

PROCEDURE IN POST-MORTEM MEDICAL AND LEGAL EXAMINATION.

BY CHARLES A. HEBBERT, M.R.C.P., London, 1892.

Lecturer on Anatomy, Bishop's College, Montreal.

CASE 5.

The body is that of a male aged fifty-three, stoutly built and muscular; height 5 ft. 8 in.; dark hair, bald over vertex, on which was a small wen half an inch in diameter; moustache and beard brown; face and head much swollen and discolored, lips black, protruding and greatly swollen, tongue clenched between the teeth, some sand and mud on the face and beard, a small quantity of grumous fluid escaped from the mouth on moving the body; rigor mortis present in wrists and lower extremities, skin of surface of the body detached or detachable over arms, legs and abdomen. The thighs showed fair skin somewhat suggestive of cutis anserina, bullæ were noticed over lower part of back and abdomen, skin of hands white, corrugated and partly separable, nails undetached, decomposition most advanced over upper part of head, neck, chest and shoulders, with emphysema of the subcutaneous tissues, lower part of abdomen green discoloration, superficial veins of trunk and outer side of thighs mapped out by purplish discoloration, no signs of ecchymosés (verified by superficial and deep sections) hands half clenched, no carpopedal contractions, no sand or foreign substance under nails or in the hands; penis retracted, left side of body and scrotum much distended by gas.

Trunk and limbs protected by clothing, head and hands bare.

HEAD.—Scalp removed, no ecchymosés or injuries noticed, no fracture of skull, meninges nothing noticeable, brain substance greyish color, soft and decomposing, no apparent congestion of vessels, no sign of previous hemorrhage, medulla and pons in fair state of preservation, and apparently normal, no fracture or injury of neck.

THORAX.—On opening thorax the viscera were found in a normal position, the pericardium being uncovered and the lungs not unduly prominent.

HEART.—The pericardium contained about an ounce of