

to oxalic acid. After my arrival, stimuli were exhibited, upon the grounds that the symptoms might be accounted for from the salts having been taken on an empty stomach, excessively irritable from a recent debauch. These modes of treatment proving ineffectual, we suspected the symptoms to be caused by corrosive poison, and the whites of eggs, with copious draughts of milk were ordered. The debility, and other symptoms increased, and the patient expired in about twelve hours from the time he had taken the epsom salts.

Section cadaveris thirty-six hours after death.

The body was about the medium stature and muscular; countenance unaltered since death, lips red. The tips of the ears and the nails were livid, abdomen depressed. The thoracic viscera were unaltered, and the heart and its membranes presented no lesion, there was a slight transparent adhesion of the pleuræ at the apex of left lung. Viewing the contents of the abdomen in situ, the liver appeared paler than usual, and its structure was softened. The gall bladder distended with bile. The peritoneal coat of the stomach was vascular and livid, in some places a dark patch at the greater curvature, the trunks of the vessels here were filled with dark blood. This organ was diminished in size, and contracted near the pylorus, where it felt much thickened. The peritoneum was much injected; the portion investing the intestines had a pink blush, becoming darker at the sigmoid flexure with livid spots interspersed upon the ileum, small intestines, and left curvature of the colon. The omentum was vascular, the bladder shrunk. A livid streak extended along each side of the tongue, the papillæ at its base were enlarged, the mucous lining of the labium inferius was darkened, softened, and corroded. In the pharynx at the angles of the cricoid and thyroid cartilages were dark spots resembling effused blood beneath the epithelium, which was abraded and easily torn off; the inner surface of the epiglottis and tracheæ appeared inflamed. The stomach was carefully removed and opened along the lesser curvature, the contents measured about $\frac{3}{4}$ iv. of a greyish brown colour. This viscus was much inflamed at the cardiac extremity, the mucous membrane extending from this orifice to the centre of the greater curvature was softened and easily removed; of a bronze hue, interspersed with stellated patches coloured dark red. At the pyloric extremity of the inferior curvature, we found a space of an irregularly oval shape, about six inches in circumference, very much altered and disorganized, the central part of an ash colour, corrugated, with a dark olive margin. The intestines were cut open and their contents preserved; dark spots were observed in the colon, at the caput coli, and in the ileum. The intestinal mucous membrane was highly injected throughout, and the duodenum inflamed.

We carefully secured the stomach, contents of the stomach, and of the intestines, in bottles sealed and labelled for further examination, and an inquest which had been summoned, returned a verdict of death by poison.

The bottles with their contents were sent with a trustworthy person, furnished with letters of transmission, to be minutely examined by the professor of chemistry, in the University of King's College, Toronto, who, after a careful analysis, was enabled to obtain globules of mercury. Coupling this with the appearances post mortem, he, with his colleagues certified that death was caused by corrosive sublimate. Upon the receipt of this document, a second inquest was summoned by the coroner, Dr. Raymond, and after three days deliberation and investigation, the jury promulgated the following verdict:—

The deceased Samuel Stinson died from the effects of poison, administered to him in a dose of epsom salts, by his wife, and that Henry Byron *alias* Holmes, was an accessory before the fact.

The parties suspected, were tried at the Niagara District Court House, and acquitted, from insufficient evidence of the fact of the poison having been mixed with the draught, by the female prisoner. On the trial, it was proved that Stinson's wife had been living in adultery with Byron, for some years. Portions of salts had been taken by several individuals, from the same package, without causing any unpleasant consequences, and it was shown that no one but his wife had access to the dose from the time it was purchased until it was taken.

(We give insertion to the above, at the request of Dr. Mack. It is certainly a case which portrays in a most vivid manner, the imperative necessity of a knowledge of chemistry to every medical practitioner. An acquaintance with the laws of that science, would, in a minute, have afforded the means of detecting unequivocally the nature of the poison swallowed, and have indicated the antidote.—Eds.)

ANALYSIS OF THE TUSCARORA SOUR SPRING,
NEAR BRANTFORD.

By HENRY CROFT, Esq., Professor of Chemistry, King's College
Toronto.

A very remarkable spring is situated near Brantford, it is called the Tuscarora Sour Spring, and is exceedingly interesting from its containing free sulphuric acid. Such Springs are very rare, and I will briefly notice the information which I have been able to procure concerning those already known.

Bergman mentions a mineral water at Latera, near Viterbo, in the Ecclesiastical States, which is remarkable for containing free sulphuric acid. Another similar one exists at Selvena, near Siena.