

sat up in bed, put out the lamp which had been left burning by the bedside, and lay down again. Within ten minutes, he sat up, complained of feeling faint, and again lay down. His wife heard a slight rattling in his throat, upon which she got out of bed, struck a light, and found him dead.

*Post Mortem Examination*, thirty-one hours after death.—The body was well nourished; the flesh firm. There was a thick layer of fat. The expression of the face was very much altered. There were two linear depressed scars over the lower part of the sternum. The stomach was congested, especially at the cardiac end. The liver was healthy; the spleen and kidneys were congested. The sternum was carefully raised, without injury to the pericardium, which projected and seemed full and tense. The lungs were pale and normal. The pericardium was opened longitudinally, and about half a pint of serum escaped, leaving a teacupful of soft dark clot. The surfaces of the pericardium were healthy. The heart was removed entire; and a very considerable deposit of fat on the surface and in the grooves of the organ was noticed. On the wall of the left ventricle, near the anterior border, were three longitudinal fissures: the two upper and smaller ones extended through the pericardium and fatty layer only; the lowest and most anterior extended through the entire thickness of the wall, and measured rather over a quarter of an inch in length, and admitted a goose-quill easily. Internally, all the cavities were healthy, except the left ventricle; and all the valves appeared normal. The left ventricle was opened through, the septum of the ventricle, and was found to contain soft dark clots, interlaced with the chordæ tendinæ and columnæ carnæ. The clots were gently washed away by water; there was then seen several of the muscoli papillares, ruptured, and their free ends covered by slight clots; and, near the anterior border, a long ragged zigzag fissure, three-quarters of an inch in length, corresponding to the principal external rupture; its edges were also covered by small clots, but there was no continuous clot in the course of the wound. Several portions of the muscular substance were examined by the microscope, and were found to have undergone fatty degeneration.—*British Medical Journal*.

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