

Then the height is measured, and that is best taken by marking the table with lines corresponding with the vertex of the head and with the sole of the foot. The reason of this is, that if rigor mortis be present it is difficult to keep the body straight for measurement, and also to allow properly for the curves of the body.

With regard to the weight, it is not always of importance to be extremely exact. It may generally be estimated approximately by sight (as 120 lbs. to 200 lbs.). The proper relation of weight to height may be ascertained from tables based on the average of many observations. When there is an apparent disproportion the weight should be accurately taken, especially in the case of a much emaciated person, whether an adult or a child, and always in the examination of recently born children. Unless the weight is noted before the internal examination is finished, the loss of blood and other fluids may lead to an erroneous result. The loss of flesh and weight may be accounted for by wasting disease, such as phthisis, cancer, etc., but in the absence of such causes the question of starvation, either from criminal interference or destitution would arise, and could only be satisfactorily investigated if the body had been accurately weighed in the first instance.

*Sex.*—As these instructions only have reference to bodies examined soon after death or before decomposition, or at a time when it is but slight, the sex can be at once determined either by the external or internal organs. This point is merely noted as a so-called hermaphrodite might be a subject for inquiry.

*Nationality.*—This can be determined with fair accuracy by simple inspection and judgment, if the subject has the characteristic colour, size, shape of head, etc., of one of the various principal races, under the conditions here treated of; namely, the bodies being seen soon after death or before the marked advance of decay.

When these more general observations have been completed, the specific and individual features must be considered in systematic form, thereby obviating the omission of any important detail.