

or longer, the shortest known to Sir Benjamin Brodie was twelve hours. And it is not countenanced by the relicts found in the spinal canal. As, therefore, the case was not one of tetanus, the only alternative left is, that it was one of poisoning by strychnia. Why, then, was not this substance detected? The previous vomiting had been caused by antimony, and traces of this were obvious. Why should there not have been equal demonstration of strychnine, had it been administered? The answer, perhaps, is not easy. It was said strychnine is indestructible, not affected by putrefaction, and discoverable by proper analysis. So it is. But in this case, according to Taylor, the original dose was small, and it had been absorbed from the stomach. It ought then to have been found in the blood or tissues. Here, however, the delicacy of the tests applies even more strongly than before; the diffusion was greater, and the amount in an individual portion very exiguous. The witness appealed to experiments on animals; he had poisoned four rabbits, in two where one grain and one and a half grains had been given, no poison was detected, in one where one grain a bitter taste was experienced, and in one which had taken two grains the color test was positive. In direct contradiction, Mr Nunneley replied, that he had experimented in fifteen cases, and had always found it in the stomach. And to do away with any objection, on the score of dilution, Mr. Herapath testified, that he had dissolved two grains in a gallon of water, or 1 part in 70,000 parts, and from 1-10th part of a drop of water had recognised the poison. Nevertheless, we believe the non-detection is intelligible. We cannot think Mr. Taylor exhibited any ignorance or awkwardness in his analysis; nor can we deny the extreme delicacy contended for in the defence. But we are of opinion that the portion experimented upon, contained a really less quantity, than that which limits the test, for the contents of the stomach were extravasated, the organ was opened at Rugeley, and then sent to London; a large portion was consumed in obtaining antimony, which mainly absorbed attention at the time of the analysis; and a great bulk of the residue was lost in searching for *seven* other poisons which had never been used; thus leaving, we believe, too small a remainder in which strychnia could be recognized.

---

*Professor of Anatomy. McGill College.*—The vacancy left by the resignation of Dr. Bruneau, has been filled by the appointment thereto of Dr. Scott. Dr. B. has for a long series of years discharged his duties in a distinguished manner having obtained a high name for the anatomical chair in McGill College, and always secured the undivided popu-