

There are several points in this case which are instructive and which demand a passing remark :

In the first place Mr. Walker's assertion that he found a high temperature of the body after death in the case of Mrs. Gulliver, does not appear to be supported by actual thermometric observation, and therefore is inadmissible ; it would not be received as evidence in any well constituted court of law. It was simply absurd of Mr. Rodgers on such testimony to start a theory which could not be in any way substantiated. In death from chloroform vapour the heart is the first to cease its beatings, respiration continues for some time after all pulsation has ceased ; moreover the temperature of the body does not rise after death. Again the presence of chloroform in the blood has been proved in very minute quantity after three weeks' exposure, although the difficulty is admitted. If the death had been from Prussic acid vapour, the symptoms would have been sufficiently well-marked and the odour exhaled from the body unmistakable, so that the medical attendant who arrived at the moment of death could not have been deceived ; besides which the action of chloroform, alcohol, ether and prussic acid, when taken, lower the temperature of the body after death.

The verdicts rendered by the coroner's jury in both cases would have disgraced a similarly constituted court amongst a people like the Ashantees. We in Canada, as a rule, are badly served in this respect, yet we believe that some difficulty would be experienced even in the back woods of our country to collect together twelve men so thoroughly deficient in mere common sense, as appears to have been the case with the jurors above alluded to. It proves the absurdity of continuing this court as a part of our judicial system. An enquiry in all suspicious cases of death is necessary, and could be better conducted by a magistrate, without giving him or his court the power to bring in a verdict of guilty of murder. After all the coroner's court is a mere court of enquiry, and the testimony adduced is usually