

Answer. It is, but not in so common use as others, digitalis, aconite, and hyoscyamus.

Question. Could the poison have been absorbed in an hour and a half, so as to render emetics useless?

Answer. Emetics are useful and ought to be used *so long as any portion of the poison is contained in the stomach* to prevent its further accumulation in the system. Digitalis and aconite, particularly when digitalis is administered in large doses, produce tingling and pricking sensations at first, but are easily distinguished afterwards by the *absence of heat and irritation in the mouth and throat when digitalis has been taken, which is always present when aconite has been taken.* In the case of digitalis the feeling experienced in the mouth is that of an *intensely disagreeable bitter taste.* The feeling in the extremities after administration of aconite is described by patients *as a loss of power.* One of the effects of digitalis taken internally is to produce *purging and vomiting.* I have no knowledge that it would produce any other post-mortem appearances that might be expected from the irritation of purging and vomiting. *I do not think that my hearing the evidence of Drs. Moffatt and Marsden would alter the opinions I have expressed. Aconite leaves morbid appearances in the gullet.*

George Stephens, of Quebec, being sworn, says: * * * I keep a store. The deceased, with Mr. Scott and Mr. Rankin, came into my shop shortly after taking the tonic. Mr. Rankin first complained of being unwell. He said he was *uneasy in his stomach.* Mr. Murney said he was *dizzy in the head.*

William Marsden, of Quebec, Esq., Physician and Surgeon, being sworn, says: * * * On arriving at the hotel at *about five o'clock,* I found the deceased, Mr. Murney, lying upon a bed, with Dr. Moffatt and Mr. Ainsworth Sturton in attendance upon him. Mr. Murney being the worst of the three, I examined him first, and then Mr. Rankin and Mr. Scott, and, from the extraordinary *depression and fearful cold sweats, small, frequent, and irregular pulse in Mr. Murney and Mr. Rankin, especially the sensation in the eyeballs described by Mr. Rankin as a feeling as if the eyes were pushing out, or too large, and the lids would not close over them,* Mr. Rankin having vomited and purged, and Mr. Scott having vomited, but Mr. Murney having only purged, I directed my attention immediately and particularly to him. I at once said, "I have not a doubt that they have taken digitalis. The symptoms all indicate that most decidedly; under any circumstances they have taken something that is *fearfully sedative, awfully depressing;* there is no time to be lost and we must at once stimulate them all." I ordered brandy to be given to all without delay. I took a tumbler and poured out from a third to half a tumbler, which I gave to the deceased. I also ordered strong coffee, and asked Mr. Ainsworth Sturton for ammonia. Mr. Murney drank the brandy, *which had the effect of producing immediate vomiting, and thoroughly emptied the stomach.* A quantity of coloured fluid in addition to the brandy, of probably two pints, was thrown up. Young Sturton did not think at that time that digitalis was the cause of his error; he stated that he thought it was aconite. I said, "No, no; it is digitalis." I asked Ainsworth Sturton of what he had composed the draught. He said it contained tincture of gentian, tincture of cardamons, tincture of cinchona, and tincture of ginger and a little ammonia; about half an ounce of each of the four tinctures named, and from twenty to thirty drops of the ammonia. I asked Ainsworth Sturton