

nearly two quarts of a frothy, brownish paste, having a sweet, alcoholic, yeast-like odour, and containing partly digested food. Under microscope, large numbers of sarcine found. Mucosa not thickened. No stenosis of pylorus. Other organs normal.

(In this case I did not feel able to decide whether the alcohol or the chloral, or a combination of the two, had brought about the death. The jury in this case probably came very near the mark in stating that the deceased "died from the effects of alcohol, having succumbed to an ordinary dose of chloral.")

It can hardly be looked upon as a safe procedure to give a full dose of chloral to an alcoholic without first giving him time to eliminate the alcohol from his system.

The coincidence of sarcina ventriculi and dilatation of the stomach was very interesting, this condition never having been, to my knowledge, noted in connection with sudden death. Possibly the dilatation of the stomach may have acted injuriously by impeding respiration, but there was no proof that such had actually been the case, and reflex interference could hardly be seriously considered in the case of a man whose system was narcotized by alcohol and chloral.

I also considered the possibility of the engorgement of the lungs being due to a commencing pneumonia, but this was definitely excluded by the absence of the pneumo-coccus in cover-slip preparations.)

DEATH FROM ALCOHOLISM (?)

I may mention here another case, No. 81, that of D. M., aged 36, male, a man who was not an habitual tippler, but who had been drinking freely for some days, and was found dead sitting upright in a chair.

Autopsy.—Body that of a hunchback. There was intense congestion of the head and upper part of the body, with numerous small ecchymoses in the skin over the chest and shoulders. The vessels of the brain were found gorged with dark fluid blood, and the lungs were dark, intensely congested, with extensive patches of extravasation of blood in their substance. The bronchi were filled with froth. The other organs were normal. No signs of injury.

(Evidently the immediate cause of death was asphyxia, but what was the primary cause of this asphyxia? A chemical analysis was made for opium and morphia, but with negative results. I am inclined to put down alcohol as the cause, as there appeared to be no mechanical explanation.

In this case I found marked evidences of bronchitis, the bronchial mucosa being coarse and swollen and the tubes filled with mucus. The evidence taken by the coroner showed, however, that, though the deceased had suffered for several years back from bronchitis and asthma, his cough had been much better for some months back, and none of those who had seen him in the last days of his life had noticed him to cough much.)

CHLOROFORM INHALATION.

Case No. 83.—D. L., male, aged 24, laborer. Died suddenly while under chloroform, at the Notre Dame Hospital, for the reduction of a dislocation of the right shoulder. Had inhaled less than 3ii. Took the anæsthetic badly.