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WHOLE NO. 2010.

## Trial of Rollin A. Leet, FOR ADMINISTERING POISON!!

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, TRUMBULL COUNTY.—State of Ohio vs. Rollin A. Leet, for Poisoning. March 20th, 1855.

The case was opened by reading of the indictment by D. D. Belden, Prosecuting Attorney, who first read the statute concerning poisoning.

### TESTIMONY FOR THE PROSECUTION.

**Smith Scovill, (sworn).**—I used to be acquainted with Elsie A. Leet; I saw her last in health the day before she died, before sun down; I saw her at the center of Vienna; she was at my store; she was buying some few goods; she appeared to be as well as I ever saw her; it was about half past four o'clock in the afternoon of the 7th day of December last. (No cross examination.)

**Henry Leet.**—I am acquainted with the defendant; I was north of the center one day when his father was there, when he was getting better after he had been sick; I said to him, (the defendant,) his father would like to see him before he went away; he would not go in; he said he did not wish his father any harm, but he did not wish to see his face; I cannot recollect the time; it was when his father was up north after he had been sick, and was getting better; he said he was going to Cleveland; he did not know what he would go at, and said he meant to go in business in Cleveland. I do not know whether he went; he went away, and told me after he came back that he had been there; he did not go in to see his father; he was gone to Cleveland two or three days and did not succeed in getting business; we were in the road in front of the house where I live at; Mr. Leet was north about half a mile from home; he did not seem to want to see his father; I had no business there, but went up with him thinking he would go in and see his father; he was saying he was thinking of going away; I said he had better go up and see his father, but he did not seem to want to go in; I got him into the buggy and drove up there, but he would not go in, and said he did not wish him any harm, but he would not go in; he had hold of the lines; we came back again; I told him one time that I thought if he would stay at home, his father would do well by him; he did not seem to think he was well used; I told him at the time his father was sick, if he would stay at home, and not be going evenings so much, folks would think better of him; he said he was not gone so much as folks thought he was; I told him if he would stay at home and go to work, his father would do well by him; he said he had tried it, and his father had promised him what he would do, but he said, it makes no difference after all for his father would not do what was right; I know I have seen him some at Shannon's I never saw him there very frequently, for I have never been where I have had a chance to; I have seen him there occasionally; that is the most I know about it, except that I have seen some intimacy between him and Shannon; I once overtook Shannon in the road, when Rollin was with me, and he got in and talked with Rollin and me; he rode down with me, and stayed there a while, and had some talk with Rollin. No cross examination.

**Dr. Milton Moore.**—I reside at Vienna Center; I practice medicine; I have practiced about four years; I was called upon on the 7th day of December last, to visit Elsie Leet, at Vienna; I saw her about 5 o'clock previous to being called to see her; I had been at Saml Scovill's store, and met her on the store step; I had been acquainted with her about two years; I had some conversation at the store; her little sister was with her; I said, how do you do, Elsie? She smiled and said, I am well, quite well, or I should not be here; I should think I never knew her health better; I think I was called to visit her about half past six o'clock; I went home from the store, and was doing some chores; Isaac Woodford called me, and said Elsie was in a fit, or was dying; my horse was lame, and Mr. Woodford loaned me his horse, and I went down as soon as I could; on the way I met another messenger; as I entered the door I saw a number of individuals there; I heard her voice, the first of any, before I saw her; she said, "Doctor—Chloroform!" these words she repeated several times; I would like to get the form of the room before the minds of the jury; I came in at the south door; the store was on the east side; she lay with her feet toward me as I entered; I found her lying on her back, with her feet toward the stove, and seemed to be incompetent to move; a little froth at the mouth; her neck and throat seemed to be swollen, and her whole chest in a state of rigidity; as soon as I could get off my overcoat, I fell her pulse and found it a little accelerated and not quite so full as

in health; I saw there was a state of spasms; I asked her what ailed her; she made no reply; I tried to give her brandy and Chloroform, but she could not swallow; I put about half an ounce of Chloroform upon a handkerchief, and she inhaled it and seemed a little easier, but it helped her very little; her feet were a good deal more convulsed than usual; about this time I became satisfied what ailed her; she kept calling for Chloroform, and as I was afraid of getting out of it, I sent for more; she still called for it; she said "I shall be dead in a few minutes," and still called for Chloroform.

