

hydronephrosis and dilatation of the ureters. The cause of the hydronephrosis appeared to be a mass of inflammatory fibrous tissue external to the bladder, in the region of the trigone, near the point of entrance of the ureters. This was most marked on the left side. There were also numerous constrictions in the course of the ureters. The left testicle had been removed, and there was a large sinus in the left ischio-rectal fossa.

Dr. JOHNSTON thought the ingenious explanation offered by Dr. Martin to be correct.

Dr. ADAMI said that the statistics of hydronephrosis showed that many cases were recorded when the cause was not explained. Had the dissection made by Dr. Martin in this case been more frequently practised, perhaps there would not be so many mysterious cases on record.

*Oxalate of Lime Calculi from the Kidneys.*

—Dr. JAS. BELL showed some large stellate prickly crystals, apparently oxalate of lime, removed from a cyst in the kidney of a patient who had no renal symptoms whatever.

*Semi-lunar Cartilage.*—Dr. JAS. BELL also exhibited a portion of an inner semi-lunar cartilage removed from the knee of a man who had sprained his knee when jumping from a carriage. The joint was locked for a time, but afterward became normal, until a severe exertion once more displaced the cartilage, and the joint was replaced with difficulty. A few days later, while demonstrating how the accident occurred, the joint again became fixed and could not be reduced. The cartilage was therefore removed. It was evident at the operation that it would be impossible to keep the joint in place. Cases have been recorded where the joints have been permanently and satisfactorily reduced after being out for some years.

*Enucleation of Thyroid Tumor.*—Dr. JAS. BELL showed a small fibro-cystic tumor removed from the thyroid, and emphasized the advantages of enucleation as contrasted with extirpation of the thyroid.

*Reform of the Coroner Law.*—Dr. ADAMI read the report of the committee upon this subject as follows:

Your Committee, appointed to consider the present system of conducting inquests and the modifications, if any, which may wisely be introduced in the present law relating to inquests, beg to present to the Society the following report:—

The enquiry into and determination of the cause of the death of any individual or individuals, where such death has occurred under circumstances that are out of the common, is a matter that does not come under the cognizance of the Dominion authorities, save and except when the inquest leads to a finding of death by criminal act or criminal neglect.

Hence (with the exception that whenever such a charge is brought, the depositions taken by the coroner must be transmitted to a magistrate or justice of the peace, and the coroner must issue a warrant against the person or persons charged, etc.), the coroner's procedure is a matter outside the Dominion Statutes, and it is in the power of the Legislature of the Province of Quebec to freely modify the existing law. Your Committee desire to draw attention to this fact at the outset, for, this being so, the task of introducing certain urgent modifications, or, indeed, of completely altering the procedure, becomes an easy one, granted that the members of the Provincial Legislature become assured of the need for change.

The present Provincial laws respecting enquiries into the mode and cause of death are based essentially upon the old English Common Law. The enquiries are placed in the control of coroners appointed by the Provincial Government, a coroner for each judicial district. The coroner need not be a member of either the legal or the medical profession, although in the great majority of cases he belongs to one or the other.

Upon receiving notice of a death following upon any act of violence, or of death attended by suspicious circumstances, it is his duty to make a preliminary enquiry.

If, with or without medical aid, he comes to the conclusion that the cause of death is to be made out without the assumption of there having been either criminal act or criminal neglect, he can order the interment of the body. If, on the other hand, he is led to suspect that death has been due to violent or unfair means, or culpable or negligent conduct of others, under circumstances calling for investigation by a coroner's inquest, then, having made a sworn deposition to this effect before a magistrate, he is empowered to hold an inquest. What these "circumstances" are which call for investigation is not defined in our Statutes, they being left to the coroner to determine. Having made the deposition, he now can summon a jury and hold a coroner's court. He is empowered to call before him such witnesses as in his opinion can throw light upon the cause of death.

The jury must view the body of the deceased, and, if the majority of the jury desire it, the coroner is directed to instruct that an autopsy be performed to throw some light upon the cause of death. Having heard all the evidence, the coroner sums up, and leaves it to the jury to bring in a verdict, and, when this has been delivered, the coroner gives an order for the interment of the body.

The coroner is paid six dollars for every inquest, and if any inquest occupies more than two days, three dollars for every succeeding day. The practitioner of medicine making an