

an accidental circumstance in the illness of the deceased not connected with the cause of death. Ulceration of the stomach produces vomiting; but there was no ulceration in this case. And when I saw antimony throughout the whole system and no ulceration, I came to no other conclusion than that she died from antimony. In the stomach there was found from three-fourths of a grain to a grain of tartar emetic, and in the rectum probably a grain. I was satisfied that the deceased was saturated with antimony. I have frequently found antimony in the dead; but I never found so much in absorption. What I have described in my book relates to the administration of antimony in acute doses. This is no such case. This is the case of the administration of antimony in small doses. The antimony was given in this case in small doses—medicinal doses probably—but certainly small doses. Had it been administered in large doses, my belief is that it would have produced the symptoms which are described in my book. There was not sufficient arsenic in the system to account for death. Dr. Rees and myself examined some antimony, and, as is mostly the case in commercial antimony, we found arsenic there. If antimony should be taken during life, and the system becomes saturated by it, it would require fourteen or fifteen days to get rid of it.

Dr. GEORGE OWEN REES. I assisted Dr. Taylor in making the analysis described by him, and also the state of the organs. I have heard the evidence given by him, and I fully concur in it. I am of the same opinion as to the cause of death.

Dr. KNIGHT re-examined.—My opinion as to the cause of the death of Anne Palmer has been considerably modified and altered since I have heard the opinions of Drs. Taylor and Rees; and I am inclined to think that I must have been mistaken in the opinion which I gave yesterday, under the circumstances stated to me on my visit to the deceased Mrs. Palmer; and I tend to the belief that the opinion given by those gentlemen to-day described the true cause of death. During my examination of the deceased, in her illness, I did not suspect poison. Having heard the descriptions of the symptoms of poisoning from antimony, I still say that I did not on that visit perceive symptoms of poisoning described as resulting from the taking of antimony. Yet I now believe that at that time the deceased was suffering from the effects of antimony. Mr. Palmer did not tell me what medicine, if any, he had prescribed before Dr. Bamford was called in; at least, I don't recollect that he did. There is nothing inconsistent with Mrs. Palmer having died from vomiting, from natural causes. The vomiting might have been produced by a bilious attack, and exhaustion produced by that been followed by death. But from the appearance of the viscera, my opinion is that vomiting was not the cause of death.

By Mr. Deane.—There was not fever in the deceased when I saw her; and tartar emetic was certainly not a proper medicine to administer to her.

BENJAMIN MILLER. I am a surgeon, living at Barton-under-Needwood. I knew the deceased Anne Palmer. I was formerly in practice at Rugeley. I examined Mrs. Palmer for the purposes of life assurance in January or February 1854. I examined her four or five times. These examinations were two for the Scottish Equitable Office, and two or three for other offices. The first two referred to one assurance. The Rock, the Atlas, and the Liverpool Life Assurance Associations, were the other societies for which I examined Mrs. Palmer. I am not certain whether I examined her for the Norwich Union Office. I believe those examinations were shortly before her confinement. I found her to be of perfectly sound constitution. I saw her for the Scottish Equitable Office shortly after her confinement, in consequence of a communication I received from the office. I was requested by Mr. W. Palmer to give a certificate of Mrs. Palmer's health after her confinement, and after I had received the communication from the Scottish Equitable Office. Mr. Palmer gave me as a reason that I had seen her so recently on the part of other offices, that he did not think it requisite, and that she would be alarmed.

All the proposals were afterwards given to the coroner, and read by him. The following are the particulars:—The Scottish Equitable Office accepted, on the 2nd of February 1854, a proposal upon the deceased's life for £5,000, made by her husband. The New Equitable, £3,000, accepted on the 8th of December 1853, on the proposal of the accused upon the life of his deceased wife. A proposal to the Scottish Amicable for £3,000, made by the same upon the life of the same, declined on January 3rd, 1854. The amount named in this case was, by mistake, £300 only, and it was declined till after the confinement of Mrs. Palmer. It was afterwards accepted, and again

rejected by this office upon the discovery of the mistake. Two other proposals were made and accepted, dated January 17th and 19th in the above year.

