

logists, judges, counsel or other specially educated people there may be more freedom in the use of technical terms.

In giving evidence before an ordinary jury, however, the simplest words and phrases must be employed, so as to appeal to the usual limited and commonplace intelligence and acquirements of such a body of men as is most frequently, gathered together.

The next function of the examiner is to deduce from the appearances he has described the cause of death, and to give as reasonable an opinion as his judgment and knowledge warrant, how the pathological conditions found were produced. Thus it is his office to state whether the cause of death is presumably natural, accidental, suicidal or homicidal. To quote familiar instances of sudden death, acute pneumonia may have ended fatally; or appearances may indicate that the fatal issue was caused by a gunshot wound, a knife thrust or any other deadly injury.

The following description of the procedure of an autopsy only applies to bodies examined before decomposition has set in to a marked extent, and does not apply to bodies which have been exhumed or are greatly putrified or consist of mutilated human remains. (These will be referred to later; and also the results of embalming fluids.)

The post-mortem examination is divided into two parts as relating to the external and internal aspects of the body.

First, a general inspection is made, and an outline given of the appearance and condition, such as "The body is that of an elderly man with greyish beard and hair, well nourished, surface pallid, rigor mortis present and there being some post-mortem lividity of the dependent parts," or "the body is that of a girl, apparently about 12 years old, of fair complexion, with brown hair. There is great emaciation of the corpse. The orbits hollow and the temporal fossæ much depressed, rigor mortis has passed off in the head and other extremities, but there is some stiffening of the knee and ankle joints. There is green discolouration of the lower part of the abdomen and considerable post-mortem hypostasis.