

and mental ability necessary for the proper discharge of the duties (1).

These qualifications are no more than what all public officers by the common law are supposed, and ought, to possess. The Coroner has often a very delicate and very important duty to perform, and it need hardly be said that the proper discharge of that duty depends almost entirely on his personal character and ability. Where these are deficient, scenes often occur at inquests which throw disgrace upon the office of Coroner (2).

A Magistrate cannot be a Coroner, otherwise he would have a right to audit his own accounts. Before acting as Coroner, the oath of allegiance and the oath of office should be taken (3), since holding an inquest without taking these oaths would subject the Coroner to a penalty, although his acts would probably be legal.

### SECT. 3.

#### *Mode of Appointment.*

In England, Coroners are of three kinds,—By virtue of office, by charter or commission, and by election. Those by virtue of their office are, the Lord Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench and the

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(1) It is said a Coroner ought to have sufficient property to answer all such fines and duties as belong to him.

(2) Would that Canadian Coroners were free from reproach in this respect, and that it could be said all Canadian inquests were held with even decent propriety.

(3) See Forms, Nos. 2 & 3.