

which there was inserted blue-stone and verdigris; the sublimate is very soluble in thrice its weight of spirit, and would leave no sediment if pure; verdigris has no mercury in it; three grains of sublimate have been known to cause death, but a drachm will kill several, and eight drachms may be dissolved in one glass of whiskey; one may take as much of the poison and escape from death that would kill three others; some are more susceptible than others of the influence of poison. *To Baron Pennefather*—If the sublimate was in powder still I would not expect it to have been so dissolved in ten minutes that the man would not see some appearances in the whiskey.

The information of Simon Power was then read, in which the deceased swore that he got the whiskey from the prisoner: that the whiskey was rough in his mouth, and had a shocking stinking smell.

Inspector Rogers and Constable Coghlan proved delivering the contents of the stomach, &c. to Dr. Geoghegan.

Dr. Geoghegan, Fellow and Profr. R. C. Surgeons, Ireland, examined by Mr. Sauss,—The medical history of the present case, as given in evidence, unequivocally establishes that the death of deceased resulted from poisoning by a soluble salt of mercury, and, by inference, that the compound taken was corrosive sublimate; the non-detection of poison in the various organs of deceased is not alone compatible with the fact of death from that cause, but in conformity with the laws which govern the elimination of poisons from the body. In the present instance the illness was of fifteen days' duration, a period quite sufficient for the escape of the offending matter by the organs of secretion, particularly the kidneys and salivary glands. Witness did not expect to discover mercury in the alimentary canal, but thought that traces might possibly be found in the organs which had appropriated it subsequently to absorption; the salivation produced by the soluble salts of mercury, may be of a two-fold character, arising either from their local influence on the mouth in the act of being swallowed, or from their absorption into the economy; the former is a spurious salivation, which may be immediate, and is occasionally accompanied by a fœtor of the breath; the latter is the true mercurial influence, which is usually mani-

festated after the lapse of a couple of days. *Cross-examined* by Mr. Harris—Corrosive sublimate is incapable of communicating any peculiar or fœtid odour to whiskey; a wine-glass full of the latter fluid, may in the course of a few minutes dissolve as much of the poison as would suffice to destroy life; on this point only, witness is unable to concur in the very intelligent evidence of Dr. Boyd. *To Mr. Harris*—I did not make any experiment on that point to reduce my opinion to a certainty.

Mr. Harris addressed the jury, and submitted that there was not such a case as would warrant the jury in arriving at the conclusion that the prisoner was guilty of the offence with which he stood charged. The Counsel adverted in detail to the evidence, and to the doubts which must arise as to the cause of death.

Mary Walsh, and another sister of the prisoner, and two men in the prisoner's employment were examined in detail, and their evidence was to the effect that the whiskey was given freely to the deceased and Murphy at the same instant, and that they did not leave the house for some time afterwards. The two men, Dwyer and another, also swore that the deceased vomited the day before he got the whiskey, and was on the ground for days after taking the whiskey. On cross-examination their evidence varied in many particulars.

Mr. Phayre, an apothecary, deposed to having made experiments as to the solubility of corrosive sublimate; and his evidence went to show *that it could not dissolve in ten minutes, or for a period much longer; but on cross-examination, said that in a few minutes the whiskey might take up a large quantity.*

Mr. Scott wished to examine Dr. Geoghegan who had, since being on the table, made an experiment at the request of the Counsel for the Crown.

Mr. Harris objected, but this being part of the Crown's original case, Baron Pennefather concurred in it.

Baron Pennefather charged the jury, who returned a verdict of Guilty.

Baron Pennefather was about to pass sentence, but after consideration directed that the prisoner should be removed and brought up next morning, (Friday.)

The trial was one of a very interesting nature as to its medical details, and the learned Judge, in the course of his