In a few minutes the same was repeated; during this time she had spasms, which seemed to throw the whole system into a state of rigidity, and the pupils of the eyes dilated and were set, and yet she seemed conscious; when the Chloroform failed, she said something about an emetic; perhaps she said she felt like vomiting; or ought to vomit; I cannot tell her exact words; I saw one tooth gone, and endeavored to make her swallow something there; there seemed to be a difficulty in her throat, that effectually prevented her from swallowing; these spasms seemed to grow harder, and continued at intervals; when the person returned with the medicine, I dispatched another messenger for my brother, who is practicing medicine with me; we used friction and warm applications, but without success; she had another spasm, which drew her head back, brought her eyes open and left her body in a state of rigidity, and she never breathed again; this was about 10 o'clock; we after this, and as quick as it could be prepared, put her into a warm bath, and tried to restore her, without success. Any person touching her, or the wind blowing upon her, would produce spasms; she could not bear to be touched; I could not detect the condition of her tongue, except by the edges, which were quite red; I saw that by lifting one of her feet, both were lifted; she might have laid across my hand extended, could I have supported her in such a position, so rigid was her body; it was my judgment, (I expressed it then) that she had taken poison; and that that poison was strychnine; I said these were the symptoms, and I could account for her appearance on no other ground; it was that conviction that led to the other steps taken; we asked for the bottle of Mr. Leet, and he got us a bottle; myself and brother stood by the stove; we took the bottle home; the bottle purported to contain Hooffland's German Bitters; it was some medicine I had prescribed for Mr. Leet when he was recovering; the bottle was about half full of medicine, perhaps not quite; I do not know how to get the matter before you exactly; I put the bottle in the hands of my brother at the time; I saw it again the next day; it was at my house; I put it in a trunk and locked it up; I put the trunk up in another chest and looked it up; I took it to Cleveland on Sabbath day, about 4 o'clock.

Elsie's death occurred on Thursday evening; on Saturday a post-mortem examination was held; Dr. Beach of Fowling, Dr. Beebe of Hartford, Dr. Stewart of Brookfield, my brother and myself, were present. The examination was held about 11 o'clock; we examined the heart, lungs, stomach and liver, and found the heart to contain about three ounces, in the two ventricles, of liquid blood; dark fluid blood; found the lungs engorged with quite dark blood, so that on cutting them, they proved to be full of it; found the stomach, which we did not open; we tied two strings firmly around each end, so as to prevent anything from escaping or going into it, and put it into a trunk with the bottle; I discovered no indication of disease, except what I have mentioned; everything appeared to be in good health except the appearances I have mentioned; I believe strychnine was the cause of her death; Nux Vomica, or some preparation of it; I could not account for the appearance of things on any other ground; the examination was made at nine and my brother's instance; I took the stomach and locked it up with the bottle of bitters on Saturday; on Sabbath day, after the funeral, I took the stomach and bottle of bitters, in company with Mr. Squires, to Cleveland; I saw that no one touched it but myself, and put it into the hands of Prof. St. John, in Cleveland, but as he could not attend to it, I then put it into the hands of Prof. Cassels; we took out the stomach, and saw the effects of what was tried with it; the effects produced by the application of tests of strychnine were the same as those which appeared when they were applied to the contents of that bottle; a small quantity was in a tumbler, and by applying the tests, acids, a bright scarlet color was produced; the same results were found in the case of strychnine taken from a vial, as well as the substance taken from the stomach; it seemed that the matter in the bottle was highly

charged with strychnine; the stomach was cut open, its contents boiled down and filtered, then distilled water was applied, and the same tests applied; the results were the same as with the contents of the bottle and of the strychnine from the vial; the bottle and stomach were left with Prof. Cassels; there was strychnine detected both in the bottle and stomach; we believed there was sufficient Strychnine to account for her death found in her stomach; after the death of Elsie, with Mr. Squires, I went to invite the Doctors for the examination, and he told Rollin that his sister was dead; Shannon resided at the center of Vienna before his removal to Hartford; it was a little short of ten miles.

I went first to Dr. Beebe's and secured his attendance, and then came down to where Mr. Squires was, at Mr. Shannon's; passed into the room; saw Rollin and shook hands with him; sat down a few moments; I made a remark as I was going out; I said, "Rollin, we have rather hard news for you;" he appeared to feel bad when I shook hands with him; we got into the sleigh; myself and Mr. Squires sat in the back, Rollin just before us. We rode some distance before there was anything said as to Miss Leet's case; I then said to Rollin, "I suppose your uncle has told you the circumstances;" he made no reply; I thought he did not hear me, as there was bells on the horse. I repeated the remark, and he said his uncle had related the facts. I then remarked that his sister had died very suddenly; that when she went home her father gave her some medicine. He made the expression, "you don't think the medicine poisoned her, do you?" I think that was the expression; it was something about poison; it might have been, "you don't think there was poison in the medicine?"

