

cific means to meet special indications. I know of no reason to doubt the tendency of certain remedies to produce an action on the uterus in its unimpregnated state which would not lie with equal force against the action of calomel on the liver and salivary glands, or ergot on the same organ at the time of parturition.—*Western Lancet.*

**Medical Coroners.**—"Judge Jackson stated emphatically in Court, on Thursday, during the progress of a trial in which reference was made to the Coroner's Court, that none but medical men ought to be appointed to the office of Coroner, as from their education they were peculiarly qualified to discharge efficiently the duties of the office. This opinion of his lordship appeared to be acted upon of late, very generally, both in Ireland and in England, as medical men are selected in almost every place where a vacancy occurs."—*London Lancet*, March 15, 1851.

We transfer the above most cordially to our pages, well knowing that in very many instances, the ends of justice have not only been subserved, but greatly injured by the appointment of non-medical coroners. Of the many cases which we could bring in support of this assertion, we adduce one only, which occurred not long since.

A fine boy, two years of age, was heard to have been scolded and ill-used by a drunken, brutal step-father; suddenly all was still; the next morning it was reported that the child had had fits, since which time it had remained in a deep state of unconsciousness;—he died in the evening, and was hurriedly interred on the following morning. The Coroner being apprised of the circumstance, on the second day summoned a jury to investigate the matter, when an old, respectable, but timorous physician, gave it as his opinion, that to exhumate the body was unnecessary, seeing that decomposition had already commenced, the weather being extremely warm, and that all marks of external violence or contusion would have disappeared!—The jury was satisfied with this evidence, and a verdict, "died of natural causes" was accordingly returned. Now, had the Coroner, been a well informed medical man, he would have insisted upon the disinterment of the

body, seeing that the symptoms under which the poor child succumbed denoted concussion and compression of the brain; and moreover, that the period from the time of death was far too short to have completely effaced all indications of injury, even of the soft parts, but the skull, if fractured or depressed, would for a very long time bear marks of the violence. The consequence would have been that a bolder practitioner would be called for, and not having the fear of putrefaction before his eyes, to blind his judgment, would have manfully acquitted himself of the important duties devolving upon him; and if violence had been inflicted, he would no doubt have detected it. That this would have been the case, subsequent circumstances warrant the conclusion.

It has not seldom happened, that cases of poisoning have occurred in the country parts, and on the opinion of the neighboring physicians, innocent of all knowledge of the action of poison, and the proper methods of detecting it either pathologically or chemically, persons implicated in a most nefarious deed, have escaped detection and punishment. But, had the Coroner been a physician, he would have assisted the less initiated practitioner, or would have ordered the attendance of a man better qualified in such matters; one familiar equally with pathology, chemistry, and the present state of science; one on whose testimony a jury could rely. And on the other hand, he might on very many occasions, save the country the expense of *post mortem* examinations in cases of sudden deaths or accidents, where no suspicion of foul play could be anticipated.

The country, society, law and justice, would be alike benefited, if professional men of ability and experience were appointed or elected to these important and responsible offices. We will in a future number return to this subject.—*Northern Lancet.*

**Establishing the Science.**—De Bonnevillle has been electrifying Detroit by his more than galvanic effects upon the muscles of scores of his impressibles, when an enormous sized Wolverine, "trying the thing" himself, found he was quite equal to the professor in