OF POISONING BY  
LADY.—CLOSE of the ENQUIRY.  
COMMITTAL of Miss EDMUNDS  
FOR MURDER.**

The intense interest which is manifested by all classes in the proceedings taken against Miss Christiana Edmonds, as the case progresses; and on Thursday next she will be brought up for examination.



BY FAR, THE MOST COMMON POISON, IN ABOUT A  
THIRD OF THE CASES, WAS ARSENIC.

# LADIES

If you desire a transparent, CLEAR  
FRESH complexion, free from blotch,  
blemish, roughness, coarseness, red-  
ness, freckles, or pimples, use

DR. CAMPBELL'S

SAFE ARSENIC COMPLEXION WAFERS

— AND —

Fould's Medicated Arsenic Complexion Soap.

The only real true beautifiers in the world. *Warranted*  
*satisfaction* in every case or money refunded. Wafers  
; six large boxes, \$5. Soap, per cake, 50 cents.

H. B. FOULD, 214 Sixth Avenue, New York

DRUGGISTS EVERYWHERE



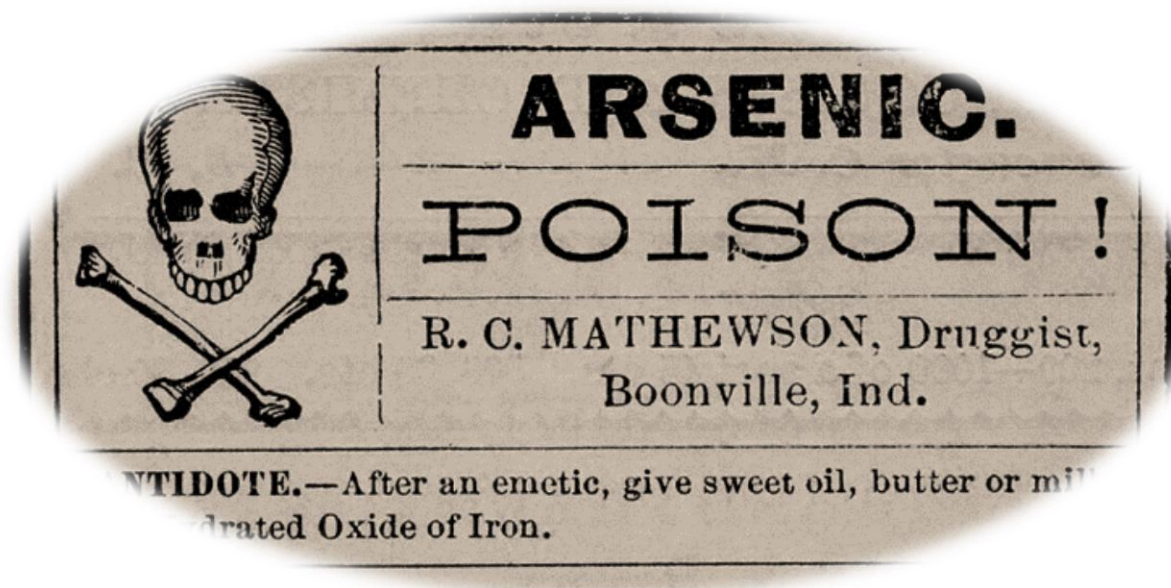


**THIS READILY AVAILABLE CHEMICAL WAS PARTICULARLY FEARED BECAUSE IT WAS ALMOST TASTELESS AND COULD BE MIXED IN FOOD OR DRINK.**





IN ADDITION TO BEING SOLD IN PHARMACIES AS A MEDICINE AS WELL AS TO ELIMINATE RATS, ANTS, AND OTHER VERMIN IT WAS A COMMON INGREDIENT IN MANY HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS, INCLUDING PAINT, DYE, AND EVEN SOAP.

