

The traces of poisoning being so evident in the stomach, and the death having been so sudden, it is to be regretted that an examination of the brain and spinal column could not have been obtained.

I cannot close this paper more appropriately, than by citing the conclusions of Alfred P. Taylor, M.D., F.R.S., from Guy's Hospital Reports; third series: "which arose out of the Palmer case, as follows:

"The conclusions to which it appears to me this inquiry leads, are:—

1. That Strychnia may be found in the stomach, as in other cases of poisoning, when it has not been entirely absorbed, and the stomach and contents have been properly preserved for analysis.

2. That in some cases, when given in small doses, and in other cases even in large doses, although it may be detected in the stomach, it cannot be detected in the absorbed state in the blood and tissues.

3. That there are no facts derived from experiments on animals or from observations in the human subject, to justify the statement that in all cases of poisoning by strychnia, the poison must by proper chemical processes, be certainly detected.

4. That in strychnia poisoning, as in morphia and other forms of poisoning, a person may live a sufficient time for the poison to be entirely removed from the stomach, and in this case he may die without a trace of strychnia being found in the blood, tissues or any part of the body."

Quebec, Place d'Armes, December 9th, 1861.

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ART. III.—*On the formation of a Medical Benevolent Society, or an Annuity Fund.* By A. VON IFFLAND, M.R.C.S., Eng., and late Vice-President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Lower Canada.

The cause which is now about being so strenuously advocated by our learned and truly philanthropic colleague Dr. Smallwood, with regard to the establishment of an annuity fund, has, as I have already observed, long engaged my attention; and should, from the great importance of the object it has in view, not only merit the highest consideration, but also, excite the deepest interest in the minds of every member of our noble profession, and I feel a confident hope, that it will secure the countenance, and the cooperation of every heart that beats in solicitude for the sufferings of another.

For the widows and orphans of clergymen, many noble institutions have been provided in every portion of the world where the word of God is heard, and the benefit of some of these institutions extend, I believe, to this country; but, for the heart-broken widow, and destitute children of the zealous, and benevolent medical practitioner, cut off by accident, or infectious disease, or worn down by incessant anxiety and toil in the meridian of life, no such institution, no such haven of refuge yet exists, at least, in this prosperous country. They must be left "to the pity and neglect of a cold and calculating world."

I may here be permitted to quote the words of one of the most eminent and philanthropic physicians in England, (Dr. Perceval). "The history of the Medical profession is full of examples of how uncertain is human life, and how un-