

tion of the so easily recognizable odour of potassium cyanide so many days after the death of the individual, recalled vividly to his mind his experiments upon dogs, undertaken in connection with the Hooper case, in which he found that the cyanide could readily be detected eleven days after death. At the same time he pointed out how peculiarly volatile is this poison, for within a few seconds, in fact, almost immediately after Dr. Wyatt Johnston had opened the bottles containing his specimens, he and those around him had no difficulty in recognizing the well-known odour. But he fully felt the force of what Dr. Johnston had said, namely, that those unaccustomed to the autopsy smell might easily, at a *post-mortem* examination, be overwhelmed by that smell, and fail to recognize or analyse the conjoined odour of potassium cyanide.

Dr. C. G. L. WOLF said that the tests for the detection of hydrocyanic acid at the *post-mortem* table were highly sensitive and at the same time easy of performance. There were two, the potassium sulphocyanide test, and the obtaining of Prussian blue. In the first test one allowed the gas escaping from the stomach on opening to impinge against a paper moistened with yellow ammonium sulphide. On driving off the excess of sulphide by gentle heat over a flame, and touching the spot with a dilute solution of ferric chloride, the splendid blood-red colour of ferric sulphocyanide appeared.

In the second a filter paper moistened with potassium hydrate solution was exposed to the gas, and then moistened with a solution of ferrous sulphate, by which one obtained potassium ferrocyanide. It was then treated with dilute hydrochloric acid and a solution of ferric chloride, when, if hydrocyanic acid was present, Prussian blue was formed.

It was interesting to note that in the sample of powder which had been examined, and which was probably part of the potassium cyanide used, no trace of hydrocyanic acid was found, as by the action of the air it had been changed to potassium carbonate.

The sample used in this case had been an ordinary impure cyanide, containing originally a large quantity of sodium cyanide.

Fracture of the Skull.

Dr. WYATT JOHNSTON showed a skull sent to him by Dr. Austin, of Sherbrooke, in which a fracture had been caused by a blow of the fist on the side of the head. Death occurred about twenty-four hours later from meningeal hæmorrhage. The case will be reported in full.

Dr. A. L. DEMARTIGNY referred to a similar case which had come under his notice. A beer drinker had been struck on the head with a bottle and fell down, but a few minutes later walked home, saying