

heart, and the heart loses its power. Bleeding causes death from syncope, or from necræmia. The heart loses its power from want of its natural stimulus—the blood. Death from syncope may occur in other ways—the heart may lose its contractile power from a blow over the heart or stomach, or from poisons, or from fright, or from derangement of the nervous system.

Asphyxia, or *Aphnæ*; access of air to the lungs is prevented; as in drowning, hanging, choking, and sometimes from tetanus; again, from coma. Death from coma begins in the brain—frequently from medicines. The symptoms are drowsiness or comatose condition.

BLOOD.

BLOOD is the great and important fluid of the body, and is carried through the system by means of a set of vessels; they are arteries, capillaries and veins. The heart is the great centre of the circulation. It is situated in the thoracic cavity, and acts as a force pump to send the blood through the system; but there is a power in the vessels of drawing blood to them to a certain extent, somewhat as the sap is drawn up in the tree. The arteries are vessels that convey blood from the heart to various parts of the body. They are so named from the former supposition that they contained only air, as they were always found empty after death. They differ, also, in structure from the veins, and do not collapse as the veins do. They possess contractility and elasticity, and their power of contraction is due to muscular tissue in their walls, which consists of contractile fibre, cells, which have the power of diminishing the calibre of the artery in which they are situated, and can either arrest partially or completely the flow of blood. The large vessels are especially elastic; they have both muscular and yellow elastic tissue. They convey the blood to all the tissues of the body, and when