

Coroner's Act provides, that *whenever it shall appear* to the coroner that the deceased was attended at his or her death, or during his or her last illness by any legally qualified medical practitioner, he, the coroner *may* (that is, if he thinks any additional light of importance can be thrown upon the case that is being investigated, —very good provisions—he may) issue his order for the attendance of such practitioner as a witness at the inquest; and where the deceased was not so attended, the coroner may issue an order for the attendance of any legally qualified practitioner, being at the time in actual practice in or near the place where the death happened."

Medical testimony, says Scrutator, is of the highest importance at an inquest. Well, we grant this to its fullest extent! The merest medical tyro in the profession knows this to be an axiom. But Scrutator, we apprehend, for the sake of his argument, should have shewn that there was an absence of medical testimony by the other medical attendant of the deceased, at the inquest. Mr. Scrutator should not so far have been caught overlooking the great difficulties the jury laboured under, for the want of Dr. Going's medical evidence, in their arriving at the knowledge of the cause of the death of the poor murdered man McKay. He, Scrutator, does not even attempt to prove that the verdict of the jury was a wrongful one: he does not shew that for the want of Dr. Going's evidence the murderer escaped. These things, we think, should have been alluded to by Scrutator, to make the inquest a mockery. Why, Scrutator, you certainly have been napping! Get up! arouse from your slumbers, and we shall enlighten you a little in your scrutiny; we have a desire to assist you, in your thirst after justice. Observe then the following testimony, which was submitted to the jury.

I was called upon in the afternoon of a nice day in July last to visit McKay, the deceased, in the capacity of a legally qualified medical practitioner; and being professionally engaged in the country at the time, the messenger called on the next nearest practitioner, who was Dr. Barry, a licensed practitioner. Dr. Barry went to McKay's house, and found him suffering from a wound in the "linea alba," about two inches above the pubis, and penetrating through the walls of the abdomen, which wound permitted some of the intestines to escape. Dr. Barry being sworn, testified before the jury that he pushed the intestines within the abdominal walls, and then stitched the wound, to prevent the further escape of the intestines. He considered the wound necessarily a fatal one. Such a wound might have been made with a knife, such as the one presented to him, which was taken from the prisoner, Mason, by Barry. In the evening, it might be about seven o'clock, I was sent for again, by Mrs. McKay. She told me what Dr. Barry had done. She told me that McKay wished to have no other medical man to attend him but myself. I replied, that I would not inter-