REPORT OF INVESTIGATION BY THE MEDICAL EXAMINER

NAME: John Shoemaker  
SEX: male  
AGE: 23

CAUSE OF DEATH:  
☐ violent  
☒ disease  
☐ sudden

☐ suspicious, unusual or unnatural

Investigating Agency: FBI (Biohazard Division)

Figure 1 shows a sketch of the deceased shortly after death. He first developed red boils on the thighs or upper arms about the size of a bean. Eventually this infected the whole body, and penetrated it so that the patient violently vomited blood. This vomiting of blood continued without intermission for three days.

He also developed larger gland boils on the thighs, the arms, and on the neck. At first these were of the size of a hazel nut, and developed accompanied by violent shivering fits. Soon the boils grew to the size of a walnut, then to that of a hen's egg. The sickness lasted three days, and on the fourth, at the latest, he succumbed and died.

It is unknown what disease caused this.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROBABLE CAUSE OF DEATH</th>
<th>MANNER OF DEATH</th>
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| Multiple organ failure as a result of disease | ☒ natural  
☐ suicide  
☐ homicide |
| ☐ accident  
☒ unknown |

I hereby declare that after receiving notice of the death described above I took possession of the body and made inquiries regarding the cause of death in accordance with Section 28-654038.

Date: _______________  
Signature: ___________________
The doctors wore thick coverings over their hands and bodies. Their cloaks were coated with wax on the inside to help seal out the disease. It seems to have helped. Few doctors appear to have gotten sick.

The staff was used to keep infected people at a distance.

The hat was likely just a way to identify a person as a doctor.
“Plague Doctors” stuffed their masks with herbs and flowers to keep out the bad smells that many doctors believed was causing the disease. The glass eye coverings helped to seal out the smell. It is interesting that though doctors of the time didn’t really know about germs these techniques are not very different from modern biological safety techniques.

Another indication of bad smells being thought to cause the disease is the children’s rhyme shown here. Many believe this rhyme references the Black Death and recommends carrying around posies (flowers) to keep out bad smells.

A ring, a ring of roses,
A pocket full of posies-
Ashes, Ashes we all fall down.