The Poisoner's Handbook
by Deborah Blum

Also - American Experience

The Big Body

In 1918 NYC appointed **Charles Norris** an actual scientist to be a medical examiner (was a political position before) Chief Medical Examiner from Bellevue Hospital. He was joined by **Alexander Gettler** chemist (first toxicologist lab in the country.

City **Coroners** were a political position in a land/time of corruption; paid by the body, would sell cause of death

Travia and Tanya Plovtsky were getting drunk. They did that a lot. They passed after a coffee pot spilled and extinguished the burner of their illuminating gas stove, so the apartment filled with gas. Plovtsky died. Travia woke up and found his friend dead. Paranoid and a loner, he knew he'd be blamed. He opened the widow to air out the room. He couldn't carry the body out of the apartment, at least not in its whole state, and so cut it and made trips to dispose of it.

Illuminating Gas=Carbon Monoxide