

tongue-shaped and evidently the seat of tubercular deposit. The thyroid body was slightly increased in size, retaining however its natural form. Its texture was completely changed; it was of a cartilaginuous consistence; had a waxy feel, and was completely anæmic. It, in short, exhibited the appearances frequently observed as the result of struma. The spleen was in a state of hyperæmia.

ART. XVII.—*Medical Coroners.* By A. VON IFFLAND, M.D., Vice President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, C.E. &c., Grosse Isle.

The medical profession, however closely identified with the general interests and happiness of the people, has seldom met with that appreciation on the part of Governments, which its importance and usefulness to the social fabric, ought at all times to claim; I was therefore gratified to perceive by your excellent editorial in the August number of the *Medical Chronicle*, that so important a subject, as the necessity of selecting *Coroners* by our Provincial Government, from among the best educated and most respectable members of the medical profession, had also engaged your attention.

It is not my intention of taking a retrospective view of the numerous inquests, on cases of the highest interest and importance, which for many years have fallen under my immediate observation in Lower Canada, and which have sometimes evidenced, not only the most culpable ignorance on the part of Coroners, in guiding the investigation of juries, but have frequently resulted in impunity to crimes of the most flagrant character. And I need scarcely advert to the enormous expenses which have unnecessarily been incurred by the Province, by entrusting the attainment of the ends of justice, to men whose acquirements rendered them totally inadequate to the fulfilment of the office.

Have we not seen, in times of irresponsible Government, and perhaps since it has assumed a responsible character, lawyers, yet unqualified in the opinion of the members of that profession, to practice in the Court of Justice, (I make the *amende* to one of the late Coroners of Montreal, as a gentleman of high attainments, and now placed in a position to exercise them), appointed to the office of Coroner. It is surely inconsistent, if not absurd, to place such men in a situation where they are to become the expounders of science in its rarer, and more obscure bearings, and when it is often necessary to lay bare before a Jury all those difficult and abstruse subjects, on which, if not from his