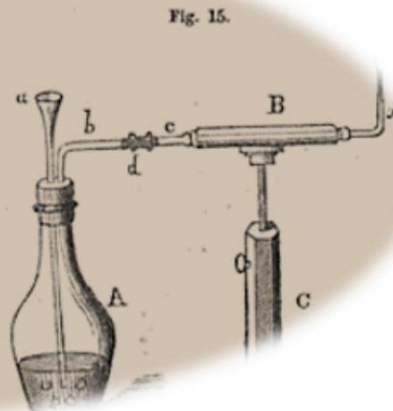


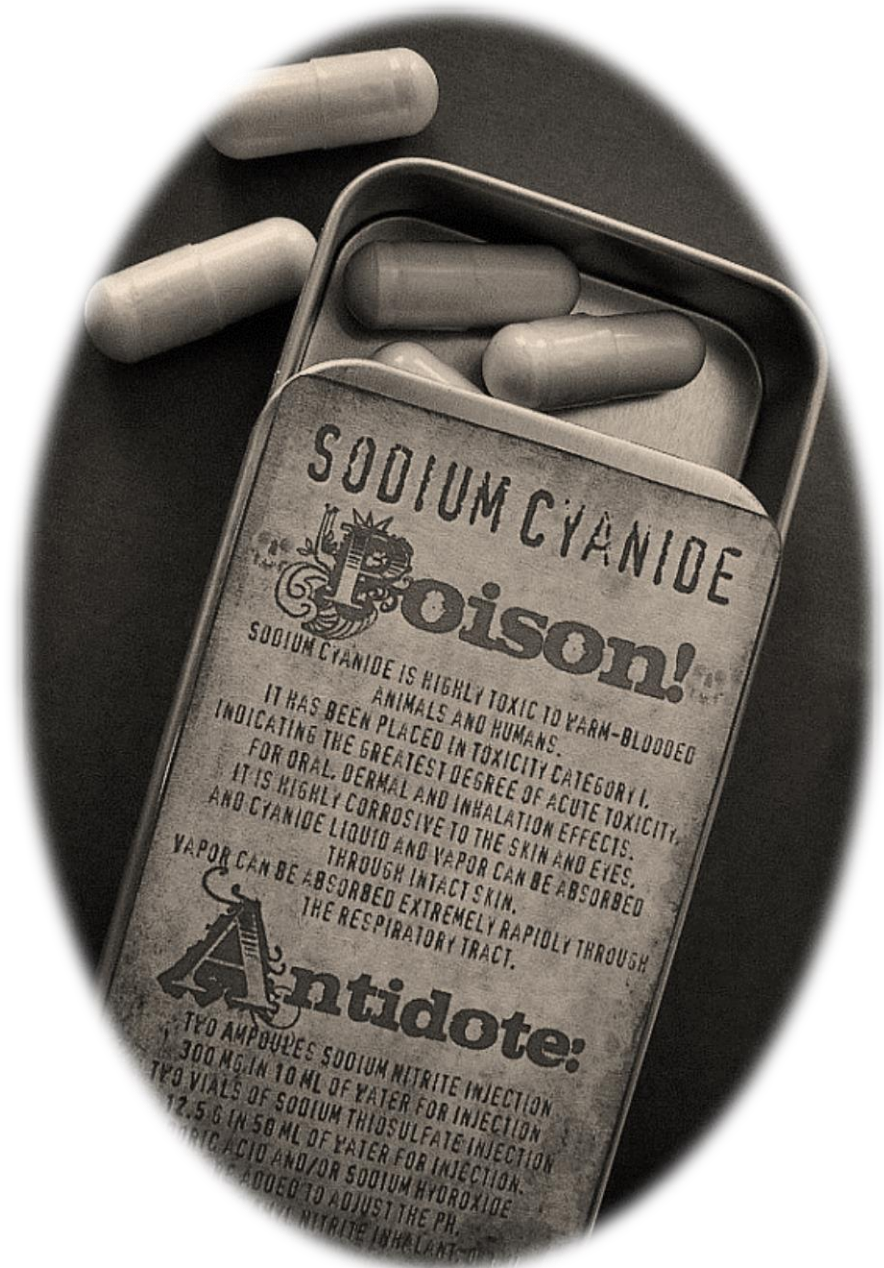
**IN 1836, THE HIGHLY SENSITIVE MARSH TEST, NAMED FOR ITS DISCOVERER, PROVIDED THE FIRST RELIABLE MEANS FOR IDENTIFYING THE PRESENCE OF ARSENIC, EVEN IN THE STOMACH CONTENTS OF CORPSES.**

**MARSH'S APPARATUS.**

In Marsh's apparatus, fig. 15, *A* is the gas evolving bottle, provided with funnel tube *a*, and escape tube *b*. *B* is a chloride of calcium tube supported by stand *C*. Tube *b* is connected to *c* by india-rubber joint *d*. The gas issues at point of tube *f*, where it may be inflamed. (See pp. 80-90.)

A simple apparatus, consisting of a test tube provided with a cork and pointed tube may serve in many experiments.





WHILE ARSENIC COULD BE UNDETECTABLE TO ITS VICTIM, PRUSSIC ACID, OR CYANIDE, HAD A VERY DISTINCT ODOR.





**NAMED FOR THE BLUE PIGMENT PRUSSIAN BLUE FROM WHICH IT WAS FIRST ISOLATED, THE ACID IS ALSO FOUND IN THE PITS OF VARIOUS FRUITS, INCLUDING BITTER ALMONDS.**



Cyanide smells  
Like Almonds.



