

that of Mr. Murney had a seidlitz-powder incorporated. In the course of half an hour they all *felt peculiar sensations at the ends of their fingers*. The parties shortly separated, Mr. Murney going to the office of the Board of Works, where he soon afterwards "fell down." He shortly recovered and walked to Russell's Hotel, where the additional symptoms developed themselves, ending in his death.

At the inquest, it was stated in evidence by Drs. Marsden and Russell that the death was occasioned by an admixture of the tincture of *digitalis* with the given draught. It is possible that in the following remarks I may be mistaken, but I apprehend that I will be able to shew that the cause of death was not *digitalis*, but *aconite*, and this from the recognized *influence* of those two potential agents upon the system.

We have, in the first place, to inquire into the symptoms as elicited by the three cases, and especially by the case of Mr. Murney.

In the course of half an hour Mr. M. felt "extraordinary sensations at the ends of the fingers." At the office of the Board of Works "he fell down" (a convulsion?)—"a rising in his stomach" (*quere nausea*), and "great pain." Mr. Russell states that he complained of numbness of the limbs and difficulty in respiration, and that he could not lie down. He complained of a prickly sensation, as if he had pins sticking in his face."

Dr. Marsden deposed, that after his treatment for extreme nervous depression, and the repeated declaration of Mr. Murney that "he was dying," he was attacked by three consecutive fits of a convulsive character, after the last of which he died.

The post mortem examination revealed "a remarkably fluid state of the blood, which was of a dark color; with the exception of slight enlargement of the heart, there was no other morbid appearance worthy of notice. The stomach was intensely inflamed. The throat and gullet exhibited no traces of morbid action excepting at the junction of the stomach, not even what I have repeatedly seen in the throat and gullet of persons addicted to the use of ardent spirits. There can be no doubt that death was occasioned by a vegetable poison of the narcotico-acid class, and *no analysis could enlighten the jury.*"

Such then were the symptoms and post mortem appearances as observed in the case of the deceased Mr. Murney, and as recorded in the proceedings of inquest as copied and reported in the *Montreal Herald* of dates Jan. 4th, 6th, and 7th.

Let us now examine the symptoms as they declared themselves in the cases of Mr. Rankin and Mr. Scott. Mr. Rankin states that in "about half an hour he began to feel extraordinary sensations at the ends of