

I should not infer poisoning by strychnine as there are other diseases which cause it. Clenching of the teeth is not a constant symptom although it generally exists during the spasms, once the spasm ceases the jaw resumes its laxity. There are many diseases which cause the same symptom. Poisoning by strychnine produces a contraction of the respiratory muscles respiration during the spasms becomes completely suspended and the difficulty of breathing increases with each succeeding attack: difficulty of breathing is not necessarily an indication of poisoning. In poisoning by strychnine the eye is prominent, but the pupil is not dilated. A very general symptom is a pain in the pit of the stomach, which is due to contraction of the diaphragm. Contraction of the extremities is not a certain indication of poisoning by strychnine as it is met with in other cases. In poisoning by strychnine, the poison is carried to the nervous centres, (the brain and spinal marrow) by the circulation, which takes from a minute to a minute and a half. The spasms generally last from one to two minutes: there are intervals between the spasms: there is a muscular trembling which resembles a shiver, before the spasm. The symptoms of poisoning by mushrooms do not resemble those of strychnism. I have read the symptoms of *trichina spiralis*: it is a disease caused by eating pork, infected with an animalcula of that name; convulsions are not a necessary symptom of death from that disease. The symptoms observed in deceased are not the same as those of angina pectoris though there are sometimes convulsions in this disease. My conclusions as to the cause of deceased's death are based upon all the symptoms manifested since the 22nd December. I understood the witnesses to say that in the last illness the head was convulsively thrown back, that the extremities were contracted, that a strong pressure on the thorax relieved the patient, that there was no loss of consciousness and that after the spasm the muscles resumed their usual state. That there was no delirium, that the patient complained of great pain in the epigastric region and of pain and weakness in the legs, that any noise caused him to start and that he was conscious of the approach of a fresh spasm and also predicted his approaching death. Angina pectoris caused by hydrothorax reveals itself suddenly and has the same effects as when caused by anything else with the exception that some symptoms of hydrothorax may be mingled with them. The chief characteristic of the disease is great pain behind the sternum. The symptoms you have just described might be caused by strychnism and might also be caused by Angina Pectoris with the exception of bending back of the body, which would I think sooner be bent forward. I cannot say that those symptoms cannot possibly belong to any other disease. They much resemble the symptoms described by the witnesses with the exception that some of them have not been mentioned. The irregularity of the pulse and the feeling of inexpressible agony were not mentioned by the witnesses: I heard them say that deceased was in pain and thought he was dying, but that is not what I should call inexpressible agony. I could not confound the symptoms described with those of angina pectoris, even supposing I had known nothing of the case before the trial. I know of no pathological lesions existing in the body of deceased. I find in the thorax lesions that may have been caused by death from asphyxia. The effusion of blood in the pleura may have been caused by death from asphyxia. In anasarca, after death, a quantity of serum escapes, and anasarca is an indication of chronic disease. Accord