

among the members of the profession, by a denunciation and exposure of all attempts at violation of its ethical rules. It was with this object, and this object only in view, that we gave insertion to Dr. Smythe's letter in our last number, and we took care at the time, in expressing the opinion asked of us, to do so in a qualified manner,—well satisfied that there are always two sides to a question. Having perused Dr Smythe's and Dr Edmondson's correspondence, but one conclusion can be arrived at, and it is plainly this:—that Dr Edmondson being the professional attendant on Mr Harrison's family, a position which he occupied "for more than twenty years," and that gentleman having been sent for, it was obviously Dr Smythe's duty to have retired from the case on his arrival, unless specially requested by Dr Edmondson to remain. The question of ethics—the only one in which the Profession is interested,—being thus determined, the case must rest here, as far as this journal is concerned.—*Ed B.A.J.*

#### CORONER'S INQUEST, ON THE BODY OF THE LATE ASA DAVIS.

An inquest was held at Stephenson's hotel, in East Oxford, on Tuesday last, before Dr. Patterson, Coroner, on view of the body of Asa Davis, a person who had been employed as foreman in the Eastwood Steam Saw-Mill, and who came to his death in consequence of a puncture, received from a nail, in the sole of his foot. Mr. Davis did not die immediately after having trod upon the fatal nail; and owing to this circumstance, an inquest would have been rendered altogether unnecessary, had not reports been freely circulated to the effect that the deceased received improper treatment from Dr. Turquand, who, as will be seen from the subjoined testimony, was only called upon to visit the deceased when all hope of saving his life had vanished. Dr. Turquand stated that, in order to vindicate his professional character from the foul aspersions which had been cast upon it, he was compelled to call for an investigation of the matter, but that he disclaimed any intention of injuring Mr. Scott, or of prosecuting the matter further than was absolutely necessary for self-defence.

The deceased was attended, from the time that he met with the accident, up to Dr.

Turquand's first visit, by Mr. Scott, of Burford, who, although not a licensed practitioner, appears to have enjoyed the confidence of the people in his neighborhood for many years, and whose errors of judgment, or mal-practice, seem to have been invariably smoothed over with the soothing apology that "he had done as well as he could."

Mrs. A. Lusted sworn: Saw deceased on Saturday last, being the first time since the accident; heard that he had not previously enjoyed good health; his mother told her so; heard that he had been spitting blood, and that he was rather delicate for four years; never heard deceased say so himself.

Nathan Davis sworn: Is brother to the deceased, who was thirty-three years old or thereabouts when he died; heard that he had been occasionally spitting blood before the accident; had no cough, and performed his work at the mill for the last year without complaining of illness.

Mr. Scott sworn: Is not a medical licentiate; does not know when the accident occurred to the deceased; he had been in a delicate state of health this summer: does not know anything of the time he began to attend him, but could find out by his books; treated him according to the best of his knowledge and belief. (Here the witness declined to answer any further questions, and said that the Coroner might commit him to gaol if he pleased. By a little coaxing, however, he resumed.) Repeated his former answers; complained of the ill-will of the regular physicians towards him, and the language they had used respecting his practice; could not describe the state in which he first found the deceased; his memory did not serve him; thinks deceased was labouring under nervous excitement; would not swear that it was so; thinks he appeared to be rather low; felt his pulse; does not know the number of beats in a minute; it was quick and low; did not appear to be compressed, and was not wiry; skin cool and moist; face not flushed. Deceased had not constant pain in the wounded foot; there was very little swelling; he was a little thirsty, and rather sick at the stomach; thinks he administered a portion of calomel and rhubarb, and afterwards a saline mixture; applied a cooling lotion to the foot; does not know positively, but thinks it was poulticed the next day. Second visit—thinks the patient was better; pain still continued; applied a poultice, as the lotion did not seem to have answered the purpose; cannot recollect his treatment of deceased during that day. When the fever rose he bled him; after some days bled him again, but not so freely as at first, because he saw, when the vein was opened, that it was going to be injurious; deceased was in bed when he was bled; does not know whether he was lying on his back or side at the time; thinks he was propped up