Catching Killers: Proving Poison

1. What was unusual that was happening at the VA Hospital?
2. What did the three patients have in common?
3. What was suspicious about Swango?
4. Describe the incident of Swango and the doughnuts.
5. How was Swango able to be hired by Northpoint VA even after his poisoning conviction?
6. What was the doctor’s diagnosis of Charles LaFarge?
7. What caused Marie LaFarge to fall under suspicious for Charles’ death?
8. How were the physicians able to determine that Charles’ food had arsenic in it?
9. What does the Marsh Test test for?
10. According to the first run of the Marsh Test in France, did Charles LaFarge have arsenic in his system?
11. Why can any drug kill a person? Give an example of a drug that is normally used but could also kill a person.
12. Where did Swango flee to after the VA Hospital? What happened there?
13. Where did Swango get a job next?
14. Why did Swango have to come back to the United States?
15. Where was Swango finally caught? What was he arrested for?
16. Why was determining if Swango poisoned people difficult?
17. Describe the effects of succinylcholine.
18. Why is succinylcholine so difficult to detect?
19. Where was Orfila able to detect arsenic in Charles’s body?
20. What was the verdict in the LaFarge case?
21. What body part is forensic toxicology’s secret weapon?
22. What organ do forensic toxicologists use to try and find proof of Swango’s poisoning?
23. What was Swango charged with the second time?
24. What was the result of Swango’s trial? What was his sentence?
25. How many murders is it suspected that Swango committed?
26. What percentage of murders are poisonings?