

least three-fourths of those absurd and inconsistent deductions on this head which so often make the findings of coroners' juries the laughing-stock of the public. The practice of allowing juries to decide that an autopsy is unnecessary is most injudicious, as, later on, facts may come to light which give a new aspect to the case, and unless an autopsy is made a few hours after death the results obtained are usually unreliable and worthless. The Department should clearly understand that a jury is not in a position to decide that an autopsy is unnecessary, and it is far wiser to make ten autopsies which might be dispensed with than to omit one which should have been done.

By employing a specially qualified expert as coroner's physician, as recommended in the memorial of the Medico-Chirurgical Society, the Government would be adopting a practice which has now become universal in large cities in nearly all civilized countries, particularly in France, Germany and the United States, and one which has hitherto given most satisfactory results.

A matter which is worthy of mention in this connection is that our statutes regarding the holding of inquests give no instructions as to the technique of autopsies. In France and Germany the directions on this head are made so clear and explicit that without wilful negligence it is almost impossible for an intelligent physician to make a serious error in procedure or to omit any point of great importance.

We hope that while dealing with this question the Government will prepare a statute by which the duties of the physician in doing autopsies shall be explained with the same care and precision as in France and Germany. By having an authorized system of technique to guide them, the physicians called upon to perform autopsies would be in a position to do better work.

RESOLUTION REGARDING CORONER'S PHYSICIAN.

On Wednesday, the 8th inst., a deputation representing the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal waited upon the Attorney-General of the Province of Quebec and presented