

The fallopian tubes were much distended and filled with pus.

The stomach was normal internally, containing some semi-digested food. The outer surfaces, as the other abdominal organs, showed signs of recent peritonitis. The mucous membrane of the intestine was somewhat swollen and softened and injected.

LIVER.—Enlarged and fatty.

KIDNEYS.—Capsules adherent, cortex diminished, shewing some cysts on the surface; both organs generally congested and dark in colour.

SPLEEN.—Much enlarged and congested.

BLADDER.—The trigonum was injected, but otherwise the walls were normal.

The reason for reporting this case is, as before said, that it is illustrative of one of the most formidable questions to be answered by a medical jurist, involving as it did in this case the liberty of a surgeon. The outside evidence was strong that abortion had been procured, and the post mortem proved that the woman had been pregnant. However, there was no sign of injury to the genital organs, and the death was distinctly due to general peritonitis set up by pelvic peritonitis, caused by the rupture of a cyst of old standing which had become purulent. That the infection had proceeded from the inflammation of the uterus was very probable, and that the inflammation of the uterus was the result of a criminal operation was open to strong suspicion; but, when the question was propounded as to whether it was directly or indirectly the cause of death, the answer had to be an uncertain one, corresponding to the Scotch verdict—Not proven.