We went to Brookfield, and went to see Dr. Stewart, and then came home; this was all the conversation I had with him at the time; nothing had been said about poison when Rollin made the remark I have given. I think he was told that she seemed to die in a fit; I said that she had spasms, I avoided answering in relation to the cause of her death; I have no recollection of any conversation since, except one after the trial before the magistrate. After the trial was over, and while the bonds were being made, and his father was there, I told him I wanted to speak with him. I said to him that I believed he was not alone in the matter, and that it was my advice to his father's and go to work. I said I thought some one had advised him, and referred to his age, &c. I said he must not submit to ill and evil advisers. He replied that he had no advice in the matter; said he, "if I have done it, I have done it alone," then there was a pause, and he spoke again, "I am alone in this matter." I think we stepped out of the Justice's Office into another room to have this conversation.

I was called two or three times between the 29th of July and the 17th of August, to see Homer M. Leet; I was called with my brother; I found him several times in spasms, with a full flushed face, red tongue, and in such a condition that if touched, or a fly lit on his face, or a door suddenly opened, he would go into a spasm. I saw him at intervals between the spasms, and he appeared to be doing well, but I did not have the charge of him. About the 17th of August, the case came into my hands; he had a spasm a few days before. We examined the spine, head, and nervous system, and tried to account for the spasms; we then stated to each other and believed that he had been taking strychnine.

After the 17th, a few days, he appeared to be improving and I thought was getting better. The redness was disappearing from his tongue, his mouth getting moist, and his appetite returning. I told Miss Elsie Leet one day, that her father was getting better, and went along home, leaving his medicine as usual. Very soon a messenger came for me in great haste; I went, and found him in a spasm such as he had when I called with my brother before. I freely administered Chloroform and left some for him to use. I sat with him nearly the whole night, and during that time he would frequently have these spasms. The pupils of his eyes dilated, and he was so conscious of everything around him that any little thing threw him into a spasm. 'There,' said he, in one instance, when he had been in a spasm, "that fly did that." I noticed that his tongue was very red, and soon became dry and glossy. After a few days this began to disappear, and his tongue became moist. I became satisfied that all was not right, and determined to move him. Elsie was taking care of him. I have already said I believed he was taking Strychnine.

At one time previous to the convulsions at the 20th of August, I told Rollin

to be particular about his medicine, and to take charge of it. At a subsequent period I changed directions, and told Elsie to take charge of it. I removed him to my house; he stayed there two days and nights; his home was south of the center; after leaving my house, he went north to his brother's, and I visited him there; he was away from home about two weeks, and continued to improve from the time of moving him, and soon began to attend to his business; I have not known of his having spasms since; he has applied for medicine occasionally, and has seemed to want something to guard against the return of such spasms; he had the first of the spasms that I know of, about the 3d of August; the last was not far from the 20th of August; I removed him to my house about the 27th of August; I think Rollin generally came for me when his father had these spells.—The family consisted of the old gentleman, Elsie, Rollin, and a little girl about 7 years old; I should think Mr. Leet had the severe spasms I have mentioned, about once a week; I think I twice noticed a slight frothing at the mouth; he seemed very anxious to get well. (Cross examination.)

I was called shortly after the 29th of July; he was at my office on the 28th of July; my brother saw him then; the first thing anything was said of the suspicious circumstances of his sickness, was somewhere in the neighborhood of the 10th of August; I think it was at the second spasm I was called to see, that I was consulted by my brother with regard to it. The consultation with Dr. Beebe was previous to this. I was not at home at that consultation; I think I had never visited Mr. Leet as a physician previous to this. I have been in Vienna as a physician two years last October; I had practiced some in his family; I had prescribed for his wife; they had some preference for my brother as a physician; I prescribed for Elsie perhaps half a dozen times before her father's sickness; I gave her once something for tooth-ache, and once for acidity of the stomach. After her father was moved up north, she was taken sick with fever; something like cholera morbus, followed by fever; the fever seemed to result from the irritation following cholera morbus; Rollin was sick in a similar way. I visited Elsie every day for three or four days; she was quite sick; I gave her brandy and loaf sugar freely at first, and afterwards put her on an anti-phlogistic treatment. I do not remember all the medicines I gave her.

