

December of the same year, nine months afterwards, the cess-pool of the house being emptied, the workmen found a putrid human body therein. It was immediately suspected to be the body of the missing servant-girl, and a judicial inspection was forthwith ordered. Dr. Caspar states that he had never seen a corpse in a higher degree of putrefaction, as might be supposed after nine months' maceration in human excrement. Even the hardened attendant of the dissecting-room experienced nausea from the indescribable stench which this corpse occasioned.

The skull, the lower jaw, the lower extremities, were for the most part denuded of their soft coverings; the ligaments of the joints were partly exposed; the external sexual organs were not recognisable; what soft parts remained were converted into greyish black shreds. To the question, put officially, whether it was not possible to ascertain the fact of pregnancy in this case, Dr. Caspar answered affirmatively, provided that the rudiments of a fœtus were discovered in the uterus. The abdomen was opened for this purpose. The muscles were found converted into adipocere, and the intestines were changed into a greasy mass, in which it was impossible to distinguish the parts or form. The uterus was of a bright red colour, hard to the feel and to the knife, of the virgin size, its form perfectly distinct and normal, its cavity empty, and corresponding to the virgin condition.

Although in this case nothing positive could be stated in reference to the cause of death, it could be affirmed in court that at the time of death the person was not pregnant, thereby removing the unjust suspicions which had been attached to her memory, and to the character of another respectable person, since the girl's disappearance.—*Caspar's Wochenschrift*.

*Trial for murder by poisoning with corrosive sublimate—Kilkenny Summer Assizes.*—[The subjoined case is of great interest in medical jurisprudence. The mode in which the medical evidence was given is highly creditable to the gentlemen engaged as witnesses for the prosecution.]

Michael Walsh was charged with the murder of Simon Power, a bailiff hold-

ing a distress warrant on his premises on the 30th August, 1849, by administering to him a deadly mercurial salt in whiskey. The prosecution was conducted by Messrs. Scott and Sausse; and the prisoner was defended by Messrs. Harris and Armstrong.

The general evidence for the prosecution established that the prisoner asked the deceased and a witness, Murphy, to take some whiskey. Murphy felt a pain in his stomach after swallowing about a tea-cupful, which was poured out for him by prisoner. In about *ten minutes* afterwards, prisoner called the deceased to him, and according to the evidence, the deceased must have taken a cup of whiskey, while alone with the prisoner.

In a few minutes, he became sick, and although able to walk home with Murphy, he was very ill. Murphy deposed that he did not perceive anything remarkable in the *taste* of the whiskey which he swallowed. The condition of the deceased (Power) is thus described by his daughter.

Anastasia Power examined—I am daughter of Simon Power; I remember his coming home from being keeping at the prisoner's; he came at six in the morning with James Murphy; he was vomiting; he went to bed; he continued very bad during the whole of that day; the vomiting continued until he died, in fifteen days afterwards; Dr. Boyd attended him a week after he was ill; he was often sick and vomiting during that week; he was not able for that week to go about his business: every bit of him was sore; his mouth was sore and scalding, and the flesh inside his mouth came away when he was spitting; I could pull out the flesh and it was black; his teeth were also black; the odour of his breath was most offensive; the water from his mouth was green and thick; it was often coloured bloody; he complained of pains cutting him in the bowels; and of pains in his head; before he died lumps of lard came from his stomach; the day he came home his cheeks were yellow: after some time his head and cheeks swelled up and became red; the middle of his tongue was white, and the borders red; he would start up when asleep and bawl as if in a fright; the first week his feet were warm and sore, and they got cold last week. *Cross-ex-*