

DR. HINGSTON ON MEDICAL EVIDENCE.

was in a dying state. She died about nine o'clock. I was present when she died. *She was quite sensible from the time I entered the house till she died, though unable to articulate distinctly.* Before she died I saw several marks of violence about the head, they were contusions or bruises, and abrasions of the skin. They must have been produced by external violence.

On the following day at about 3, p.m., I made a post-mortem examination of the body in conjunction with Dr. R. P. Howard. The body lay in bed in the same room and in the same position in which I had left it on the previous evening. It appeared very much emaciated, pale, and ill-conditioned. The marks of violence were numerous—very numerous; but the following recent ones were noted: A bruise in the centre of forehead; another higher up; one over right eye; one over each ear (that over the right being several inches in area); an abrasion on the right side of the larynx; an ecchymosis of upper end of breast bone; an abrasion of considerable extent over right shoulder; three bruises of right side of chest near the mamma; four of left arm; three of right thigh; an abrasion of left knee; another of left leg. In addition to these there were numerous ecchymoses of longer date on different parts of the body, they were *too numerous to count*. Some were less recent than those enumerated, others were fast fading into health; there was more skin discoloured than in its natural state.

Beneath the scalp extensive effusions of blood were found corresponding to the injuries over forehead, right eyebrow, and both ears; that of right ear extending over nearly whole of right side of head. *The membranes of the brain were pale and healthy, an extravasation about the size of a six pence was observed in the arachnoid sac, corresponding to the injury over right ear; and a similar one upon the left side. The substance of the brain like the membranes, was pale and healthy.*

Muscles covering larynx natural; larynx and trachea uninjured; *Lungs healthy, except a small patch of congestion at lower lobe of left; there was also an old but unimportant pleuritic adhesion on this side. Heart normal, containing usual quantity of blood. Liver paler and somewhat more friable than usual; an ecchymosis about the size of a shilling on lower surface of left lobe. Stomach slightly congested at cardiac and pyloric extremities; intestinal tube empty and natural; small ecchymosis in front part of uterus; other abdominal viscera healthy.* She was about 4 months advanced in pregnancy. After a description of the marks discovered on the body of the deceased during the post mortem examination, Dr. Hingston came to the conclusion that death was probably caused by external violence, causing a series of lesser shocks to the nervous system.

*Cross-examined by Mr. Devlin.*—Did not believe the discolouration of the skin could have been produced by falls—they were too numerous and most of them on parts of the body least likely to be injured by falls. A fall down stairs would not cause such appearances as he found upon the body. Would not a few blows or falls have produced many discolourations on a person of her habits? No! no matter what her habits may have been a blow or fall must have been received for each discolouration. They were not a few large, but a great number of small ecchymoses.

*By the Court.*—Had the deceased been ill treated between 12 o'clock and nine on the day she died, death would have unquestionably been accelerated. A woman when pregnant, as she was, is more susceptible to injuries than at other times, from the exalted state of the nervous system.

*Dr. Howard* who assisted at the post mortem examination, concurred with the opinion of Dr. Hingston that death was probably caused by external violence. The Doctor was cross-examined at some length, but adhered to the opinion that death was probably caused by violence. He described the bruises as presenting an appearance of recent and severe infliction. In addition there were many old bruises scattered all over the body. There were no internal symptoms of disease, and the probable cause of death was "external violence."