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was decided to make the qualifications for the coroner's office legal, appointing, at the same time, a medical expert, who should make all medical examinations and autopsies required by the coroner.

Although a thoroughly efficient and capable legal gentleman was appointed as coroner, it has been found that no material improvement was effected in the state of affairs, owing to the restrictions placed upon holding autopsies. That a jury composed of any twelve citizens, between the ages of 21 and 60 years, should be more fitted than the coroner to decide whether an autopsy is needed, seems remarkable. When a jury is assembled, they naturally regard it as their most solemn duty to get back to their business as soon as possible, and, as the delay involved in holding an autopsy usually necessitates an adjournment, proof of the cause of death is seldom demanded.

By having autopsies held in all cases of suspicious death, the summoning of a jury would be unnecessary in the majority of cases, as natural causes of death could be shown. Where such was not the case, the jury would have the medical side of the case presented to them in a complete form, at their first meeting.

To those who do not live in the Province of Quebec, and who are not accustomed to the modern working of the feudal system, is exemplified in the statute *De Officio Coronatoris* of Edward I., the plea above given for a more rational mode of investigation must appear a mere truism; but, as it is wished to collect information as to the manner in which such cases are dealt with elsewhere, especially in American cities, it would be esteemed a favor by the writer if the blank form circulated with the current number of the JOURNAL could be filled in and returned to the address given. This information is being collected at the request of the Provincial authorities, who are most anxious to place the