

We would not object to this unseemly rush if only the coroners were the victims, but recently we have had a glaring case of the innocent being punished and the guilty escaping. Three members of the profession in this city were lately hauled before the courts, tried, found guilty and fined several hundred dollars—for what? According to the verdict, for breaking into a man's house and holding a *post mortem* on his wife in spite of the remonstrances of himself and children.

Could anything have a greater effect upon the public mind, or more tend to increase that irritation against the profession which many have endeavored to excite, than an incident like this? There is nothing that arouses public feeling so much as this, what they are pleased to call mutilation of the dead. Our professional brethren deserve all our sympathy for the unjust verdict rendered against them and for the opprobrium they have sustained. It was clearly shown at the trial that a warrant had been issued, and they had been instructed by the coroner to make a *post mortem* examination and report. As stated by them, without their knowledge the warrant was withdrawn. They had gone to perform an official duty and should have had official notification that the necessity no longer existed. It was either gross stupidity or gross negligence in the local justice department that permitted these physicians to be placed in such an unenviable light before the public. It is simply the cap sheaf to the disgraceful manner in which the office of coroner has been abused in this city. We can only hope, if the present condition of affairs is to continue, that the same facilities for withdrawing inquests as for holding them may be enforced, and that the police department be provided with withdrawal forms signed in blank, so that when a man refuses to admit physicians in their official capacity to make a *post mortem* as least as much authority be shown them as is often required to hold the inquest.

THE WORKING TOOLS OF THE CRAFT.

Coincident with the onward progress of the medical art has been the advance in our knowledge of the cause of disease. As the practice of medicine and surgery has gradually but surely emerged from the darkness of charlatanism and empiricism and approached more nearly to the dignity of a science, the pressing demand for better facilities and better "working tools" has been met alike by the skilful instrument maker and the modern expert pharmaceutical chemist. The surgeon of to-day has at his command a full armamentarium of ingenious instruments of pre-