INVESTIGATING RICH MAN'S DEATH.

Very Suspicious Circumstances Disclosed.

HIS LAWYER IMPLICATED.

Secretary Also Involved.—May Have Been a Deal to Put Old Man Out of the Way for His Money.

NEW YORK, Sept. 21.—William Marsh Rice, a retired capitalist, died at his home in Madison-ave, on Saturday night. His body was to have been cremated yesterday, but instead, after the funeral services had been held, it was taken to the morgue by order of Central police, who had been investigating suspicious circumstances surrounding the old man's death. The police, in a statement of the case, say that Rice had lived alone with his secretary.

Albert Patrick was his legal advisor, and Swanen & Sons were his bankers. With the latter firm he had a cash deposit of 28,000 and many valuable securities. On Monday Patrick presented a check upon Rice for $25,000 payable to himself at the banking firm saying nothing about the death of Rice the day before. The bank called up Rice's home on the telephone and talked with Jones, the secretary, who said the check was all right.

The checks were then placed upon talking with Rice. Jones evaded this and communicated with Patrick on the phone, and then the two men made the fact of the old man's death public. Patrick has been given a statement from the police which says that his dealings were perfectly regular.

Rice's fortune is estimated between seven and eight millions. The Corner held an autopsy, and the heart, lungs and stomach are now under examination by chemical experts.

MIAMI.—Deafening reports of gunplay connected with the death of William Marsh Rice, the millionaire, on Sunday has caused the authorities to institute an investigation. Mr. Marsh was 44 years old and lived at 500 Madison avenue, Manhattan. Rice was to have been cremated yesterday, but instead, after funeral services had been held at the house by one of the Rev. Dr. Morgan's ministers from the Church of the Merciful Rest, it was taken to the Morgue and an autopsy performed by Coroner's Physician Donlin at the direction of Coroner Hart.

Four detective sergeants from police headquarters and Dr. Wheatman, the chemist, were present at the autopsy. Prof. Without heart, lungs and stomach with him when he left the Morgue.

Sergeant Frank Morris, of Capt. McClusky's detective, stated in regard to the affair that Mr. Rice lived alone with his secretary.

"His legal advisor was Albert T. Patrick, of 30 Broadway," continued Detective Morris, "on Monday morning Mr. Patrick presented a check for $25,000 payable to himself at the office of the bank, saying nothing about the death of Mr. Rice. The check bore the date of Sept. 12. Because of the large amount and also of an error in the spelling of Mr. Patrick's name, the firm refused to cash the check at once.

"It was stated to-day that, while the police and Coroner are still investigating the case, there is no longer seems to be any doubt that the millionaire died a natural death. Patrick positively said that his report would not be ready for ten days. The body will be taken for autopsies.

Dr. Walter Curry, of 39 East Sixty-First Street, at the autopsy, the physicians who examined Mr. Rice, said to-day: "I had been Mr. Rice's physician for several months. I was in the habit of calling on him very every other day or two. The last call I made on Mr. Rice was at his home on Sunday. He seemed to be a little better than usual, and was sitting up in bed. He was alone at the time, except for his nurse, Jones. I told Mr. Curry, I don't believe that Mr. Patrick was in the house when Mr. Rice died. Jones told me afterward that he was alone with Mr. Rice, and that shortly after my call the old gentleman became ill. Jones urged him to call a doctor, but Mr. Rice refused, saying that he was not seriously ill and that he would take care of all that. He added that he was going downtown on Monday on business, which he had done so much work that Jones announced me. Mr. Rice was already dead when I came into the house, but his body had not been moved. I could see from the appearance of his death, and I certified to the Board of Health that he had died from natural causes, and I made out a certificate of death.

"The Board of Health accepted the certificate, and a check was sent to the undertaker. Mr. Rice had left a written request that his body be cremated, and accordingly the body was prepared by the undertaker for that purpose. The funeral services were held at the house this morning and the body was laid in the casket. The next thing I heard the city authorities had arrived in and had sent the body to the Morgue for an autopsy. I am considering the statement of the undertaker and I was treated by the city officials. This is the first case I have had in my line that I have bad questioned. I think that I should have been invited either to be present at the autopsy or to have a representative there.

The check which the banker refused to cash was one of four which Mr. Rice had drawn to the order of Mr. Patrick just before he died. Mr. Patrick sold, or, as it is said that an assignment had been made to the bank, in a sum of $50,000, which Mr. Rice wanted perfected. There were two second checks in favor for $25,000 drawn on Steavenon & Sons, and two others for $15,000 and $25,000, drawn on the Fifth Avenue Trust company. The checks in the trust company were ordered last Monday, after which the company was notified that Mr. Rice had died the day before.

Mr. Rice was interested in Texas Railroad, owned also considerable real estate in New York and Miami. He was a widower and left no children.

Bridgeport, Conn.

A MILLIONAIRE'S DEATH.

Coroner to Investigate Case of William Marsh Rice.

NEW YORK, Sept. 21.—At the suggestion of District Attorney Gardiner and Chief Detective Sergeant Frank H. Hart is investigating the death of William Marsh Rice, 15 Wall street, who died last night at the Berkshire apartment house, on Madison avenue, one of the most wealthy millionaires, who retired from active mercantile life, twenty years ago. Coroner Hart is said to have large interests in Houston, Texas, and Miami, Florida. He was a native of Springfield, Mass.

The body of the authority was taken from Rice's house to the Morgan Morgue yesterday, and there the authorities to determine the cause of death. It is known that Mr. Rice was brought dead to the Morgue last Monday, after which the house was searched.

The millionaire's death is now being investigated by the police. The police are now trying to determine whether there is any evidence of foul play.

The body was brought to the Morgue last Monday, after which the authorities were notified and the investigation commenced. The police are now trying to determine whether there is any evidence of foul play.