

DISLOCATION OF NECK AND FRACTURE OF CERVICAL VERTEBRÆ (3 CASES).

CASE 5.—J. V., while driving in a sleigh across a railway track, was struck by the tender of an engine running backwards at the rate of 35 miles an hour. The body was thrown a distance of about 30 feet. Death occurred in a few moments.

External Examination, Feb. 1st, 1893. On moving the head, undue mobility and crepitation felt in upper cervical region, about level of 3rd cervical vertebra. Fracture of left thigh. No other injuries.

Verdict—*Accidental death*.

CASE 6.—A. B., female, killed in same accident, body being thrown a distance of 25 feet. Blood oozing from nostrils. A scalp wound 3" long in left parietal region. On moving and rotating head, great mobility with crepitus made out at the level of the 4th cervical vertebra.

Compound comminuted fracture of right leg.

Verdict—*Accidental death*.

CASE 71.—H. M., male, aged 84. Fell off a load of hay and was picked up dead. No external marks of violence.

Great lateral mobility with distinct crepitus felt in upper part of the neck.

Verdict—*Accidental death*.

In localities where the crowning glory of an inquest lies in the avoidance of an autopsy, the unfortunate medical witness is so often at a loss to account satisfactorily for the death, that it becomes a source of great comfort when he meets with an injury demonstrable by external examination and necessarily fatal. The three cases of this nature occurring in this series of one hundred were, on this account, highly appreciated, though of little general interest.

It would add to the accuracy of coroners' verdicts, and conduce to the economical working of coroners' courts, if this easily recognized and painless mode of death were more generally utilized by the subjects of coroners' inquests.

INJURIES BY FIREARMS (3 CASES).

CASE 92.—*Revolver Wound of Left Side of Head.—Suicide.—Sclerotic Changes in Brain*.—J. A., aged 60, was involved in some business troubles; also complained of pains at the back of the head for some months past. Was noticed by his family to be altered in character, and to have lost his memory. Latterly he kept on repeating the same thing over and over. He was found dead in his office on the morning of August 9th, 1893, with a 38-calibre revolver lying close beside him.