

should assume in giving evidence in courts of justice, on subjects connected with medical jurisprudence, that I have presumed to quote it:—“*Lorsque la justice demande des lumières de la médecine, les explications de cel-ci doivent être aussi complètes que possible. Un expert doit donc dire tout ce que la conscience lui inspire, quand ses observations sont d’ailleurs le résultat de l’examen attentif, qu’il a fait du sujet sur lequel on demande son opinion. Il est de son devoir de dire alors tout ce qu’il croit de nature à favoriser la découverte de la vérité: il aurait tort de borner ses réponses aux questions qui lui sont posées, s’il ne peut exprimer de la sorte toute sa pensée.*”

---

ART. XXXI.—*Case of Saturnine Ptyalism.* By H. HILL, M. R. C. S. L., Bytown, C. W.

THE following instance of a peculiar idiosyncrasy, or susceptibility of the constitution, to the effects of lead on the salivary apparatus, may prove interesting to the pharmacist as well as to the toxicologist. During the past spring, I was in attendance on a lady who was threatened with miscarriage about the eighth week of pregnancy, the symptoms were very slight at first, being confined to the smallest possible appearance of hæmorrhage, unattended with any pain or sense of weight in the pelvic region; it consequently was thought, that by enjoying perfect rest in the horizontal position with the use of sulphuric acid and opium, that all unpleasant consequences would be avoided. After having kept the patient in bed for a fortnight, during which time there were occasionally the very slightest marks of hæmorrhage, one morning the sign of abortion became too evident to be any longer mistaken, or the expectation of its recurrence to be further delayed; after a few hours the ovum became detached and came away, with considerable flooding at the time, and continuing for days and weeks afterwards. It was soon after the continuation of the hæmorrhage that I commenced to administer the acetate of lead in five grain doses with ergot of rye, about every four hours; its effect on the flooding was marked, the discharge became decidedly lessened, but on the third day all the symptoms of mercurial salivation were evident, the gums were much swollen, the buccal and labial glands elevated and raised, the sublingual and submaxillary glands enlarged and painful, whilst the saliva was pouring from the mouth, possessing the characteristic fœtor of ptyalism. I should have sought the explanation of these phenomena in an accidental admixture of Calomel or Corrosive Sublimate