

DR. BREAKSTONE HELD TO JURY IN DEATH OF GIRL, 19

Investigate Operation on Young Wife.

Dr. Benjamin H. Breakstone, 61 years old, was ordered held to the grand jury yesterday on a charge of murder by abortion. The action was taken by a coroner's jury investigating the death on March 11 of Mrs. Hermine Leith, 19, of 644 Surf street.



Dr. Breakstone.

Dr. Breakstone, whose office is at 55 East Washington street, testified that he operated on Mrs. Leith in the Robert Burns hospital on Feb. 12. The operation, he said, was to correct a condition resulting from an attack of intestinal influenza. Hospital records agreed with this testimony.

Coroner's Physician Reports.

A report from Dr. Matthew J. Kiley, coroner's physician, read to the jury, stated that the young wife's death was due to an infection caused by an abortion.

Mrs. Leith's husband, Donald, 27, in testifying before the jury on Tuesday, said he took his wife to a physician for examination after they had been married eight months. He was told, he said, that she was in need of an operation. He decided to let Dr. Breakstone perform it, he said, and paid him \$75, promising to pay \$25 more. Leith said he did not know if his wife was pregnant and did not know the exact nature of the operation.

Mrs. Leith died after she had become seriously ill at home and been taken to the Jefferson Park hospital.

Two Nurses Testify.

Two nurses who assisted Dr. Breakstone with the operation at Robert Burns hospital yesterday told the coroner's jury they were ignorant of what sort of operation was being performed. Miss Geraldine Rupp, 22, said she was too busy administering anesthetic. Miss Louise Melton, 20, said she was busy with instruments.

After the jury brought in its recommendations, Dr. Breakstone was taken to the county jail.