

I was called upon to examine the body next morning, in conjunction with another medical man. There was a strong odour of winter green from the body; the lips were blue and compressed, and the countenance exhibited the appearance of his having suffered some pain; the abdomen was but little distended. Upon removing the stomach carefully, I proceeded to lay it open, and found about half a pint of serous fluid, with a strong odour of winter green. The villous coat of the stomach presented a highly inflamed appearance, and was in many places quite destroyed, the mouths of the vessels lying open and bare. The work of destruction extended for about two inches beyond the pylorus. At the cardiac orifice of the stomach there was every appearance of incipient gangrene. Altogether there was quite enough in the stomach to account for the man's death. His intemperate course of life had produced the usual large liver, and probably would in part account for the diseased state of the stomach. Upon diluting the contained fluid with water, the oil, which previously was not very distinguishable, rose to the surface and floated on the top. I procured a phial of essence of wintergreen, sold by the same pedlar, and diluted with water, but the oil did not separate; so that there was pretty clear evidence that the oil was the substance taken. We were of opinion that a fatal result would have been produced in a man of temperate habits, after taking such a quantity of this oil; but that in the present instance, the dissipated life of deceased had to do with the rapid termination of his existence; and the jury returned a verdict accordingly.

No 2.—A simple-minded farmer a few months ago was desired to make use of cedar oil for rheumatic pains. He was desired to rub it along the spine and to take "a little" inwardly. Supposing that if "a little" was good, a large dose would be better, and being told by the pedlar that it was quite safe, he swallowed, as near as could be ascertained by the appearance of the phial, three drachms of this oil. As might be expected, he was soon seized with violent pains in the region of the stomach, strong convulsions were produced, and it was only by prompt and energetic means that his life was saved, after evacuating the contents of the stomach, by means of an emetic and giving warm demulcent drinks. I found it necessary, from the strong symptoms of inflammation of the stomach, to draw blood from his arm, and to use topical depletion freely; and this blood, after being removed to another department, where there was no cedar oil, and where there could be no odour otherwise communicated, retained the odour quite perceptibly for several hours.

It was several weeks before the man fully recovered

from the effects of the dose; and I am quite convinced that had there been no interposition of medical aid, and that soon after the dose was taken, this poor man, as in the case of the oil of wintergreen, would have paid for his folly by terminating his existence in a few hours.

I might give you a few cases more of a similar character, but I think I have given enough to show the danger of allowing such idle vagabonds to prowl about the country, ignorant and reckless of the fatal results of their traffic.

Brockville, Nov., 1846.

A CASE OF ENCEPHALOID OR PANCREATIC TUMORS IN THE ENCEPHALON.

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John Montgomery, æt. 31, in passing by the polling-booth in St. Mary's Ward, during the municipal elections in March last, received a blow from a bludgeon on the left parietal bone, which knocked him senseless: on recovering, he with difficulty reached home, leaning on his wife's arm. He was confined to bed for two or three days with severe headache, and was slightly treated. In a week or ten days he returned to his work, but always complained of pain on the left side of his head, and a sensation as if water was trickling and gurgling through his head. About three weeks before admission to the Hospital, he complained of great weakness in the limbs, his memory became rather defective, and his consciousness impaired. He again received some little treatment, and by the advice of his medical attendant (the symptoms having gradually increased in intensity), he was removed to the Montreal General Hospital on the 22d September last. He with difficulty advanced his legs as he was supported to his bed between his wife and the orderly. I saw him one hour after admission; he was lying on his back with his arms and thighs extended laterally at right angles to the body, which was the position he maintained to the last, except when convulsive jactitation threw his body half out of the bed. The left pupil was natural; the right dilated, and the eye everted, which had not been the case in health. The tongue was slightly loaded, and the pulse little accelerated, and not otherwise remarkable. Consciousness very feeble; after a long pause, during which he seemed to be collecting his thoughts, he answered "yes" or "no," to three or four questions. He made water freely, but his bowels had not been moved for ten days. He was ordered three drops of croton oil, and to be cupped at the back of the neck.

23d. Oil had operated well; was more conscious,