

pecuniary difficulties, and, under the wills of Percy John's parents and the marriage settlement of his own wife, he had an interest in the death of his brother-in-law. 2. Again, he was proved not only to have been in possession of aconite at the time of Percy John's death, but to have purchased it so recently as November 24, 1881. 3. Aconite was shown with a fair degree of conclusiveness to have been the cause of death—(a) Suicide was out of the question. The murdered boy was in excellent spirits both before and immediately after*the administration of the fatal dose. (b) Accident—a more plausible theory—was disproved. There was some suggestion that Percy John posed in the school as 'the swell pill taker,' and that he might have been experimenting with some of the drugs in the chemistry lecture rooms. But unfortunately aconitia was not among the number of these drugs. (c) The hypothesis of death by disease was also disposed of. The deceased enjoyed good health, and there were no morbid appearances to account for his death. (d) The positive evidence of death by aconitia was strong. The symptoms spoke of aconite, the appearances indicated the presence of some irritant poison, and the chemical analysis all but identified it. Dr. Stevenson experimented with an extract from Percy John's stomach on several mice, and they died with all the symptoms and *post-mortem* results of poisoning by aconite. Similar evidence contributed to the conviction of Dove in 1855. 4. Lamson had assiduously surrounded himself with the murderer's tangled web of deceit. He told a friend that he had been at Blenheim House on the evening of December 2, and had seen his brother-in-law, who was very ill and would not live long. This statement, in so far as it consisted of assertion, was wholly false, and in so far as it consisted of prophecy was highly suspicious. Again, he informed the same friend that Mr. Bedbrook, who was the director of one of the continental lines, had advised him not to go to Paris on the night of the 2nd, as there was a bad boat on the service. Mr. Bedbrook

* On returning to the dining-room, after seeing Lamson depart, Mr. Bedbrook found him reading the papers.

had not seen Lamson on the 2nd, and had not, therefore, said anything of the kind. Nearly all the chief murderers of modern times—Palmer, Pritchard, Wainwright, Chantrelle, and a score of others—clinched their fate by similar falsehoods. 'Quem Deus vult perdere, prius dementat.'

The so-called 'evidence' of Lamson's insanity was both obnoxious to the criticism which *ex post facto* testimony of this description naturally arouses and contemptible in itself.—*Law Journal* (London).

FALSE TRADE NAME ON PIANO FORTE.

At Marlborough Street, on May 23, Messrs. Anthony & Alphonse Tooth, auctioneers, of Oxenham's Salerooms, Oxford Street, appeared before Mr. Newton to an adjourned summons taken out by Henry W. Berridge, a clerk to Mr. Carl Bechstein, a pianoforte manufacturer, of Wigmore Street and Berlin, for having in their possession for sale a pianoforte to which a false trade description had been applied. The evidence previously given showed that Messrs. Tooth published a catalogue of a sale to take place on May 1, in which was an entry of a piano by 'C. H. Bachstein.' Mr. Berridge saw the piano, and found on the fall the words 'C. H. Bachstein, Hof Pianoforte Fabrik' (Court Piano Factory). As Mr. Bechstein claimed to be piano manufacturer to the German Court, he considered that the public might be led by those words to believe that the piano was made at his factory in Berlin. Messrs. Tooth, in defence, declared that they merely had the piano sent to them to sell in the ordinary way, and that they had no desire to do injury to any firm. Moreover, it was mentioned that, directly Mr. Bechstein made complaint, Messrs. Tooth withdrew the piano from the sale. Mr. Anthony Tooth now deposed that he received the piano complained of from Mr. Walter Watson, of Euston Road. The catalogues were made up by his clerks, who could only take the descriptions from the goods as they found them. Evidence was then taken in support of another summons respecting a piano bearing the name of Schiedmayer which, it was