

is rendered additionally probable by the fact, that at this shop the quantity always sold as a pennyworth is stated to be a drachm and a half, it being in every instance *measured*. At this shop they keep laudanum of only one quality, and never have two kinds. They have made no addition to their stock of laudanum for four months. A specimen which Dr. Christison had the kindness to examine, procured on the 2d of April, 1846, was taken from that stock, the same which supplied the pennyworth, some of which was swallowed by the infant two months before. Dr. Christison found that it contained a due proportion of opium. Dr. Barry also caused four separate pennyworths of laudanum to be procured at the same shop, at different times, and by different messengers, and in each instance the quantity received was one drachm and a half, or rather more, leaving no doubt of its having been measured. Some of the laudanum thus obtained Dr. Christison has also been so obliging as to examine, and he found it to be quite identical with the other. The woman who held the cup out of which the infant was dosed by its mother, declares that the teaspoon was quite full—that none of the mixture was left on the spoon—and that none of it was rejected by the child.—*Northern Journal of Medicine*.

EXAMINATION OF BLOOD-STAINS.

[We insert the following case from our English cotemporary, as it exhibits in a striking manner the great utility of the microscope in this department of medicine. Within the last few days this instrument has been similarly employed for the first time in this country, by our colleague, Dr. Hall, in the examination of the blood stains found on the clothes of Brady, who was tried for the murder of O'Rourke, the prize-fighter. In this case the blood had been deposited on the clothes about eleven months before the trial took place, and the clothes had every appearance of having been washed, although imperfectly. The chemical examination of the distilled water, filtered through the stains on the clothes, was unsatisfactory, but the microscope revealed the existence of the blood globule, in a most unequivocal manner. A few were noticed in an insulated state, while, in one experiment, a congeries of them was observed in the field of the microscope, having a compressed appearance.—ED.]

The following evidence in reference to the character of certain marks and stains, from blood, was given in the re-examination of Benjamin Gibbins, who stands charged with the murder of Ann Sloman:—

Mr. Daniel Ross, surgeon, of High Street, Shadwell, who had given evidence before, was recalled by the magistrate. He stated that he first saw the body of the deceased woman about half-past eight o'clock on the morning of the second of June. From its appearance he should say the woman had been dead from four to six hours. He saw the prisoner directly afterwards. He had marks of blood on his jacket. His impression at the time was that the blood on the prisoner's jacket was arterial blood from its bright florid character. The blood on the right sleeve of the jacket appeared to have been squirted upon it.

Mr. Ballantine, (the magistrate).—Could it have been after the death of the party?

Mr. Ross should say not. He believed the blood was squirted on the prisoner's jacket from a living subject. He had examined the jacket more accurately since the first examination. The result of that examination was that he believed the blood to be arterial, and that it possessed vitality at the time it was squirted on the sleeve. There were

splashes of blood on the prisoner's jacket, and his opinion was they were jerked upon it while the woman was alive.

Mr. Ballantine.—The prisoner has stated that in lifting the head of the deceased, after death, the blood fell upon his clothes.

Mr. Ross.—The appearance I saw could not have been so produced, and so long after death. I don't think it possible at all.

Dr. Henry Letheby, a physician, and professor and lecturer on chemistry at the London Hospital, was next called and deposed as follows: On Monday last I received from Sergeant Townson, of the police, a jacket, waistcoat, and trousers, and two paper parcels, one containing scrapings from a plaster wall, and one from the panel. I first examined the jacket, and found spots and patches of blood in the following places:—First, there was a large patch of blood interrupted by the folds of the sleeve upon the front and about the middle of the left sleeve; secondly, there were some other spots on the same sleeve nearer to the shoulder on the front part, some also in the inner part of the left lappel, other spots on the inside of the right lappel, and some on the back part and outer part of the left sleeve about midway between the elbow and the shoulder. On the waistcoat I found the following spots:—Several on the front and middle of the right collar, which was a turn-over one; some other small spots, as if from a jerk or a jet of blood, on the front on the right side, a little above the waistcoat pocket; and others much larger on the front of the waistcoat, as if from jets; lastly, there were two large spots on the waistcoat close to the upper button hole. Portions from all these was scraped off, and carefully examined by the microscope. Those upon the sleeves were found to contain blood-globules that could only be recognized by the microscope, imbedded in coagulated fibrin. The patch on the middle of the left arm also contained scales or scurf, similar to those found on the woman's scalp. There was a piece of brown hair also imbedded in it. The spots were further examined chemically. On scraping off portions and digesting them in water, little white *floculi*, called *coagula*, and a deep pink solution were obtained. The solution had the following characters, proving it to be blood:—First, it had a pink colour, and that colour was not heightened or rendered green by ammonia, showing it was not a vegetable colour; it was rendered dark by sulphuric acid. It was also coagulated on being boiled, and gave a precipitate, or *floculi*, with nitric acid, corrosive sublimate, and nitrate of silver. I then examined the scrapings from the wall. The mixture demonstrated the presence of *floculi*, and *coagula*, and the rest being digested in water gave the same results as the former. The examination of the wood-scrapings led me to think they were not blood, but I will not speak positively as to that. On Tuesday morning I also received from Sergeant Townson a large piece of matting, marked with a large blood-stain, and a piece of wood similarly marked. On examining the blood on the matting by means of a microscope, I found it contained globules, but no coagulated fibrin; there were also particles of scurf, like those on the human scalp; the chemical examination proved the spots to be blood-spots. The examination of the wood also led me to believe there was uncoagulated blood but no fibrin in it. The conclusions I have come to by reason of the inquiry are these—1st., that the spots on the jacket, the waistcoat, the plaster wall, and matting, were blood spots; secondly, that the spots on the jacket, waistcoat and wall, resulted from living blood, while that on the matting resulted from dead blood, or occurred some time after life was extinct; thirdly, I conclude the blood came from the scalp, by reason of the scales; and fourthly, that many of the spots appear as if they had resulted from jets, and some from being rubbed on.