

hæmomometer, that in bodies immersed experimentally the blood in the heart had become diluted.

* Bougier found that in bodies immersed and afterwards frozen that ice crystals were found in the large and middle-sized bronchi, but not as a rule in the bronchioles.

The right heart may either be engorged with blood or completely empty, according to whether death occurs by asphyxia or syncope.

(f.) On the whole, the presence of a large amount of watery fluid (over 12 oz.) in the stomach is probably, next to actual froth in the bronchi, the most reliable of signs of drowning, as water does not tend to enter the stomach after death. My own material is too limited to permit me to express an opinion.

C.—Was Death the result of a Crime?

For the distinction between homicidal, suicidal and accidental drowning the medical testimony, apart from other evidence, cannot, as a rule, be very positive. It is impossible, for example, to tell whether the individual simply fell into the water, or was pushed in.

The direct medical evidence bearing upon this point would be the signs of a struggle, bruises, scratches, etc., and for this reason the hands and fingers must be examined with especial care.

In two of my cases (Nos. 93 and 94, drowned at the same time and place) such marks of violence were found. These consisted of numerous spots of ecchymosis on the arms and chest. The opinion given was that bruises had occurred before death, and that certain other lesions of the surface, abrasions and parchmentation had been produced after death, probably in the process of fishing out the bodies, but that the legal significance of the bruises could not be definitely stated without further knowledge of the circumstances of the death. It subsequently transpired that one of the victims, who could not swim, seized hold of the other, who struggled in vain to free himself, and when found the limbs of both were locked in a close embrace.

* H. Bougier. Thesis, Paris, 1881.