Let me know how  
it tastes.

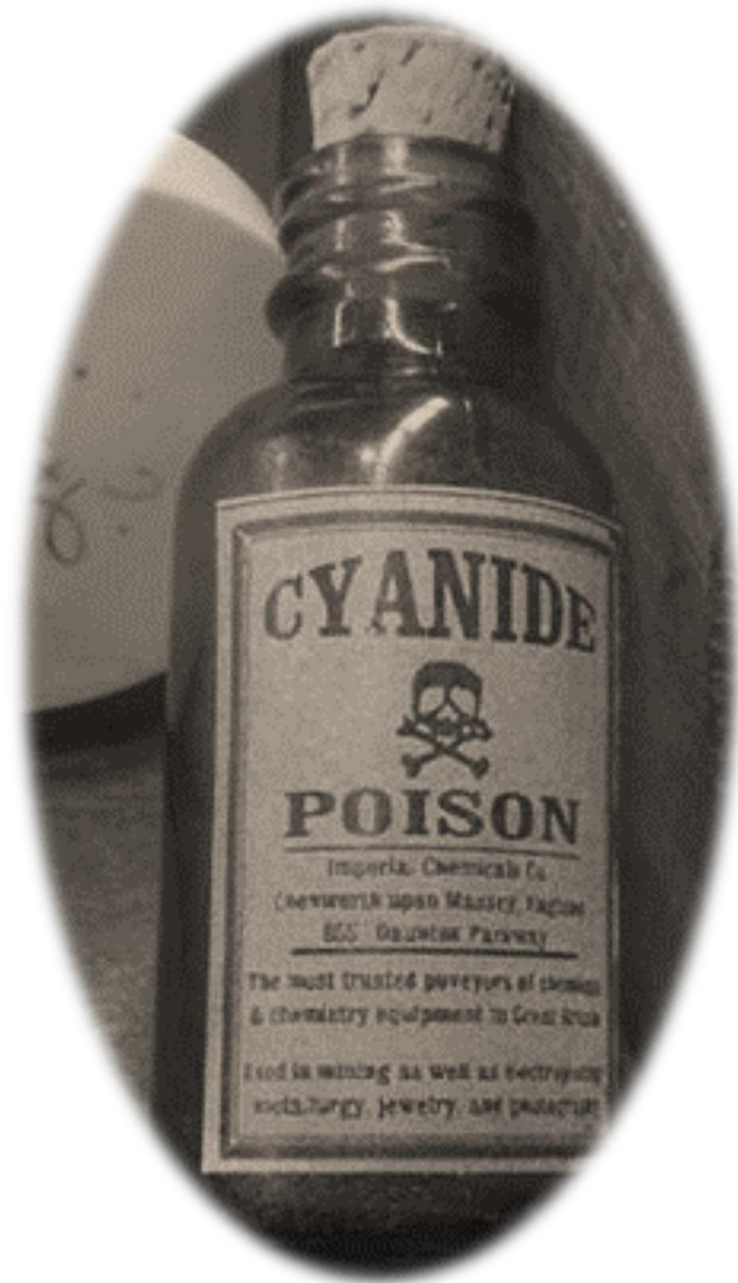
WITH A DISTINCTIVE SMELL AND TASTE OF BITTER  
ALMONDS, IT WAS RARELY BE USED FOR MURDER.



**INGESTION WAS EITHER BY ACCIDENT OR INTENTIONAL... IN 1837-1838, TWENTY-SEVEN CASES OF PRUSSIC ACID POISONING OCCURRED IN ENGLAND... OF THOSE, ALMOST ALL WERE SUICIDES.**



THE INTENT, THEN, OF EUGENIA ROUNDER'S PLAN  
FOR HER OWN BOTTLE OF THE POISON IN 'THE  
ADVENTURE OF THE VEILED LODGER' BECOMES CLEAR...



*...AND AS WELL AS HER DECISION TO MAIL IT TO YOU AFTER OUR MEETING TO INDICATE HER INTENTION TO END HER LIFE HAD CHANGED.*



