

may be forthcoming that there was no other cause of the death than the wound or injury or poisoning inflicted or done by the accused person. If this is neglected a serious miscarriage of justice may follow. See, as to this point, Taylor's "Medical Jurisprudence," fourth ed., p. 509.

#### CASES OF SUSPECTED POISONING.

The following suggestions have been furnished by the late Official Analyst to the Government:

1. *Adjourned Inquests.*—It is useless to adjourn an inquest for two or three days for an analysis to be made. The analysis of a stomach may take a month or more.

2. *Information Supplied to Analyst.*—Since certain poisons may become decomposed by the formation of the putrefaction products of the tissues, it is desirable to finish the analysis as early as possible. All information which may assist the analyst in arriving at a speedy conclusion, by testing first for those poisons most likely to be present, should therefore be sent. Symptoms should be fully described, and any suspicious circumstances mentioned. Where possible, the drinking vessel last used should be sent to the analyst, also any medicine bottles which may be found.

3. *Disinterments.*—The embalming fluids employed by undertakers often contain arsenic. Samples of the liquids used in laying out the body should therefore be sent with the viscera.

4. *Parts of the Body Required for Analysis.*—For various reasons, in many cases of poisoning, the poison will not be found in the stomach. Speaking generally, the liver, as representing one of the most vascular organs, should be sent with the stomach.

5. *Packing Samples for Shipment.*—Viscera should not be placed in alcohol or methylated spirits, and no iodoform.