

ART. XXXI.—*Death from Uterine Hemorrhage.* By W. MARSDEN, M.D., Governor of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Lower Canada.

(Continued.)

Dr. ROY re-examined.—Being predisposed to hemorrhage, violence would have accelerated deceased's death. The convulsions were those which ordinarily precede death. He saw the tongue lacerated after these convulsions were over. If spirituous liquors had been taken by deceased, previous to her death, there would have been some odor of them.

Dr. VINCENT MARTIN deposed, that he, together with Dr. ROY, made the postmortem examination of the body of the deceased. The external marks of violence upon it may have been caused by the blows of a fist or stick. The congestion of the pia mater could not have produced death so suddenly. There was slight congestion of the lungs on both sides, but not sufficient to cause death. There were some remains of food and fluid in the stomach, but no particular odour came from them. The uterus was the same as that of a woman who had had several children, and it was contracted to its ordinary size. He found nothing in the uterus when he opened it; in the neck of it there were remains of a portion of fluid. There were marks of considerable congestion in the right iliac region; the iliac vessels, though much bruised, were not divided. There was no extravasation in the cavity of the pelvis. He opened the bladder, and no urine escaped from it. He attempted to discover some arteries, from the rupture of which so great a quantity of blood escaped, but without success. The congestion in the right iliac region may have been caused by a blow or a fall. This congestion could have produced a great flux of blood. The hemorrhage was the cause of death. Considering the general condition of deceased, the bruises, &c., it would be difficult for him to say that deceased died from natural causes, and therefore it was that he was of opinion that she died from acts of violence. Had deceased been predisposed to hemorrhage, acts of violence would have accelerated her death.

Cross-examined.—The hemorrhage could have been produced by deceased's falling down stairs, though in such a case there would likely have been some excoriation or abrasion of the skin.

Dr. JOSEPH MCCRIN had heard the most of the medical evidence, and would say, from the facts sworn to by the medical men, that the deceased died from uterine hemorrhage. He had reason to believe that the hemorrhage had been caused by acts of violence or wilfulness. There was a predisposition to hemorrhage in deceased, and any violence might have increased it. He had never known a case where uterine hemorrhage, from natural causes, was fatal; violence, whilst such he-