The symptoms which are peculiar to Strychnine, and that alone, it would be very difficult to state. I know of no disease, except poisoning from strychnine, which will produce the same symptoms just as they were exhibited there. In the case of the old gentleman, the spasms would come on by the opening of the door, or the least touch upon the skin.—These spasms universally subsided to a greater or less extent in about two hours; that is, the worst was over by that time. At first, there was not that change in the pulse we should expect in inflammation of the brain. We examined the brain and spine, but could find no difficulty there. Previous to the attack, he would seem to be getting better, but when they came on we would find him with a very red tongue. The spasms in Tetanus are similar to those resulting from strychnine; the redness of the tongue is present in both, and it is noticeable in all cases of great inflammation of the stomach. In Tetanus, the symptoms are continuous; in strychnine they are intermittent. This last was the case with Mr. Leet. We find spasms in cases of Hysteria similar in some respects to those from strychnine. If, when I called to see Miss Elsie, I had known that she had stepped on a rusty nail, which might have produced Tetanus, I should have called it Tetanus. But the development of such symptoms in the absence of any known cause, I naturally attributed to strychnine. Under all the circumstances as they really were, I should not attribute the symptoms to Tetanus. In the actions of strychnine there is a sort of electric shock, and very short spasms seem to pass through the muscles.

I have never seen any cases of strychnine poisoning in the human system unless these be such. I have used strychnine in my practice but very little. I give it in doses from one sixteenth to one twelfth of a grain. It acts as a tonic. I have never seen any marked effects. It is used by physicians; I cannot say how much. My knowledge of its effects is mostly from books. I have read Watson, Wood, Hill, and Taylor. Wood and Watson are among the most prominent authorities. I had read all of these except Taylor before the post mortem examination. In general Hysteria, pueral convulsions, wounds and injuries of the spine, would all produce spasmodic action. In cases of cholera, where the same foreign substances in the stomach,

we find spasms sometimes. I know of nothing but strychnine that will produce such sensitiveness that a fly would throw a man into spasms. We get great sensitiveness in nervous fevers and brain affections, but not to such an extent.

The taking of the stomach and medicine to Cleveland for analysis, was at the instance of the board of physicians who made the post mortem examination. I think Dr. Beach was the first to propose it. I became responsible for the fees of the analysis; Mr. Belden has since paid them; the Professor told me how the thing was usually done. At the post mortem examination we did not examine the brain or spine; the examination seemed to be satisfactory to those who were present. The intention was to see if anything was in the stomach; we suspected that such was the case; we wanted to know whether she came to her death by poison.

I know nothing of the composition of Hooffland's Bitters; it claims to be a tonic alterative; I believe it is claimed that there is no alcohol in it. If the solvent were all water, I cannot say how much strychnine it would hold in solution; I think it requires 6667 parts of water to hold one of strychnine. Strychnine is a preparation from Nux Vomica or Dog Button. The least dose of strychnine I ever heard of causing death was one half a grain, and still patients have been known to take a grain without producing death. In ordinary cases, death occurs in half an hour to two and a half hours. I think there has been cases in which death has occurred in fifteen minutes.—The Hooffland's Bitters are of a dark brown color, muddy when shaken up; I observed a sediment in the bottle I brought from Mr. Leet's. By holding it up to the light, I could see a dark sediment with considerable white powder in it. If the solvent of the medicine were water, and strychnine were put into it, and a half ounce taken as soon as the strychnine settled, it might not kill, but if it stood long, or were shaken up, I should greatly hate to take such of it.

After Mr. Leet's spasm, I administered mild remedies, such as mucilages of Slippery Elm, Sassafras, and Flax seed. During the violent attacks, I used more Chloroform than in all my other practice. I told Elsie what I used the Chloroform for in her father's case. (Direct resumed.)

In cases of Tetanus, at first sight the symptoms are very similar to those from Strychnine, but on further inquiry into the case we should expect to find the cause, and in the outcome some considerable degree of certainty might be reached. In Tetanus it may be weeks and it may be only a few days or hours before death ensues.

