

advised, counselled the use of, or administered anything for the purpose of procuring abortion.

But it is the medical evidence on which we have to comment. What shall we say of the medical man who finds his patient suffering from pain in the stomach with shrunk features, expressive of severe illness, and pulse small of 150, with attempts at vomiting, and thinks that he recognizes the taste of ergot of rye and oil of savine, and the smell of fresh blood pervading the room, and leaves his patient without ascertaining that she has just been confined, and is at that time suffering from hæmorrhage. What could he suppose oil of savine and ergot of rye, supposing them present, were for, especially in the room of a young woman in bed with pain in the stomach.

Dr. D'Orsonnens, process of separating oil of savine is the most novel and unique process I have ever heard of, he puts the parts cut up into an evaporating basin and digests with hydrochloric acid, filters and evaporates the filtrate to dryness, and then tells us that oil of savine was in the residue. In cross-examination he states that oil of savine is a volatile oil obtained by distillation.

During the process of boiling and evaporation, he did not find the peculiar odour of oil of savine, which had it been present must have permeated the whole room, and been the very best proof of its presence, but finding no irritant poison of a metallic character, and no vegetable poison by any chemical test, he tries a physiological test on a frog.

The best test for the oil of savine is the smell, and unless that be noticed and to a marked degree, and distinctly defined on the application of heat, it can not be said to be present.

Physiological tests are admirable evidence of the presence of poison, either as adjuncts to chemical tests or (of themselves, where there are no chemical tests) to determine the presence of a poison. But the action of the poison on the system must be marked, as for instance strychnine, belladonna, morphia, or atropine, whose action is peculiar, and characteristic, but where the poison sought is like the present devoid of characteristic action, I must most emphatically state my disapproval of their use, especially where a man's life is in danger. In the case of oil of savine, the only effect as a poison, besides that of irritation, and which is peculiar, is the action on the genito urinary organs, and this action is common to camphor, pepper, and many other such substances, which are used in the common pain killer. I have yet to learn that a frog is peculiarly adapted for displaying any specific action on the genito urinary organs, and what the evidence of strangury in a frog is would be an interesting communication to the profession if the doctor