

# SUDDEN DEATH.

## MR. J. W. FRANKE FOUND DEAD IN BED AT THE KIMBALL.

**Suffering from Neuralgia Last Night He  
Sought Relief in Laudanum—The Cor-  
oner and Jury Considering the Cause of  
Death.**

Mr. Jacob W. Franke, a member of the firm of J. W. Franke & Co., dealers in carriage materials, iron, steel, paints, etc., at Nos. 31 and 33 W. Alabama street, was found dead lying upon his bed in his room, No. 502 Kimball House, this morning. Mr. Franke, with his wife and two children, has been boarding at the Kimball House for the past eighteen months. He was a well-to-do business man, much liked and respected by his business associates and others.

For several days past he has been complaining of feeling rather unwell, and yesterday complained of suffering from neuralgia in the face. He attended to his business as usual, and left his store about 9 o'clock, going to his room soon after. While suffering from similar attacks on previous occasions he had found relief in the internal use of laudanum. Soon after going to his room he took a dose of laudanum. Mrs. Franke feared that he had taken too much and called in Dr. W. C. Jarnagin, who has rooms on the same floor. The Doctor questioned and examined Mr. Frank, and although the latter said he had taken about two ounces of the drug, he could detect none of the usual effects. After remaining in the room about an hour and a half the Doctor retired, leaving Mr. Franke sitting in an easy chair, and apparently feeling much better, as he laughed and joked considerably. He left some medicine for him to take.

Mrs. Franke soon after induced her husband to retire, and after he had done so and taken some of the medicine left by the doctor he complained of feeling badly. About 5 o'clock this morning, Mrs. Franke was awakened by one of the children and arose. Just as she did so, Mr. Franke threw himself around on the bed so as to lie across it. His wife then lay down upon the children's bed, and did not awake until about 8 o'clock. Mr. Franke was then asleep, and after calling him she concluded to let him sleep, and took the children to breakfast. Returning to the room about 9 o'clock, she again tried to wake him, but without success, and being alarmed, summoned a physician. When the latter arrived he found Mr. Franke dead.

Coroner Haynes was notified, and at 1 p. m. he empanelled a jury and held an inquest in the room where the body lay. The evidence adduced was substantially the same as above given. There was an abundance of evidence going to disprove the theory of suicide, and even the first supposition that death was caused by an overdose of laudanum was very much doubted. The evidence seemed to point to neuralgia as the cause of death, the disease taking a sudden turn and striking a vital part, either the brain or heart. The jury is discussing the question at this writing.