

self as well enough to leave Baltimore during the day. He continues to sleep during the morning, and when aroused and induced to walk from his bed to a lounge in the room, seems feeble and exhausted. He returns to his bed and sleeps heavily, with heavy breathing, for several hours. He is again aroused and returns to the lounge while his bed is being made up. In walking from the bed to the lounge, it is observed that he has difficulty in walking, that his gait is unsteady, and that he staggers as he moves along. He lies down on the lounge. No vomited matters are found in his room during the whole of that day, and he passes no urine. At 6 o'clock P. M. he is discovered sleeping profoundly and breathing stertorously, but afterwards, without waking, changes his position and seems to breathe better. He spends the night on the lounge. His physician is sent for on Wednesday morning, and visits him about 10 o'clock A. M. and finds him semi-comatose, with a feeble and rapid pulse; pupils natural in size and insensible to light; respiration slightly hurried, and the muscles of the neck, back and extremities rigid; he is aroused with difficulty, and immediately relapses into a profound sleep; a tremor passes over him when touched; he can only articulate a single word at a time, and is unable to frame a sentence: he has passed no urine for more than twenty-four hours; no special relaxation of such muscles as are not rigid is observed; his face is turned towards the back of the lounge, and is livid, of a purplish, bluish and reddish tinge.

At 11 o'clock A. M. forty drops of the tincture of yellow jessamine (*gelsemium*) are administered in two teaspoonfuls of water, his physician having previously removed him to his bed and applied ice to his head; his teeth are clenched, his jaws are opened with difficulty to receive the medicine. In a short time his color improves, and his eyes look notably better, although he still remains unconscious and rigid. He then shows signs of great restlessness, struggles to get out of bed, and then relapses into a state of quiescence and semi-consciousness. At five minutes before 1 o'clock another dose is administered, containing more liquid, between two or three tablespoonfuls, as alleged, and in about 15 minutes afterwards he slaps the shoulder of an attendant, grasps the back of his neck, seizes various parts of his body, scratches himself with his nails, utters disjointed words and cries, and then is seized with tetanic convulsions. Opisthotonos is developed. At each convulsive movement there seemed to be a systematic effort to throw himself on his left side; he emits groans; trismus shows itself; coma increases, and the patient is apparently in articulo mortis. At about 1:30 o'clock P. M. chloroform is administered, and at about 2 o'clock P. M. 30 grains of chloral are given, and at about 3 o'clock P. M. he dies without abatement in his symptoms.

His urine is drawn off about 1:30 o'clock P. M., and tested with nitric acid and heat, without the discovery of any abnormal substance in it.

The post mortem examination reveals a rigor mortis, red marks like scratches on his

neck and abdomen, some red patches in the mucous coat of the stomach and intestines, but no product of inflammatory action; the liver, spleen, esophagus, lungs and heart in a healthy condition; the vessels of the dura mater were not very full of blood; the vessels of the pia mater somewhat congested; the veins filled with dark blood, indicating passive congestion; the brain substance natural and healthy, with some dark points of blood, indicating passive congestion on its cut surface; "such," in the language of his physician, "as are frequently produced by the mere act of dying, and which may have been post mortem;" no extravasation of blood; no increase or diminution of the cerebro spinal fluid; no effusion of serum, and no signs or results of inflammation in any organ or structure; about two inches of the spinal cord, the medulla oblongata, were examined without the discovery of lesions. The rest of the spinal cord itself was not examined.

From the symptoms as there described, and the post mortem revelations there described, do you think the deceased died from natural or non-natural causes?

Dr. Morris replied—It is a very difficult and delicate question; but if I were asked that naked question, and had no knowledge of surrounding things, I could not assign a cause of death; I see nothing to exclude the theory of death from a natural cause, but at the same time I cannot venture to say what that natural cause was or might have been; Dr. Warren saw two cases of mine—one of an adult and one of a child; in truth, I invited the whole profession, as far as I could, to see my case, so anxious was I to investigate the nature of this new and insidious disease; it is at least new to us in Baltimore; two of my cases (of children) were suddenly taken, after returning from school, with the characteristic symptoms, which manifested themselves in forty-eight hours; then the fulmination terminated; one case was of a vigorous, stout man, and he still lives to tell the story.

The witness was now turned over to the State, and in answer to Mr. Syester said—I suppose the man I speak of (his name is Jacob Armer) is about 38 years old; I don't remember the month, but think it was in August or September; I know his wife told me she had used six bushels of ice on his head and spine.

Mr. Syester—Well, Doctor, was that before you got at him?

Dr. Morris, nervously—Oh! no, sir, that was what I prescribed for him.

Dr. Morris continued—Mr. Armer was a tanner, and subject to labor, exposure and heat, and perhaps they superinduced the disease; the popular name is cold plague, but that is a very vulgar name; when medical men and chemists disagree it don't signify anything to laymen, but it may to medical jurists; I would not like to say positively that it was an epidemic disease in Baltimore, but it was a new disease to the profession in Baltimore; it is not a contagious disease; it occurs oftener in cold weather than in warm weather; I know personally of only three cases; I know of 50 others by hearsay.