

14th. A flat steel, stiff measure, 6 inches long, marked in centimetres on one side and 1-15 inches on the other. A tape measure, preferably of steel, 5 feet long.

Besides the instruments, the examiner should have sponges ; tow, oakum or other absorbent material ; a mackintosh apron and gloves. The objection to gloves is that they interfere with the touch in the more delicate operations, when it is desirable to have the hands and fingers free and unclothed ; besides this, gloves are liable to be easily cut or ruptured, and the hands may be soaking in poisonous fluids unperceived by the operator.

The usual procedure in making an autopsy is according to circumstances. In a medico-legal examination it is in proper order to open the skull and examine the brain before the other viscera are viewed, for the reason that if the blood is drained from the large veins, the appearance of the brain and its membranes externally, and the aspect shown by incisions of the interior are very materially altered. In many cases it is important to begin with this examination even where there is not much doubt as to the cause of death and the post mortem is made for some pathological reason, but as a rule, in private or hospital practice, the process begins with that part supposed to be affected and afterwards the other regions investigated. As these directions are to apply both to public, official and medico-legal duties, and to such researches as may come in the way of any physician, whether attached to a hospital or in private practice, the different methods of carrying on the autopsy must be described. For instance, in a case of pneumonia the thorax is first explored, and afterwards the other organs may be examined, or, in a case of meningitis, the head and brain first examined and then the body ; or, in a case of suspected criminal abortion, the abdomen and pelvis are taken into consideration before the head and thorax ; but in any thorough autopsy all organs must be viewed, dissected and described, whatever the course of the examination may be. The procedure in each of these conditions will be fully considered, and illustrated cases related in detail.

It should be stated in this connection that though the