

diameter, the condition of the edges, if darkened or bruised, etc., is to be recorded. Then all dislocations, fractures, deformities, abnormal processes of bone and other conditions of the skeleton which may aid in the research, must be discovered and described, and afterwards compared with the internal appearances.

Scars, tattoo marks, impressions made by rings on fingers, garters on the legs, or by ligatures round any part, as for instance circular or oblique marks around the neck, made apparently by rope, string or other material, or round the limbs or trunk, should be noted. Sometimes it is important to decide whether such a mark has been made post mortem or ante-mortem, as in the case of a murdered person being hung after death, or a cord tied around a body for the purpose of carriage.

In the decision between ecchymosis and hypostasis this point is also of importance: that pressure will cause the removal of blood from a hypostasis and not from an ecchymosis; and the marks made by a ligature applied after death would not present the same appearance either upon the skin or in the deeper structures as if the parts had been involved before death.

Perhaps this can be better explained by an example. If the throat has been compressed and death caused by hanging or strangulation, not only will the mark made by the cord show signs of ecchymosis, but the larynx, vessels and other structures beneath the skin will also be torn or show extravasation of blood; whereas, if the cord is placed after death, though there may be a depressed mark, there would be neither ecchymosis of the skin nor injury to the deeper tissues caused by that pressure alone.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION OR SECTIO CADAVERIS.

The instruments for use in the autopsy should always be kept scrupulously clean and in good order. The knives, scissors and all the tools should be carefully selected; the knives should be sharp, well balanced and made of the best steel; the scissors should have a strong reliable point, the blades keen and the handle well fitted to the fingers. A saw must be chosen which has a good firm resistance to the back.