

absorption bands alters, if the liquid be associated with certain gases, such as those which are given off during the combustion of carbonaceous material. Now, let us see how this knowledge was applied in a case which came under Dr. Jeserich's official scrutiny. A cottage was burned down, and the body of its owner was found in the ruins in such a charred condition that he was hardly recognizable. A relative was, in consequence of certain incriminating circumstances, suspected of having murdered the man, and then set fire to the building in order to hide every trace of his crime—thinking, no doubt, that the conflagration would be ascribed to accident. The dead body was removed, and a drop or two of

blood was taken from the lungs and examined spectroscopically, with a view to finding out whether death had been caused by suffocation, or had taken place, as was believed before the house was set on fire.

The absorption spectrum was found to be that of normal blood, and the suspicion against the accused was thus strengthened. He ultimately confessed to having first committed the murder, and then set fire to the building, according to the theory adopted by the prosecution. The proverb tells us that "the way of transgressors is hard." The thanks of the law-abiding are due to Dr. Jeserich for making it harder still. (Chambers' Journal). 27 Ir. Law L. T. 305.