

bed by the witnesses I remark the absence of one essential symptom of strychnism—the prominence of the eye which seems as if starting from the socket. The suspension of respiration is also an essential symptom of strychnine for strychnine when absorbed acts upon the spinal marrow, which in its turn acts upon the muscles of the respiratory organs and impedes their function. I think it would be impossible for a man under the effects of poisoning by strychnine to pray up to the moment of his death. A man who complains of rheumatism, lassitude in the legs, and who was subject to nausea and pains in the stomach and was depressed, might be suffering from a disease which would produce the lesions remarked in the autopsy. An attack of rheumatism might cause the lesions remarked in the heart. The congestion of the lungs must have taken place gradually, as the circulation must necessarily have been decreased. In such congestion of the lungs, the watery portion of the blood would, in time, necessarily separate from the solid part, and by filtering through the capillary bronchial vessels, gradually accumulate in the cavity of the pleura, and cause what is called hydrothorax. This effusion is owing to some impediment to the circulation of the blood, and this impediment or defect in the circulation easily explains the state of anasarca of the cellular tissue covering the sternum. I find in hydrothorax a cause of angina pectoris of a violent attack of which Frs. X. Joutras, in my opinion died. The extraordinary state of putrefaction stated in the autopsy and the pathological state of the stomach as remarked in the report of the analysis, are indications of another disease which might cause death. I should call this disease, inflammation of the stomach with a commencement of gangrene.

To Mr. Armstrong.—I have been practising medicine for six years. I never made a special study of chemistry. I never attempted to find strychnine in a body by chemical process. If by means of reagents I found the series of colours peculiar to strychnine, I could not come to a certain conclusion without a physiological test. I have my doubts concerning a series of colours produced by bichromate of potash, because, according to Dr. Letheby, this is the worst reagent of any in use. I approve of the process employed by the Drs. who made the analysis, but I think that having found strychnine in abundance, as they have stated, they ought to have made a physiological test of it. However small the quantity of strychnine found, it would produce, if not death, at all events symptoms of poisoning upon certain animals. I cannot say that the gall-bladder would absorb more strychnine in proportion than the intestines. From the word "abundance" made use of by the Doctors who performed the analysis, I should understand that they had found sufficient strychnine to make a physiological test. With the  $\frac{1}{1000}$  part of a grain I think a physiological experiment might be made on a mouse or on a frog. I do not know how much strychnine it would take to affect a mouse. I agree with the opinion of Dr. Letheby who says that  $\frac{1}{4000}$  part of a grain of strychnine would be sufficient to produce the series of colours. A hydrothorax which killed a man on the 31st of a month, might have produced tetanic convulsions on the 22nd of that month, but I do not think it could also have produced them on the 24th and 29th of that month. In the attack of the 22d December, I find some of the symptoms of poisoning by strychnine, such as the jerking of the limbs, the bending back of the body, the interval between the spasms, the fear of death, the nervous shock caused by