

year round he keeps at his work with a desperate, pathetic courage ; he dares not leave it, for he is never without rivals ready to take his wretched clients from him, and he is far too poor to pay a substitute. No wonder that nature sometimes takes her revenge for an overworked body and exhausted brain, and that the club doctor finds his hands and head at fault, and takes a life where he has saved thousands. If he were but an overworked signalman, a thousand voices would cry "Shame!" But he is only a doctor, and has no right to share the mortal weakness he must cure in others. Ruin and disgrace will be his portion, and the scathing comments of the public press on his "criminal carelessness" will block his way to gaining a living by his profession for the future.—*St. James' Gazette*.

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ECCHYMOSES FROM NATURAL CAUSES.—It is now a well-recognized fact that more or less considerable extravasations of blood may take place beneath the skin or of the mucosæ, or on to the surface of the internal viscera, from purely physiological causes, giving rise, however, to appearances which might easily be mistaken for the results of violence in some form or another. The possibly natural origin of such ecchymoses seems only to have been recognized within the last decade or two, and this fact suggests some uncomfortable thoughts concerning probable injustice to accused persons in the past. When a certain French medico-legal authority first called attention to petechial ecchymosis on the surfaces of the lungs, it was for the purpose of promulgating the view that they afforded evidence of death from suffocation in one or other of its forms. This has since been proved not to be the case, for they have been met with in connection with the action of particular poisons, particularly those belonging to the benzine series, as well as after death from burns, etc. Although these extravasations thus lose the diagnostic value which had been attributed to them, the subject is one well worthy of attention in order that full light may be thrown upon the mechanism of their production. For instance, they are not unlikely to occur in the insane, and in this event their presence on the skin would not unnaturally give rise to unfounded suspicions of violence at the hands of the attendants. In a paper dealing with this subject at a recent meeting of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, Dr. Lediard laid particular stress upon the possibility of such ecchymoses on the mucous membrane of the vulva and vagina leading to the presumption of rape. Their position in the body, their delicacy of structure, and their vascularity render this portion of the female anatomy peculiarly liable to exhibit punctiform ecchymoses in virtue of the same causes that determine their appearance elsewhere. Mr. Hutchinson quoted a striking instance of the production of extensive ecchymoses in an elderly gentleman as the result of an attack of whooping cough contracted from his grandchild. As any medical man is liable to be called upon to discharge the delicate and responsible functions of medical assessor in criminal cases, it is highly desirable that a knowledge of this curious phenomenon should be widely disseminated, for it is not difficult to imagine various circumstances in which these ecchymoses would probably be ascribed to violence or asphyxia, instead of to their real cause, whatever that might be in the particular case.—*Medical Press and Circular*, February 12, 1896.