**Dr. Amzi Moore.**—I reside in Vienna; I have practiced medicine about eight years; I was quite well acquainted with Elsie Leet. On the night of her death, I was called to see her, about ten or eleven o'clock. I had retired for the night; it was on the 7th of December. She had been dead some two hours when I arrived. Her face was livid and appeared swollen; so was her neck, and her whole muscular system appeared in a state of spasm, her limbs rigid and the pupils of her eye dilated; a little bloody froth issued from her mouth. I took a bottle from Mr. Leet containing medicine; I gave a small quantity of it to a cat on the following morning, and it died within a minute; it fell upon the floor in less than a minute, and soon stopped breathing. The cat got about half a teaspoonful of the medicine.

I was at the post-mortem examination. We found the lungs engorged with blood and congested. The cardiac orifice of the stomach was injected. We placed ligatures at the extremities, and after carefully tying them, removed the stomach. I gave the bottle to my brother. He had the stomach in his possession. From the appearance of the body after death, I should be of the opinion that she died from poison, and that that poison was strychnine. I did not see her while living, but I know of nothing else which would produce such an appearance after death, unless it were idiopathic tetanus, but I see no reason to believe she was affected by that. She died too soon for Tetanus, according to our authorities, for that is rarely fatal in less than three or four days, and frequently it is a week or longer. I attended upon Homer M. Leet from the 29th of July to the 18th or 19th of August.—He came to my house on the 28th day of July, the day before I first visited him; I had some previous knowledge of his health, and supposed it was an old attack of indigestion, but thought, and now think, he had some strange symptoms to be attributed to indigestion. He referred to some strange symptoms in his limbs. This was what he was at my house. The next morning he sent for me. His symptoms commenced with

slight shocks as it were, which were quickly gone; his feet were put into hot water and he went to bed feeling better. The following day the same symptoms occurred in a more marked degree. They continued for a short time and then subsided and he was comfortable. I felt at a loss to know what could cause his complaint. From four days to a week from the first call he had another much more violent attack.—At this last I thought the symptoms were those referred to strychnine in medical books. One thing that made me think so was that after an attack he would apparently convalesce for a few days, and then suddenly the spasms would return. After the spasms the tongue was red, and showed symptoms of gastric irritation. During the days of apparent convalescence the tongue would lose its redness, and his appetite would return, and then would come another spasm. I noticed in particular that the red tongue never preceded the spasm, but always at the time or immediately after; they came on generally in the day time. I do not remember any at night. I think the worst one was in the afternoon; usually Rollin would come after me, but not always.

I did little or no other business but attend to Mr. Leet for sometime; I spent most of my time; I sometimes stayed there several days without going home. I gave no directions to Rollin about administering medicine. I should think he was removed to my brother's house about the last of August. I did not hear of his having any spasm after he left home. These spasms continued from an hour, for the lightest, to eight hours in the case of the most severe one, which I thought would be fatal. During that one I administered chloroform, and applied cold water to his head, in which he seemed to have pain. He complained first of his extremities. There was a tendency to involuntary muscular contraction in these. In the bad spasms the contractions extended to the whole muscular system. He sometimes was in extreme pain in the stomach, which I attributed to spasm of the diaphragm and muscles of the chest; attempts to move him would throw him into convulsions; a hand applied to his face would do so. His extremities would sometime fly up from the bed as if the poles of a battery had been applied to his feet. A fly lighting on his face, or a spoon touching his lips or teeth, would do it. It was during the most severe paroxysm there was so much determination of blood to the head. After the spasms, the tongue would assume a fiery red appearance, with symptoms of gastric irritation, which extended to the bowels. The longer the interval afterward, the better would be the appearance of the tongue, till after a day or two, it would resume its natural appearance. I cannot say how much Rollin was there; probably half the time; not so much at night as during the day. He was quite attentive when there. I could not say where Rollin was when away. Once his horse broke away at the center; I caught it, and took it near to Mr. Shannon's, and sent it to Mr. Shannon's house where I was informed he was.

I have attended Mr. Leet's family some, and doctored Mrs. Leet in her last sickness. When I stayed night and day at Mr. Leet's, he did not have a spasm; they invariably came on when I was absent. Some of the time I remember being away not more than an hour or two and leaving him apparently doing well, and then would then be called back because he was in a spasm.

(Cross Examination.)—On the 29th July the symptoms were not the same as on the day before when he was at my house. I did not suspect anything then, but it is now my opinion that he was laboring under the same symptoms, although under a milder form. Sometimes he had the spasms every day, and sometimes there would be an interval of three or four days. I cannot state how many he had. During them, it was difficult to put anything in his mouth, on account of the touch of the spoon bringing on the spasms. Mr. Leet had consulted me before these attacks, as to his health, but I had given him little if any medicine. When he first consulted me, I suppose he labored under indigestion, lack of tone in the stomach, and torpid liver. It was probably within a week from the time I first saw him in spasms, that I suspected strychnine.

