

possible cause of death, and such observations from the immediate surroundings have been completed, the post-mortem examination is of paramount importance and interest.

This examination should be as thorough as possible; no pains nor time begrudged. It should be observed that no pathologist ought to consider that one case requires more care or searching observation than another, because one may be requisite for judicial reasons, and another simply performed at the request of relatives or in the furtherance of pathological discovery. All autopsies, whether conducted by the Medical Examiner or Pathologist in a public or private capacity, should be done patiently, carefully, skillfully and completely. Nothing should be omitted which can contribute, however slightly, towards the identification of the person, and the determination of the exact condition of the remains, natural or otherwise, and the cause of death.

Of course it cannot be supposed that all practitioners can have the skill and knowledge which is acquired by the long practice of public officials in making post-mortem sections, but all can be deliberate and painstaking and so submit a report to which no reasonable exception can be made.

When supported by a careful record, and an accurate knowledge of the conditions found at the necropsy, the medical jurist need not fear criticism by his fellows, nor dread facing a judge and jury in testifying in court. "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might," is a text which should guide the medico-legal expert as well as every thoughtful professional man.

When the external examination of the corpse has been finished, it is the duty of the Medical Examiner to detail the facts in plain terms, such as will be equally understood by the profession and the laity, and are at the same time consistent with scientific accuracy; but he must not hesitate to use the proper anatomical term if requisite for precision and clearness; as he can readily give a further description if necessary, *e.g.*, epithelium, which has no definite equivalent term in English.

This rule applies both to the written report and to the verbal statement on the witness stand, though in the written report, which is especially for the information of patho-