

more frequently purplish, red or mottled, and the ecchymosis may be of any colour from red to yellow, green and black. A case in point occurred in some Socialistic riot in Trafalgar square, London, England, in which there was crescentic discolouration on the back of the left knee joint. This was said by the surgeon who examined the case to be the result of decomposition, but a second autopsy having been ordered by the coroner, it was found on section that it was a distinct ecchymosis, as shown by the coagulation of the blood in the tissues, and the appearance noticed not being visible on the other side. This comparison of the two sides should always be made, though other data must not be neglected.

The foregoing remarks relate to injuries without destruction of the cuticle and cutis vera.

We may, however, find such swellings as bullor blebs, which are due to the collection of serous fluid beneath the cuticle, which may be the result of disease, or, if caused by injury before death, may be due to extreme heat or irritant applications such as blisters; or may be produced after death by the action of putrefaction. There is generally in such cases some superficial exfoliation over *these blebs*. To discriminate between the two is generally not difficult by the light of other signs found on the corpse, *i. e.*, burns, especially if causing death, would probably produce other characteristic appearances; and irritant applications are generally placed for some definite purpose on the chest, abdomen, legs, etc.

Any hardening or cicatrization or charring of the skin must be observed. It should be remarked that in discussing external marks of violence, in the present article, only such indications are given as may be of use in the description of the autopsy. The actual condition and differentiation of injuries will be discussed later. With reference to wounds which have penetrated or destroyed the skin, careful measurement must be made and a minute description given; if an incised wound, the direction, length, the characters of the edges, whether clean-cut, jagged, ecchymosed, contracted or gaping, etc., should be carefully noted; of a round or triangular wound, such as made by a bullet, the