THOMAS LOMAX. I am a surgeon, living at Stafford. Early in the year 1854, I examined Mrs. Palmer on account of the Medical General Legal Life Office, the New Equitable Life Office, and the Kent Mutual. There was a fourth, but I am not quite distinct upon that.

Mr. H. M. Wakley, managing director of the New Equitable Life Office; Mr. John Goddard, actuary to the Rock Assurance Society; Mr. T. M. Strawbridge, manager of the Rugeley Provincial Bank, and the agent of the Scottish Equitable Office; Mr. A. B. Butterfield, secretary to the Sun Life Assurance Society; and Mr. J. E. G. Kosh, secretary to the Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society—all testified as to proposals having been made to their respective offices by Palmer to effect insurances on the life of his wife.

The CORONER said that he should not read that portion of the evidence which did not immediately relate to the question into which the jury had to inquire. Their object was the inquiry into the death of the deceased Anne Palmer. In coming to that conclusion, he must remark that any statements which had been made in the public prints respecting this matter should not be allowed to influence their minds. He must also remark that, although there were other cases pending, they had to consider only this one, and should dismiss from their minds any knowledge which they might have respecting others. The principal points they would have to consider were—first, the cause of death; secondly, if the cause of death was poison; thirdly, they must consider by whom that poison was administered, if at all administered—whether it was taken accidentally, or whether it was given deliberately. And then, having satisfied themselves upon this point, it would be for them to say under what circumstances it was so administered.

At the conclusion of his remarks, at about ten minutes past six o'clock, the jury retired to consider their verdict.

Upon the return of the jury, after an absence of twenty minutes,

The Foreman said:

"We find that Anne Palmer died from the effects of tartarised antimony, and that that was designedly administered by her husband, William Palmer."

The Coroner.—What do you mean by its being "designedly" administered?

The Foreman.—We mean, that it was designedly administered for the purpose of destroying life.

The Coroner.—That, gentlemen, is a verdict of WILFUL MURDER?

The Foreman.—That is our verdict.

HARVEIAN SOCIETY. The following officebearers have been elected for the ensuing year:—*President*: Francis H. Ramsbotham, M.D. *Vice-Presidents*: W. J. Anderson, Esq.; Alexander Ure, Esq.; Handfield Jones, M.B., F.R.S. *Treasurer*: Joseph Ridge, M.D. *Honorary Secretaries*: W. S. Britton, Esq.; Edward Hart Vinen, M.D. *Council*: H. Borham, Esq.; W. F. Cleveland, Esq.; Weedon Cooke, Esq.; H. Greenhow, M.D.; J. E. Pollock, M.D.; E. H. Sieveking, M.D.; H. Spencer Smith, Esq.; George Webster, Esq.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

LETTERS and other COMMUNICATIONS for the JOURNAL should be directed to the private address of the Editor, 39, Curzon Street, May Fair.

TO CONTRIBUTORS. The Editor would feel glad if Members of the Association and others, would cooperate with him in establishing as a rule, that in future no paper for publication shall exceed two pages of the Journal in length. If the writers of long communications knew as well as the Editor does, that lengthy papers *always* deter the reader from commencing them, this great evil would never arise. Brevity is the soul of medical writing—still more than of wit.

Members should remember that corrections for the current week's JOURNAL should not arrive later than Wednesday.

Communications have been received from Mr. T. W. NUNN, Mr. JAMES CRANG, Mr. J. Z. LAURENCE, Dr. RADFORD, Dr. JOHN LKELL, Mr. JOSEPH MOORE, Dr. H. T. WHYTEHEAD (Crayke), Mr. C. M. THOMPSON, Mr. J. A. HINGESTON, Mr. J. P. CAYLOW, Dr. BUDE (Bristol), Mr. FRANK CLARKE, Mr. HUMPHREY, Mr. GRIFFIN, M.D., M.R.C.S., Mr. NICHOLAS, Mr. WATSON, Mr. J. V. SOLOMON, Mr. G. M. STANFIELD (Bristol), Dr. SYKES, Mr. WILLIAM SCOTT.