

an extensive character ; so extensive that it could not by any possibility be mistaken. The stomach examined by Professor Croft, he tells us, was of a healthy character, with a slight blush, but without the least symptom of having been subject to an irritant poison for many weeks. I say many weeks, because we have, during all these weeks, the same symptoms exhibited day by day—exhibited to the last. Three weeks before the death of deceased, we have persistent vomiting, continuing from the time she was first ill to the day of her death. In not one instance has it been shown in cases of arsenical poisoning that the stomach has presented a healthy appearance, unless death has ensued in less than ten hours. I cannot find a single instance where the stomach did not offer a highly inflamed surface, and more frequently still of actual ulcers. But there is a supposition that the poison was taken the night before the death of deceased between eight and nine o'clock. I think the mother said a later time—and the death ensued about twenty-three hours afterwards. There is no case on record of a person falling into a state of *coma*, where the dose of arsenic has been less than ninety grains, and as in this case there was not a symptom of vomiting after the last administration, even allowing for elimination, there can be no question that, instead of eleven or twelve grains being found, there ought to have been fifty or sixty at least. This brings us to another supposition. The deceased was gone with child four or five months. She had been suffering from some irregularity, of a character certainly calculated to make any woman feel that there must have been something the matter with the neck of the womb. For weeks before she was taken ill, her mother spoke of it as being something unusual. This position was, as I will show to you, precisely that in which many women have been during pregnancy. There has been a constant vomiting, sometimes of a greenish liquid, sometimes of a blackish, attended with every one of the symptoms described by the witnesses. If, in addition to this, I show you that the effects of a fall—of the very least concussion of the brain may go on quietly until *coma* and death ensues, then I shall have made out a case, independent of other circumstances, that will entitle me to claim a verdict of acquittal for the prisoner. Mr. Cameron here read from “Churchill on the Diseases of Women.” It said, in effect, that nausea and vomiting might commence soon after conception, and be continued until gestation. The fluid vomited might be yellow, green, blue, or black, depending upon the condition of the mucous membrane. There was a case given in which, though the surface of the neck of the womb had a healthy appearance, when cut it was found to contain matter. Another case was mentioned, of a woman, four months pregnant, who died with symptoms exactly the same as those of the wife of the prisoner. True, there was no arsenic found in the stomach of any of those women, and therefore we have to meet the stand taken by the prosecution in this case. It would be observed that there were two schools of medicine—the Homœopathic and Allopathic. Homœopathy is not a system of infinitesimal doses, as has been generally supposed. Dr. Hempel repudiated the idea. It is a system based upon the maxim *similis similes*—upon the principle that those medicines which would produce the same kind of symptoms in a healthy body, that the body is suffering from, are most likely to effect a cure. There is no doubt, then, that according to this theory, the prisoner adopted the treatment which ought to be adopted. To say that there has been mal practice is one thing—to say that he has been guilty of murder is another. If the doses he administered were too large, he is guilty of mal practice but not of murder. But can this poison so administered have a cumulative effect? That effect is thus explained. A small dose of poison may be given, which though innocent in itself, yet by the idiosyncrasy of some particular body, this poison may cumulate in the system, and cause death—although the remedy was the particular