

state; after this to corroborate, for many poisons resemble each other in appearance, it should be tested, physiologically. The physiological test, I consider as indispensable to enable you to draw a certain conclusion. Protein and other things contain the same elements as strychnine but with proportions that vary according to different authors. Prussic acid, which certainly had never been administered, has been discovered in Protein by means of reagents. A powder sprinkled on the outside might filter through any organ it was thrown on, but could not be passed from one to the other. From the symptoms described in the post mortem examination and chemical analysis, it is impossible to conclude, with any certainty, that Frs. X. Joutras was poisoned by strychnine. I have had no experience in chemical analysis—I never saw a case of poisoning by strychnine except on a dog—I never made a post mortem examination in such cases, nor have I seen the ante-mortem symptoms verified. I never made any chemical analysis of any sort. Strychnine has never been produced in protein by means of reagents. Gangrene may not have been far advanced on the 31st. An inflammation very soon develops itself, from the commencement of inflammation of the intestines up to the time of suppuration might take about eight days. The inflammation of the intestines to the acute stage could not have taken more than eight days. The congestion of the brain might be caused by the congestion of the lungs. Endocarditis is not a disease that places life in danger. The only way it could endanger it would be by preventing the heart from receiving the quantity of blood that was sent to it. This endocarditis must have existed for two or three months before his death. Hydrothorax may have been caused by the endocarditis. The disease of the liver and spleen may have been caused by congestion of the organs. The disease of the heart must have brought on congestion of the lungs. I have seen people, who died of gangrene of the stomach, walk about and smoke an hour previous to death, with their intestines in a state of putrefaction. A man that is attacked by it cannot live long. The degeneration, the ossification of the coronary arteries and the diseases of the valves of the heart are morbid symptoms of this disease. I consider the symptoms described by the witnesses, more compatible with angina pectoris than with poisoning by strychnine which leads me to say that they are incompatible with strychnism. I understand the symptoms of poisoning given by the witness. I think Flaudin and Taylor say that there are other matters, besides strychnine, which give the same series of colours.

DR. JEAN FRANCOIS REGIS EDELMAR ST. CYR.—States from the description of the symptoms, as given by the witnesses, from the reports of the autopsy and of the chemical analysis, I cannot as a doctor conclude that Frs. X. Joutras died from poisoning by strychnine. The symptoms in the last illness of deceased are no proof that death was caused by strychnine. The autopsy mentions organic lesions, more than sufficient to cause death. The series of colours is something, but I am of opinion that you cannot come to a definite and certain conclusion concerning the presence of strychnine unless you test it physiologically. The anatomical lesions mentioned in the autopsy might have produced nervous attacks and brought on angina pectoris. The "ensemble" of the symptoms described by the witnesses of Joutras' illness exist in angina pectoris. Angina Pectoris declares itself suddenly after an illness, that would leave in the body of the sufferer similar lesions to those mentioned as existing in Joutras'. In the symptoms descri-