

ACTRESS A SUICIDE AFTER BREAKDOWN

Grace Vaughn, Who Played in
One of the Ade Companies,
Shoots Herself at Home.

HAD BEEN ILL TWO YEARS

She Came Back from Muldoon's Sanitarium the Night Before Her Death,
Fearing She Was Going Insane.

A victim of nervous trouble, Grace Vaughn, an actress, wife of Augustus Bothner, the theatrical manager, committed suicide yesterday morning at her home, 248 West Forty-sixth Street, by shooting herself in the right temple. Death was instantaneous.

The body was discovered by Arline Bennett, an actress friend of the dead woman living in the same house, and until Coroner Dooley assured himself that Miss Vaughn killed herself, Miss Bennett, Augustus Bothner, and Frank Hollingsworth—a brother of the suicide—were detained by the police, as they were in the house at the time.

For two years Miss Vaughn had been suffering from a nervous breakdown. Only two weeks ago her husband sent her to Muldoon's sanitarium in the hope that she might be benefited by the treatment. On Friday evening last Mrs. Vaughn surprised her husband by appearing at their home. She explained that she was so restless at Muldoon's that she could not stay there any longer.

Mr. Bothner said his wife kept him awake all Friday night, her fear being that she was going insane. Shortly before 8 o'clock yesterday morning Bothner went to the bathroom, leaving his wife in bed. A few minutes later Miss Bennett, in an adjoining room, thought she heard a pistol shot, and on going into the hallway saw Miss Vaughn standing at her door looking very pale.

Miss Bennett called to her, but she made no reply and backed into her room again. A minute later another shot was heard, and on Miss Bennett rushing into the room she found Miss Vaughn lying on the floor dead. At her side was a five-chambered 32-calibre revolver, four of the cartridges having been exploded.

The police were notified, and Detectives Quinn, Ward, and McInerney began an investigation. No one in the house had heard more than two shots fired, and apparently only one of these had taken effect. A thorough search failed to locate the other three bullets, so the detectives detained Miss Bennett, Bothner, and Hollingsworth and took them before Coroner Dooley.

In the meantime Coroner's Physician Lehane examined the body and said it was a clear case of suicide. The three were then liberated. Miss Bennett told the Coroner that the deceased had threatened suicide before.

Miss Vaughn, who was 35 years old, was an actress of considerable reputation, having been with several touring opera companies. Her last appearance was as star in her husband's company, playing in George Ade's piece, "Just Out of College."