

I questioned if on the hand of one man in a hundred thousand you could find such strong, sharp, chisel-like nails as on the accused Laroque.

I was asked, could not two men have seized the girls by the throat? I replied: "No; it would be impossible for two men to leave the marks I found upon their throats, unless one was left-handed."

The learned Counsel for the defence asked me, as I had found evidence of an emission of male seed in the vagina of Eliza, had there been a second emission, would not the seed have been weaker than the first? I answered: "No, no more than rifle ball No. 15 would be weaker than rifle ball No. 1 fired from a repeating rifle."

The learned Counsel for the defence asked me could one man hold the girls' throats, and also ravish the two girls. I said: "Yes; with such injuries to the hyoid bone and trachea, breathing would be suspended, a flash cross the eye, a rumbling sound in the ear, consciousness almost instantaneously lost, and the victims be as helpless as if chloroformed."

The learned Counsel for the defence asked me was it likely the accused would ravish the girls when so nearly dead; I said yes; remarking it is only this week we learned through the press that in a recent battle women were slain as well as men, and the victorious soldiers returned and ravished the bodies of the dead women, and I inferred that it was more probable that the prisoner would ravish the body of a female, nearly dead, than for a soldier to ravish the corpse of a woman.

The learned counsel asked me: "Do you swear these girls died from asphyxia?" I replied: "No, my learned friend. I presume you vie with me in an admiration of the work by Tidy on Medical Jurisprudence, in which he wisely and truly remarks:

"We begin to die at the head, or

"We begin to die at the heart, or

"We begin to die at the lungs.'

"The McGonigle girls, from the injuries inflicted on their throats, began to die at the lungs, and in about twenty or thirty minutes died at the heart; the primary cause of their death was asphyxia, but mental and physical shock tended to produce death in the brain and heart."

I admit the removal of the parts of the bodies, the preservation of the same and their presentation at the assizes may be pronounced by some as a very unusual proceeding, if not an unheard-of act previously performed by a medical expert.

But in my defence I submit the words relating thereto which fell from the lips of the learned judge.

His Lordship Judge McMahan, in his address to the jury, said: 'Photographs have been produced, and Dr. Mark, with that care which I am very glad to see was exercised in this case, took the precaution to amputate the hands of one of the girls so that the jury might see exactly the struggle she was making in order to prevent the accomplishment of the diabolical deed which was then being perpetrated.'

By His Lordship's special request in these words: "Could you make it convenient to-day to bring the vessel containing the genitals, etc.," His Lordship remarking he desired to clearly understand the injuries in their minutest details, "so as to write up the case fully and clearly in his report," he kindly remarked after the trial he had seldom heard medical expert testimony given with such great care and with so much satisfaction as by Dr. Robert Mark at the Laroque trial.

SOME UNUSUAL SYMPTOMS IN SPINAL CARIES.

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In discussing this subject I have upon many occasions referred to the uncertainty