

and they exonerate Dr. Gendreau from all blame." It has long ago ceased to be a mystery why the coroner did not order a *post-mortem*, as this gentleman for over half a century has possessed such almost autocratic power, that Montreal coroner's inquests have become the ridicule of the Province, and neither press nor people seem to protest.

Similar cases occurring under nitrous oxide gas, of which a few of the many are reported in the article on "Anæsthetics" in the "American System of Dentistry," may seem to justify such procedure; but where the reputation of a professional man is at stake, the public and the profession would have preferred something more scientific and reliable than the vague opinion of inexperienced jurymen, even when instigated by an "experienced" coroner.

Any question as to the purity of the anæsthetic was effectually disposed of. Dr. Bourdon, Examiner on Anæsthetics, of the Board of Examiners, of Quebec, and the President of the Board, shortly afterwards inhaled and tested the same cylinder, and carefully examined the apparatus used by Dr. Gendreau, and there could be no doubt that both the vapor and the apparatus were in good condition.

Moreover, to make assurance doubly sure, the same cylinder was obtained by the Editor of this Journal, and in conjunction with his associate, Dr. Bazin, it was used with remarkable success and most pleasant results in several cases.

What is Vegetable Vapor? Mr. Jas. F. Babcock, Analytical and Consulting Chemist, State Assayer and Inspector of Liquors, late Professor of Chemistry in Boston University and Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, made a chemical examination of one hundred gallons, and reported that he found it to consist of a basis of nitrous oxide, combined with the volatile active principles of several well-known vegetable anodynes and sedatives, which increase its efficiency, and that it is free from chloroform and any objectionable constituents. The ingredients used in its manufacture are prepared by well-known wholesale botanic druggists of Boston, who certify that it is free from chloroform, ether, "or other similar dangerous drugs." These herbs are hops, celery, motherwort, liquorice-root, and English valerian, dissolved in a solution of alcohol. They are sedative, antispasmodic and diaphoretic in their effect, and unquestionably produce a deeper, calmer and