

2. The *post-mortem appearances* including—1, an ulcerated state of the mucous membrane of the stomach; 2, a large aperture produced by ulceration and thinning of the coats at the cardiac end of the stomach; 3, extensive peritoneal inflammation with adhesions of the intestines, and the fact that the bowels were less inflamed on the inside than on the outside—are circumstances which show that the cause of death was peritonitis from effusion of the contents of the stomach.

3. The perforation of the stomach was caused by *disease and not by arsenic* or any *irritant poison*, because no trace of arsenic or irritant poison existed in the substance of the stomach or in its contents.

4. The symptoms, although in some respects resembling those of irritant poison, are, in my judgment, fully explained by the perforation of the stomach and the consequent peritonitis."

21. Death from Distension of the stomach.

The subject, aged 40, ate a full supper at 10 p. m., and went to bed at 11. At 4 a. m., he was snoring loudly, was quite senseless, and died immediately afterwards. The body was inspected fifty-five hours afterwards. "The general appearance of the viscera was healthy; the heart collapsed, but without any sign of disease; the brain not remarkably congested; there was no extravasation of blood; the stomach was completely filled with food, only partially digested.

Poisoning was suspected, but this was completely negated by the circumstances. No narcotic, capable of having the symptoms delayed for a period of nearly two hours, and of destroying life in six hours, could have been taken at supper, and nothing was taken subsequently. "The only condition to which death could with probability be referred, was the highly distended state of the stomach. Those who have died from this cause have commonly been found dead in bed. The recumbent posture, with a distended state of the stomach, may tend to induce an apoplectic condition of the brain, and thus destroy life."

22.—A case of death, supposed to arise from violence, but proved to have depended on natural causes.

The subject was a married woman, of dissipated profligate habits. Quarrelling, and cries of murder were said to have been heard in the night. In the morning she was found dead. On the inquest it was proved she had been very drunk. About one a. m., she complained of feeling cold. About four a. m. her husband got up, and went down stairs. He heard her cry out, "Oh, dear; I do feel bad; I am going to die." She must have expired shortly after, though the precise time is not stated.

There was no external injury, but the face and neck were much congested; the vessels of the arms distended with blood, and frothy blood exuded from the mouth; cadaveric lividity on the back and shoulders. The brain was *greatly* congested; a circular clot of blood at the base, an inch in diameter, and the ventricles filled with coagulated blood. The lungs were emphysematous; heart hypertrophied and full of dark coagulated blood. The viscera of the abdomen were healthy, except the liver, which was in a state of cirrhosis.

Verdict—*Apoplexy* from excessive drinking

23.—Is an instance of death from "Malignant Cholera," taking place immediately after a quarrel in which the man was knocked down, though without much violence. Death took place in *six hours*, without any marks of injury about the person sufficient to account for death in so short a period.