

met Dr. Marsden at the door. I had been *three or four minutes* in the house. Dr. Marsden examined Mr. Murney, and said *no time was to be lost, that he was very prostrate*; he ordered a stimulant, and the patient *immediately vomited*. From the symptoms I am of opinion that Mr. Murney *died from the effect of tincture digitalis*. I have heard the evidence of Dr. Marsden, and *I entirely concur in what he stated in relation to the post-mortem examination*.

George Goldstone, of Quebec, Esq., Physician and Surgeon, being sworn, says: * * * I was present at the post-mortem of Mr. Murney. *I concur entirely with Drs. Marsden and Moffatt as to the statement made by them of the highly inflamed state of the stomach*. I have heard the evidence, and I have formed the opinion decidedly that the death of Mr. Murney was caused by having accidentally taken a powerful dose of some *acro-narcotic vegetable poison*, but what poison I am not prepared to say; but I cannot bring my mind to believe that it was digitalis.

It must be apparent on reading the foregoing depositions, that this case is involved in some obscurity, which I will try to clear up.

The conduct of the attorney for the defendant was throughout most indiscreet and the evidence, as dictated by him, much distorted.

The word *tingling* was never made use of by any of the patients during their sickness, but was introduced for the first time at the inquest (during the cross-examination) by Mr. Campbell, who *put the word into Mr. Rankin's mouth*, and then into Mr. Scott's. "By numbness," said Mr. Campbell, "you mean tingling." Mr. Rankin explained that by "numbness" he meant a feeling of what is understood by a limb "going asleep." Exactly, said the attorney, and ordered "tingling" to be written down, which was accordingly added in the margin, but without Mr. Rankin's explanation; and on every use of the word numbness afterwards, tingling was uttered by the lawyer!

The design was evidently to break down the idea of digitalis having been the poison administered, and raise doubts in favour of aconite; and thus remove the suspicion of error from Ainsworth Sturton, to his unfortunate shop-boy. My only object was, and is, to get at the facts of this sad case, and I am honestly moved, both by humanity and science, to endeavour to add something to our imperfect store of pathological facts, from my own knowledge and experience.

Dr. Hall, in his hasty critique assumes, that aconite was the poison used, concluding his article on the subject in these words: "I think, in conclusion, that it will be conceded that the train of symptoms as revealed in the three cases, point to aconite as the poison really ingested." I think I shall have no difficulty in convincing him, or any unbiased person, that his deductions are erroneous, and this not only by the strongest circumstantial evidence but by the clearest positive testimony of the symptoms, in both the living and dead. That *aconite*