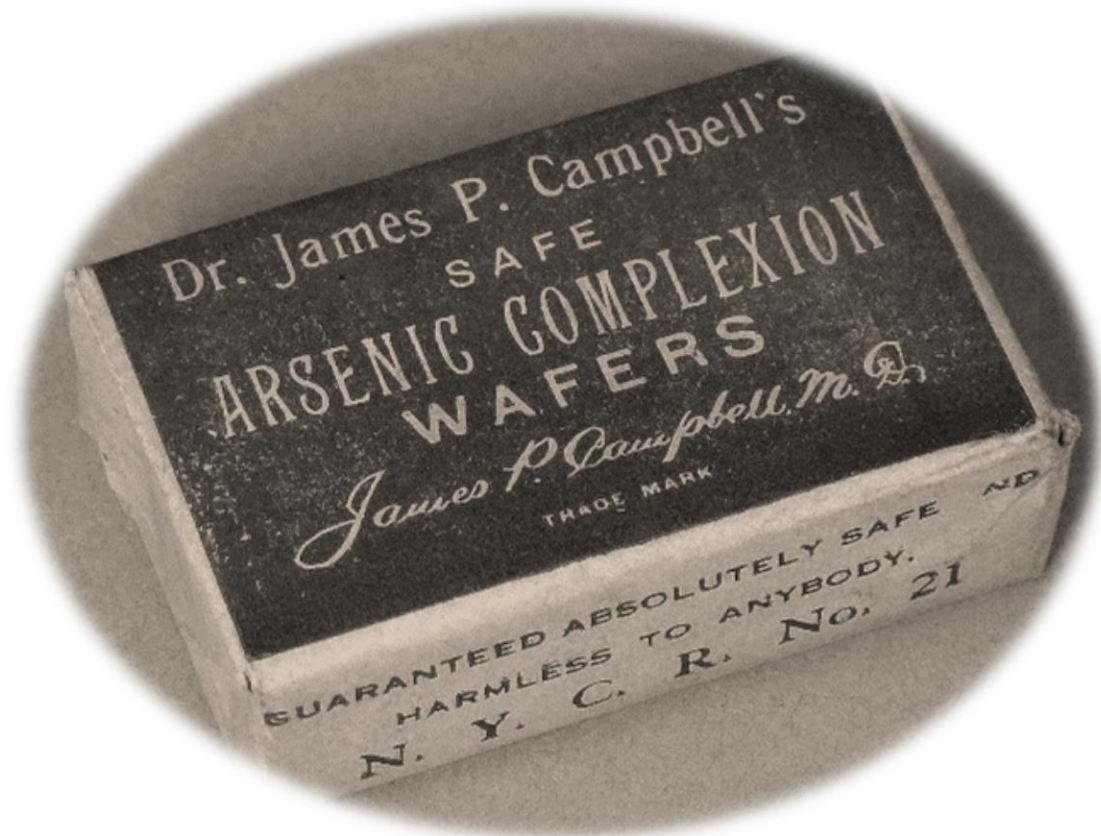
**Poison**



DESPITE THE PUBLIC'S CONCERN AND FASCINATION WITH MURDER BY POISONING, SUCH CASES WERE VERY RARE IN THE 1800s.



EVEN PARLIAMENT'S ATTEMPT IN 1851 TO REGULATE ARSENIC SALES BY REQUIRING PHARMACISTS KEEP A LEDGER OF SALES AND ORDERING CERTAIN AMOUNTS OF ARSENIC BE COLORED WITH SOOT OR INDIGO TO PREVENT MURDER ATTEMPTS HAD LITTLE EFFECT BECAUSE SO FEW OF POISONINGS WERE HOMICIDES.



*EVEN IF TAKEN TO TRIAL, SUCH MURDERS WERE  
HARD TO PROVE BECAUSE OTHER THAN ARSENIC,  
NO TESTS EXISTED TO INDICATE POISON AS THE  
CAUSE OF DEATH.*

**WARNING**

The trees and shrubs  
on this property have been  
sprayed with

**Arsenical  
POISON**

Not Allow Animals to Graze



**THAT NO POISONS WERE EVER IDENTIFIED BY NAME  
IN THE SHERLOCK HOLMES' STORIES (OTHER THAN  
PRUSSIC ACID INTENDED FOR SUICIDE) MOST LIKELY  
REFLECTS EVEN THE LIMITS OF YOUR ABILITY TO  
DETERMINE THE EXACT CAUSE OF DEATH.**



*AS IN A STUDY IN SCARLET, YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVE A HOMICIDE WITH THE DEATH OF A TERRIER, BUT BEYOND THAT, EVEN YOU COULDN'T NAME THE POISON.*



YOU KNOW, MANY WISE MEN HAVE POSTULATED,  
"HOLDING ONTO ANGER IS LIKE DRINKING POISON  
AND EXPECTING THE OTHER PERSON TO DIE."



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 017 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 018, WE WILL LOOK AT THE USE OF FINGERPRINTS IN THE DETECTION OF CRIMES.



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# *Baker Street Elementary*

"The Life and Times in Victorian London"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

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LIESE SHERWOOD-FABRE

RUSTY MASON

&

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