

CANADA

MEDICAL JOURNAL.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Report of the Post Mortem Examination of the body of the late Hon. THOMAS D'ARCY MCGEE, with other matters connected with the scene of the murder, by D. MCGILLIVRAY, M.D.

Believing it to be of interest, I am induced to send you for publication in your journal the report of the post mortem examination of the body of the late Hon. Thomas D'Arcy McGee, who was assassinated at the door of his lodgings in Ottawa, on the morning of the 7th April, 1868, together with other matters incidental to the murder; such as the position of the body—descriptive of the scene of the murder, and supporting facts elicited by the autopsy: and also a representation of the fatal bullet. The report may be interesting not only on account of its subject, but also in a forensic or medico-legal point of view.

Position of the body.—The lifeless body of the Hon. T. D. MCGEE, was found lying on its back on the sidewalk obliquely and opposite the door of his lodgings, head pointing to the street, and slightly northwestwards. The hat was still on the head. The legs were slightly separated and extended towards the door, the right arm was partially extended and the hand ungloved. The left arm was extended at right angles to the body and the hand gloved. The glove of the right hand was lying on the sidewalk next to the left hand, and his cane was lying under the body and passing over the left elbow. The face and left side of the neck were covered with blood, and the mouth was covered with sanguineous froth. A large quantity of arterial blood had escaped from the body by the mouth and had flowed in a stream down the sidewalk into the ground. The body was but a short distance from the door of the house—the distance from the near or west end of the door-sill to the feet of deceased was about thirty-five inches, and from the remote or east end, four and a half feet. His latchkey was in the hole of the latchlock, and suspended to it several other keys.