

mony in considerable quantity found in it. He had insured her life for £13,000, and recovered the amount at her death. He reported her disease to have been cholera, but although she had had repeated vomitings, her bowels were costive throughout. From expressions she had used, it was surmised that she, from the deaths of four of her children, feared the safety of the only survivor. He proposed to insure the life of a Mr. Bate for a large sum, but was foiled, and Mr. B. still lives. And lastly, he was convicted of forgery. A bill of exchange for £2,000 bore his mother's acceptance; she denied the hand-writing, and he confessed it was that of his late wife.

In reference to the cause of death, a large number of medical witnesses were examined. Among those for the prosecution were Sir B. Brodie, Mr. Curling, Drs. Todd, Solty, Christison, Taylor and Reese; for the defence, Drs. Nunnally, Herapath, Letheby, Rogers, Gay, Wrightman, and Mr. Partridge. The charge was, that death had been caused by strychnia, and this was attempted to be rebutted by the plea of tetanus. The history of the case is certainly in favor of the first. The only possible form of tetanus was the idiopathic. This, however, is by no means common; Mr. Curling of London, in 22 years' experience, had never seen an instance. Its symptoms are of a continued type, and it never attacks one day to leave the patient the next, and return the third, as in the above case. It is preceded by premonitory symptoms of 12 or 24 hours' duration; these are stiffness of neck, pain about ensiform cartilage, and such as were not experienced by Cooke. It never occurs suddenly, nor does it set in violently, contrasting them strongly with the above illness which happened to one previously in health, set in immediately, after using medicine, and rapidly became extreme. Its symptoms are gravescent, from a latent cause, and not, as in this case, intermittent, and reproducible by substances intentionally swallowed. It is never ushered in nor accompanied by nausea, vomiting, flatulence, and marks of indigestion, as was the above case. It is constantly evidenced by certain characteristic symptoms, such as locking of the jaws, and a peculiar expression of the countenance, (painful smile), which were absent. It affects the muscles of the neck and trunk more than the extremities, but in the above case this order was reversed. It has never been known to have produced such violent contractions of the hands, nor twisting of the feet as did occur. It is not induced by irritation, drink, excitement and exposure to damp, which were the only exciting causes Cooke was subjected to. Nor is it favored by antecedent syphilis nor mercurialization, which were the only predisponents alleged to have left their influence on his system. Its duration is very much longer than that which did happen, acute cases end in five days, chronic in nineteen days