

It was pleaded in defence that Mr. Maybrick died from idiopathic gastro enteritis, that the presence of arsenic in his organs was due to the habit of dosing himself, and that the presence of the fly papers, arsenic, etc., was accounted for by their being intended for use as cosmetics by Mrs. Maybrick. This view, however, was not accepted by the jury.

Diarrhœa and tenesmus did not appear as early as might have been expected, and indeed only occurred three or four days before the end.

Arsenic is rather a favourite criminal poison, partly because it is so well known and can be readily administered, and partly because if the poison is spread over some time, suspicion may not be aroused and the illness may be considered a severe gastro-enteritis. The "Madeline Smith" case, which occurred in Edinburgh, and at which Sir Robert Christison gave scientific evidence, was such a one. More recently at Cork the wife of Dr. Cross, a retired army surgeon, suffered from great thirst and constant vomiting, as in the "Maybrick case," and died after two weeks illness. Her husband registered the cause of her death as typhoid fever. Subsequently, suspicion having been aroused the body was exhumed and examined, no ulcers of small intestine were found, but arsenic was discovered in the stomach and other organs, also some strychnine and there was no doubt that the unfortunate lady died from the effects of either of the poisons, probably arsenic, perhaps both, administered by her husband.

In the "Maybrick case" the package of arsenic was mixed with one-third, ($\frac{1}{3}$), of charcoal, and not with one-sixteenth, ($\frac{1}{16}$), part of its weight of soot, or the $\frac{1}{2}$ of indigo as laid down by law.

WE cordially endorse the action of the New Brunswick Medical Society in appointing a committee to confer with committees of the Nova Scotia and any other interested Medical Societies, upon the question of forming a Maritime Medical Association. This step has been much advocated in the past from reasons which are strong and permanent.

Instead of two Provincial meetings side by side, each sparsely attended, how much better would it be to have one society presenting greater interest and attracting a larger total attendance. The interest *would* be greater and the attendance we believe, undoubtedly larger.

The distances to be travelled would be but little increased to most and not at all to many. The Society as a scientific body would be more valuable

and more imposing than either Society alone; and we believe it is in accordance with a sound general principle to give greater recognition to the fact that we of the different provinces are of one country, like interests and common brotherhood. Space alone prevents us just now from presenting other inducements to the giving of this proposition a favourable reception. They are considerable, while we think there is little or nothing to be urged against it. We shall refer to the question again; meanwhile we would gladly receive expressions of opinion.

ANOTHER matter claiming the interest and attention of the N. S. Profession is the impecunious state of the Provincial Medical Board. The trouble is very evident and very real, namely insufficient sources of income.

The Board has many important duties to perform, though these duties are sometimes rendered impossible of performance through lack of funds. For instance, the prosecution of quacks and illegal practitioners entails considerable expenditure, and in matters of this kind the Board has incurred some indebtedness.

We think a simple remedy, and one which will be heartily approved by the Profession, would be the imposition of a small annual tax on all registered practitioners; say to the amount of \$1.00. This is done in other Provinces and States, in most cases, we understand, the tax being rather larger than that named, which, however, would probably be sufficient to meet the difficulty.

Reviews and Book Notices.

PHYSIOLOGY OF THE DOMESTIC ANIMALS.—A text book for Veterinary and Medical Students and Practitioners. By Robert Meade Smith, A. M., M. D. Professor of Comparative Physiology in the University of Pennsylvania, &c., &c. Price, cloth \$6.00, sheep \$6.75 net. F. A. Davis. This is a comprehensive volume of 921 pages, with over 400 illustrations.

In the first part of the book the author gives a very thorough, clear, and well written consideration to General Physiology.

The chapters on The Structure of Organized Bodies, Cellular Physics, and Cellular Chemistry form an admirable 'up to date' and well illustrated description of those subjects. The Physical and Chemical processes of cells are given more full and careful attention than is to be found in some much used text books of Human Physiology.

The second part of the book deals with special Physiology, and we may say at once contains in a very readable form what is know of the physiological functions and processes in the various domestic animals, and this knowledge is of greater extent on many points than is perhaps generally understood. But this is not surprising when it is remembered that it has been from observations of and experiments upon the domestic animals that much of our detailed knowledge of Human Physiology has been obtained.