**Dr. H. Beach.**—I reside in Fowler; I have been practicing medicine for the last twenty five years; I was at the post mortem examination of Elsie Leet; I can corroborate what has been stated as to her appearance. (Anatomical description same as that already given.) From what I discovered, I should think her death was caused by poisoning with strychnine.

As to the cause of the symptoms of Homer M. Leet, I would not be willing to say decidedly that they were caused by strychnine, though they certainly look something like it; it might possibly be that they were caused by some disease; he had been sick so long, that it would be nothing strange if new symptoms came up in his case. (Cross Examination.) I have known Mr. Leet about 30 years, and have attended him some during that period; I have lived in his neighborhood several years, 15 perhaps; when I first knew him, he was a dyspeptic, with tendency to despondency of mind; I would not like to say his symptoms were caused by strychnine, but it is difficult to account for them in any other way; I should suspect strychnine; the symptoms might be accounted for, except the sensitiveness to the touch; I never saw a case of Tetanus; I know but little of strychnine; it is a medicine I am afraid of; it is considered a kind of last resort in extreme cases; in cases of death from convulsion, spasms of the respiratory muscles prevent breathing, and so stop the circulation by preventing the blood from flowing into the heart.

**Professor John L. Cassels.**—I reside in Cleveland, and am Professor of Materia Medica and Botany in the Cleveland Medical College. Doctor Moore brought me a bottle and a human stomach on the 11th of December; I examined the bottle first; it was about 1/4 full of a muddy liquid, and by holding it to light there appeared a white sediment; I shook a portion of it, and guided by the symptoms described by Dr. Moore, I tested it for strychnine; I did this, because otherwise I might go on for a week without a satisfactory conclusion; I added acid to make it more soluble; strychnine is not very soluble in water alone; I first tried it by Nitric acid, which gives a bright red color; this is, strictly speaking, the test for Bruceine; our Strychnine of commerce is made up of both; their properties are nearly the same; I afterward tested it for strychnine proper; I took about one hundred parts of sulphuric acid to one of nitric acid; On using this test upon the liquid, no change of color is given, but by adding the peroxide of lead, it gives a faint blue, then violet, and afterwards settles down into a beautiful green; this is a test to which no other known substance answers; I then took the stomach; this examination was so late, being 4 days after the death, that I could not depend much upon the appearance of the organ itself; I took its contents, washed them out, evaporated by distillation, filtered the liquid thus obtained several times, and then tried the same tests as with the liquid in the bottle, with the same results; I had no doubt that strychnine was found in both bottle and stomach, and gave a certificate to that effect. I tried, for the sake of certainty, the same experiments with strychnine which I knew to be pure, and found precisely the same results. Strychnine is generally of a dark grayish white. The grayish tinge is owing to the presence of coloring matter. It is usually about the color of buckwheat meal. From my examination I could not tell the quantity of strychnine; the fact of finding strychnine in the stomach, together with the symptoms told by Dr. Moore, I considered very strong evidence of the death of the patient by strychnine; if she had not died from its effects, the probability is that none would be found in the stomach; if a person should take strychnine for some time as a medicine, and then should die from some other cause, it would be very unlikely that any should be found in the stomach, for it is taken in such minute doses that it would be absorbed into the system; I have never seen a person under the poisonous effects of strychnine; those who take it as medicine have not uniform symptoms; different individuals are differently affected. The first evidences generally are a peculiar sensation in the lower limbs, which the patient describes as pricking, as if small animals were crawling under the skin. Next comes a peculiar spasmodic action, like a crick in the neck; Physicians would stop here; but if the doses were further increased, so as to become poisonous, I should expect these symptoms to go on till rigidity of the whole system should ensue; the brain would be affected, the face and neck become swollen and livid, and the pupils of the eyes dilated. The intellect is not generally affected till the spasms, after frequent returns, bring on an asphyxiated state in which the patient dies. From what I have heard of the symptoms here, and from the presence of strychnine in the stomach, I should think the young woman died from strychnine; there is a difference between what has been described as shocks in the muscles and a tetanic rigidity; the redness of the tongue proceeds from irritation of the stomach, and may proceed from innumerable causes; the tetanic action seldom arises from any cause except an injury of some tendon or of the muscular system. If you suppose a case of rigidity of the muscles, frothing at the mouth, such ex-