



at the trial
there were
accusations
and evidence that was
considered inadmissible



**Day One:
26th of November 1956**

Bolton entered a plea of not guilty. The crown made its opening statement offering as motive adultery. Spectators: 30



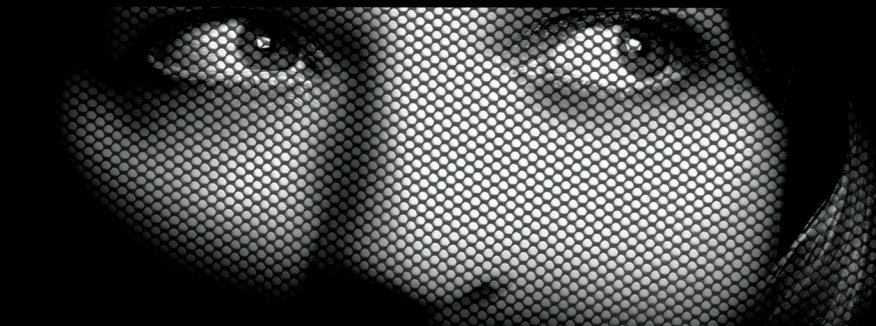
**Day Two:
27th of November 1956**

Nine medical witnesses testified confirming that Mrs Bolton died from arsenic poisoning. The analyst showed that arsenic was contained in her hair and nails. It was established that Mrs Bolton's death was the result of chronic poisoning. Spectators: 50



**Day Three:
28th of November 1956**

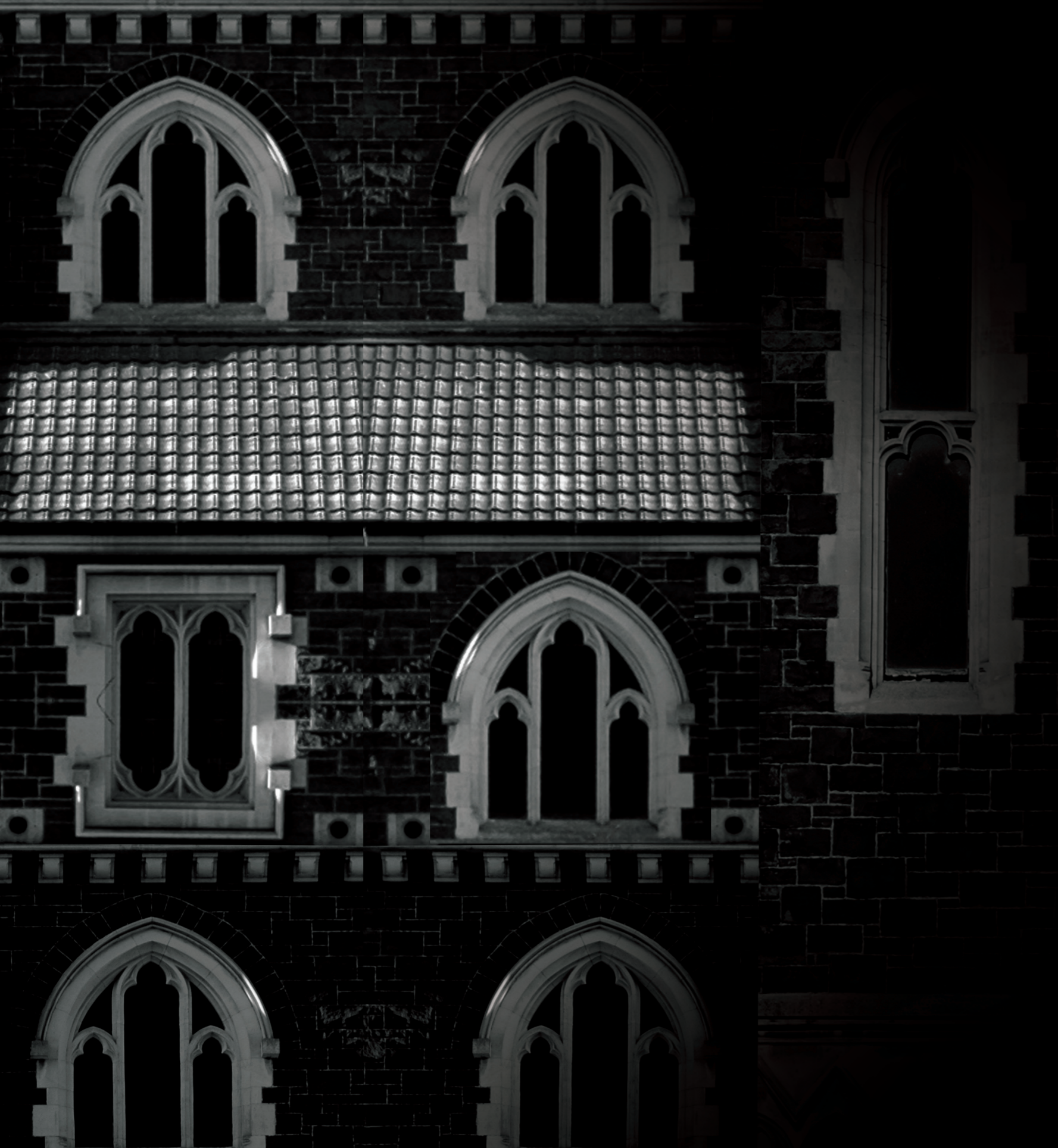
Suicide was discounted. A jury member, Mr T. Sutherland was stricken with a gastric complaint and was unable to continue after lunch. Court was adjourned early.



**Day Four:
29th of November 1956**

Grace Evelyn Cook, Mr Bolton's daughter showed signs of stress when she entered the witness box and was permitted to sit down while giving her evidence. She had refused to visit Kepa Street after her mother's death as she thought Mrs Doughty had something to do with her murder. Spectators: over 100





**Day Five:
30th of November 1956**

Under Cross examination, Mrs Doughty said that Mrs Bolton had commented that her tea tasted “queer” or “funny” and had complained of a bitter taste in her mouth. Mrs Doughty admitted to intimate relations with Mr Bolton.
Spectators: 120



**Days Six & Seven:
3rd & 4th of December 1956**

The defence sought an adjournment when it was learnt that the Crown intended to call new evidence. However, the judge refused their request. On the following day the defence claimed that the Crown had failed to prove that Mrs Bolton’s death was caused by murder.



**Day Eight:
5th of December 1956**

A medical witness recalled three cases in Wanganui where accidental arsenic poisoning took place. First, birds were poisoned with contaminated wheat and died in a water tank, poisoning it with arsenic. Second, garden spray had leaked into preserved eggs that were then consumed. Finally, paint on the roof of a water tank had crumbled away and contaminated the water.



**Day Nine:
6th of December 1956**

The counsels made their final address to the court. The jury left the dock at 3:20 and returned at 5:30. They reached a verdict of guilty.



when the trial closed
bolton said,

"I plead
not guilty.
sir."

The Court Crier then called for
silence while sentence was passed.
"Since you have been convicted of
murder I am required by law to
pass sentence of death upon you,"
said His Honour. "I sentence
you accordingly to death as
prescribed by this statute."

Jury finds Bolton guilty of wife murder;
tense court atmosphere as judge passes
death sentence. (1956, December 7). The
Wanganui Chronicle. p. 8.

everyday he was returned to his cell

