

In several instances the skin over the knees was white and wrinkled.

*B—Did Death result from Drowning?*

The distinction between drowning (submersion) and the entrance of a dead body into the water (immersion), I found to be easy to decide in some cases, and difficult or impossible in others.

It may be well here to mention briefly the signs of drowning.

The signs of immersion given above only show that the body has remained for a certain period. In addition to this, certain appearances indicate that the body entered the water alive.

(1) *External Signs of Drowning.*—The only direct and reliable sign is that of a very abundant, fine, white froth which issues from the mouth and nostrils of drowned for a period of a few hours until two or three days after death. This is not well marked until some hours after death and disappears by the time the maceration changes have become advanced, or when putrefaction has fully set in. This foam was found present in 5 of my cases and absent in 17. It is not absolutely characteristic of drowning as I have seen it in two cases of cerebral hæmorrhage, and one of which was spontaneous (case 66), and the other traumatic (case 48), and is of value chiefly in indicating that death has been due to asphyxia. A reddish, frothy fluid, oozing from the mouth and nose of bodies partly decomposed, is no evidence of drowning.

The skin of drowned bodies is blanched.

Ecchymosis of the skin and conjunctivæ, common signs of asphyxia, were not met with in any of my cases of drowning, an observation in accordance with the statements of text-books.

Seminal emissions were twice observed. When not emphysematous, the penis and scrotum were usually shrunken.

The presence of mud, tufts of grass, etc., about the fingers and nails, which is supposed to indicate struggling near a bank, was only met with in one case (No. 61).

(2) *Internal Signs of Drowning.*—These are : (a) *Respiratory tract.*—The epiglottis is stated to be vertical in bodies