

ing to the hypothesis of a second dose having been given shortly before death. The arsenic had passed from the stomach to the bowels, and had been drained away by purging. Its action on the mucous membrane of the small intestines was evident, through a large part of their course.

"Although fifteen days had elapsed, from the time of death until the analysis was made, there was no mark of putrefaction, and no trace of the conversion of white arsenic to yellow sulphuret. This was probably owing to the low temperature which then prevailed."

The two following notes are important :—

(I) "The girl had died on the 26th of December, and this examination was not made until the 10th of Jan. The delay was owing to the rigorous rules of economy practised by the Surrey magistrates in all medico-legal cases requiring chemical investigation. The coroner is deprived, by them, of the power to order special fees in such cases. The magistrates will not grant permission for any special scientific investigations to be made, and if these be ordered by the coroner he is expected to pay for them himself. If undertaken without such order, the medical analyst is expected to render his services gratuitously, and to take all the responsibility of being bound over as a witness at the subsequent trial, with loss of time, &c. Owing to the necessary correspondence on this subject, the analysis was delayed *fifteen days*, a period of time which, at another season of the year, and in a criminal case, might have destroyed the post-mortem appearances, and have completely defeated the ends of justice! Ultimately, the analysis was made by the order of private individuals residing in the parish in which the girl died: they undertook to be responsible for the necessary expenses. It is only fair to state, that the charge fell entirely upon them; for at the quarter sessions subsequently held, the magistrates refused to allow any fees except those prescribed by the Medical Witnesses' Act. Hence it follows, that cases of suspected poisoning occurring in the County of Surrey, must either remain uninvestigated, and a guess made at the cause of death, or the charges must be defrayed by a tax on private individuals! It is not probable that the latter system will receive much support; and deaths from poison, in Surrey, are, therefore, not likely to become so publicly known as in other counties, where the magistrates consider it a duty to have all suspected cases fully investigated. In the case of the female who was lately found dead at Clapham, as it was alleged from *chloroform*, but according to the verdict, from *fright*, neither the magistrates nor the coroner would cause a proper inquiry to be instituted. The parties who had charge of the stomach applied to the Commissioners of Police, and the Secretary of State, for an allowance of expenses, but without success. The public and profession are well acquainted with the result."

(II) "Unnecessary importance, it appears to me, is often attached, on criminal trials, to this want of power of tracing the possession of poison. Those persons who intend to destroy themselves or others, naturally adopt means to keep the facts concealed as much as possible. It is either purchased at a distance, or in another name, or it is taken from a packet of poison loosely kept in a closet, or on a shelf. In the case here reported, it is probable that it was purchased by another person, who perhaps dreaded the responsibility of coming forward when death had ensued. The case of the Duke de Praslin (1847) presents a singular instance of the mode in which criminals sometimes procure poison. The duke had purchased arsenic some weeks before he murdered the duchess, and had kept the paper containing it in the pocket of a dressing-gown which he occasionally