

On the 12th October, 1858, the Coroner, William Wagner, M. D., held at the Court house an inquest on the bodies of Anne Jordan and Sarah Jordan, who were reported to have died from poison. The identification of the bodies having been established, and a *post-mortem* examination performed; the following medical testimony was received:—

THE INQUEST.

Dr. Dickinson, deposed:—I was called to see, professionally, the deceased Anne and Sarah Jordan, on the evening of the 17th August last. I told Mr. S. Wood, who came for me, that, if I was likely to be detained long, I couldn't go, as I had to return to see a patient between six and seven the next morning. From Wood's description of the case, I supposed it to be *Hysteria*. I was not sent for to see the old woman. I found the young woman lying on the bed, insensible, making great efforts to vomit; retching violently; pulse 160, feeble and irregular. The pupils were dilated, but would contract with the approach of light. Breathing somewhat labored; no stertor; body cold and pale. I was told that she had taken nothing yet. My first impression was that the case was apoplexy, possibly; that is before I gave the case a thorough scrutinizing. I told the people what my impression was, at the time, before I had done anything, and I gave my reasons that it couldn't be apoplexy, and said she must have taken something into the stomach to produce the effects I saw. Acting upon the indication afforded by nature, I promoted vomiting by giving a gentle emetic. I would have given a Sulphate of Zinc, which is a very severe emetic, but I saw that a gentle one would answer. She swallowed it easily and vomited freely afterwards. The emetic I gave was Ipecacuanha wine. The matter vomited was *viscid, ropy, tenacious mucus*, mingled with, I suppose, what she had been eating, at first, but afterwards nothing but *mucus*. I was told what she had eaten was oatmeal porridge. The matter vomited had a pungent narcotic odor, a sickening smell, not acid, and was observed by those present, although in their evidence they are not conscious of it. I could compare this smell to nothing but Prussic acid, yet it was not that. I heard vomiting at the other end of the room while I was attending Sarah. I enquired who it was, and found Mrs. Jordan on the floor. I examined and spoke to her. She was also in a comatose state, but had sufficient consciousness to press my hand. I observed to those present, that the character of what she vomited was very similar to that of the other. I think oatmeal and milk did not produce the odor. At the time some one remarked that the odor from both was the same. I now remember that it was Mr. Barlow said so. The pulse of Anne was not so frequent as Sarah's. I