

charge, after complimenting the Counsel for the manner in which they discharged their duties, also adverted in high terms of commendation to the clearness and ability with which Dr. Geoghegan, of Dublin, and Dr. Boyd, of New Ross, gave their testimony as to the cause of death.

* * * One question of especial interest in this case was, whether a tea-cupful of whiskey, poured on corrosive sublimate, would in *ten minutes* dissolve as much as would suffice to destroy life.—Admitting the corrosive sublimate to have been in *powder*, the act of pouring would so agitate this as undoubtedly to cause the whiskey to take up a fatal dose; and if in lumps, the lumps would have been seen and have excited the suspicion of the deceased. Mr. Phayre, an apothecary who appeared for the prisoner, swore in his examination in chief, that the poison could *not* be dissolved by the whiskey in ten minutes, or even in a longer period; and although he professed that this very decided opinion was based on experiments, he did not hesitate to swear in his cross-examination that in a *few minutes* the whiskey might take up a *large quantity*! But for this open recantation, the fairness of Mr. Phayre's opinion might have been readily tested by Counsel requesting him to drink some whiskey which had been poured on powdered corrosive sublimate and allowed to remain ten minutes!

It appears to have been a refined piece of cunning on the part of the prisoner to give the whiskey at the same time to *two* persons, but to take care that the cup should be only fully poisoned to *one*. This, with the non-detection of mercury in the body, might have overthrown the case, but for the convincing and judicious evidence of Dr. Geoghegan and Mr. Boyd.—*Medical Gazette*.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Homœopathia.—Anecdote.—We copy the following from a communication in the New York Medical Gazette:—

We conclude our notice of Homœopathy by relating an incident of sober truth, which not long since is said to have occurred at the Springs, and only withhold the name of our informant, and of the watering place, that the parties may not be recognized. A merchant

in a neighboring city, whose business brought him in contact with the article called "Pearl Barley," filled his vest pocket with a handful of the grains when about to leave home, and amused himself by chewing them on his journey. On his arrival at his hotel at the Springs, he found a number of invalid acquaintances, who were wont to discourse on the merits of physicians, one of whom was a sturdy believer in Homœopathia, and loud in praises of the little pellets of sugar of milk. Taking from his pocket a grain of the Pearl Barley, he placed it upon his tongue in the presence of the company, and united his testimony to the value of these pellets, which the very fine grains he used closely resembled; he, moreover, informed them that he carried these treasures in his pocket, and could spare them to any who might have occasion to try Homœopathy. Very soon one and another of these invalids, ladies and gentleman, availed themselves of the courteous proposition, and applied to the merchant for one of his little pills, to each of whom he gave a grain of Pearl Barley, accompanied by an eulogy upon Homœopathy. In every instance the patients were relieved, and in some cases the effects were wonderful; so that the astonishing virtues of the little pills became the theme of continual conversation, and converts were as numerous as patients, so that the stock in the gentlemen's pocket was soon exhausted.—But at length the merchant broke the charm by announcing at the public table, in the presence of these restored invalids, that he had only humbugged all parties; that his little pills were only fine grains of Pearl Barley, of which a bushel might be had for a less number of shillings than it would take dollars to fee a Homœopathist. The result of this disclosure was most disastrous, like that of Dr. Haygarth's substituting painted wooden tractors for Perkins' magnetic metallic ones; for the patients forthwith relapsed by the return of all their maladies, and before sundown the Homœopathic cures exploded.

Homœopathic Statistics.—Very erroneous impressions obtain, to some extent, respecting the diffusion of the homœopathic delusion in other countries.—It is thought by some that this mode of