

possession of either the deceased or her husband, nor were the remains of any to be found. The only druggist in the town who sold arsenic denied having ever supplied either the deceased or her husband with any. It was stated that deceased and her husband frequently quarrelled, and that he was a very intemperate man. The general belief amongst the neighbors, however, was that she had died from natural causes, or if from poison that she had taken it intentionally. The medical man of the place was of opinion that she had died from natural causes. Mr. Holgate, the coroner, however, adjourned the inquest, and ordered that in the meantime Mr. Moxon, of Kirton Lindsay, surgeon, should obtain the viscera of the deceased, and send them to me for analysis.

I accordingly received the a stomach, portion of the small intestines and contents, the gall bladder, and a portion of the liver of the deceased. The result of my examination and analysis of them was, as stated at the adjourned inquest, in substance as follows—viz., I found the stomach to contain four fluid ounces of a mucous liquor tinged with blood of a dark color; blood of a dark color suffused between the rugæ; no ulceration nor perforation of the coating of the stomach; but the whole presented an inflamed condition, and was of a dull reddish-brown color, that became brighter after exposure to the air. The small intestines were inflamed, especially that part of the duodenum adjoining the pylorus. No specks nor pasty patches of arsenic could be detected either in the stomach or intestines. The gall bladder was full of gall. The liver was uniformly of a brownish-red color, and presented no appearance of inflammation. On analysis, I discovered arsenic. The distillates with chlorhydric acid from each of the respective portions furnished, by the usual methods, tersulphide of arsenic equivalent to the several quantities of arsenious acid following—viz: The stomach 0.86 grs.; contents of ditto, 0.02 grs. A portion (nearly half) of the small intestines emptied, 1.04 grs.; contents of ditto (eight fluid ounces,) a trace only. The gall bladder and gall, 1.13 gr. A portion (not quite half) of the liver, 4.15 grs.

From the fact of my finding so small a portion of arsenic either in the stomach or intestines and their contents, compared with so much larger a quantity in the liver, the question suggested itself whether the deceased might not have had the arsenic administered to her, presuming in that case it had been exhibited in a smaller dose than a person with suicidal intent would have taken it, and that it had been given some rather more considerable length of time previous to death, so as to have admitted of its absorption to the extent I found had taken place in the liver.

The cases recorded of arsenical poisoning are exceedingly anomalous as