

day, and not allow, as he did, the jury to return a verdict while laboring under such false impressions. Jervis, on "The Office and Duty of Coroner," says:—"Where the jury suspect that undue influence has been used, the Coroner may, in the exercise of a sound discretion, adjourn the inquest to a future day." It was plainly a case to adjourn. Next, when Drs. Reddy and Osler were asked their opinion as to the cause of death, at the second meeting of the jury, they reserved their answer till the stomach should be analysed. Why did not the Coroner summon them to be present at the last meeting? They had made the *post-mortem*, and, being afterwards informed of the results of the analysis, were certainly most important witnesses. They were not present. Previous to the last meeting it was currently reported, and known to some of the jurors, that a certain druggist had sold poison to the late Mr. Patton. Why was not that druggist summoned?

I respect Mr. Jones for his great age and amiable social qualities; and what remarks I make in this letter concern only his functions as a public officer. But the only conclusion that could be arrived at, after the consideration of the present case, is, that Coroner Jones is not sufficiently qualified to fulfil the duties of a Coroner, which, besides, requires a great deal of physical activity. Coroner Jones is bordering on seventy-two years of age. He has been employed in the service of his country for over forty years. He has, no doubt, discharged his duties to the best of his abilities. He should be allowed to retire for his own good and that of the public, with a gratuity equal to his position in society. Economy is very good, but should not interfere with public interests; and a well qualified person, well versed in medical jurisprudence, should be named in his place. A fixed salary should also be attached to the situation, to render the Coroner independent, and not, as now, dependent on the number of inquests, or the time they occupy.

I have the honor to be,

P. O'LEARY, M.D., McGill.

Montreal, January 17, 1879.

POND'S IMPROVED SPHYGMOGRAPH.

We have received one of these instruments from the manufacturer, and believe it to be a decided improvement on those already in use. It is well finished, small, compact, easy of application, and does not get out of order with fair usage. It is capable of being applied to any part of the body, and a tracing may be had from any artery sufficiently superficial to give anything like an impulse. Moreover it may be applied over the heart, and a cardiographic tracing be obtained.

Various modifications of Marcy's instrument have from time