

Another point worthy of consideration in this case is, that the fractures did not run along the base either in the original case or in the experimental fractures. Now it is well known that the most delicate test of violence acting on the cranium from without is the production of a fracture at the base, the force being concentrated there by means of what we are in the habit of calling *contre coup*. Fractures at the base uniformly occur as the result of a blow on the vertex too weak to fracture the bones of the cranial vault, and I have never examined a case of extensive fracture of the skull from external violence without having found likewise fracture of the base.

In addition to the direct and indirect evidence in favour of the violence acting from within rather than from without in the case of Clay, I cannot conceive how such extensive injury of the bones could have been brought about by external violence without leaving traces of injury to the scalp.

The assumption that two separate acts of violence were needed to produce the injuries found in Clay's body seems unnecessary.

As already stated, my reason for reporting the case at such length was the absence of records of similar cases from medical literature. The opinion given at the first autopsy that two separate modes of injury had occurred, though to my mind quite erroneous and "far-fetched," could best be controverted by experimental evidence.

Anyone trusting to the information given in textbooks would be completely at fault to find any precedent for assuming that the gunshot had produced all the injuries.

I may also correct a misleading statement current in medico-legal textbooks to the effect that fractures and lacerations unattended by hemorrhage have necessarily been produced post-mortem. It was shown by Arnold Paltauf of Vienna, now three years ago (*Wiener klin. Wochenschr.*, No. 37, 1889), that extensive fractures of the skull, ribs and other bones, and even rupture of the liver, may be unaccompanied by any hemorrhage even when the patients live for several hours after the injury,