

be obtained, some one should, to some extent, take his place by making notes in writing as fully as possible, and at once, of the exact position occupied by the corpse when it was found, of any instrument, vessel, or bottle near the body, and of any noticeable or unusual circumstance connected with it. For the same reason, it is important in the cases of all deaths which appear to be due to injury, or for which there would appear to be no evident cause in the shape of disease, that the police should be immediately communicated with.

Presuming that the case was one either of suicide or murder, even a brief reflection will show how essential it is for the exact position of the body to be noted as it is found. Many deaths, indeed, which, to the uninitiated, appeared to be caused by murder, have, by medical testimony, been shown to be cases of suicide, and *vice versa*. It is, therefore, essential in all such cases that the body should be seen exactly as it was found, and, if possible, both by a medical man and the police; and the gravest blame would be thrown upon, and probably the course of justice would be obstructed by, a Nurse who attempted to alter the position or surroundings of the body in such a case.

One thing, however, the Nurse can safely do, and perhaps usefully, especially if there be any possibility of some time elapsing before a medical man can arrive on the scene. In feeling the wrist to see if the pulse has ceased, that is to say whether death has actually occurred, she might note the warmth or coldness of the hands, and also, if possible, the warmth or coldness of the arms under the sleeves, if she can do so without disarranging the position of the body. The object of this is to obtain the temperature of the body when it was found, and a thermometer in the mouth is a useful addition in that inquiry. The body, in a case of death slowly occurring from disease, becomes chilled gradually, and even before death the temperature falls far below normal. But, in the case of sudden decease, when the vital powers rapidly cease, the temperature falls very gradually, and it is therefore possible—by ascertaining the warmth or coldness of the skin when the body is first found, and, if possible, by also obtaining the exact temperature, and noting this in writing, with the hour, minute, and the date—to furnish a considerable clue to the medical man in determining the approximate time at which death occurred. This is a matter which it may oftentimes be of the highest importance to discover.

These facts, upon which great stress is laid in all works upon Medical Jurisprudence, need not be further emphasized here, but they are sufficient to show the importance of leaving the body of a person, who has suddenly and unexpectedly died, exactly as it was found, and, if necessary, insisting upon others so leaving it, until it has been viewed by a medical man.

CLEANSING THE CHURCH.

Cleanliness is next to godliness; and many Christians now are of opinion that it is more easy to be good in a clean shirt, in spite of the fact that, in the past, Hermits have seemed to regard dirt as a necessary concomitant of sanctity. But why not turn attention to our dirty public buildings? Doubtless, a good scrubbing would remove many sources of infection from our midst. In a letter written to the *Times*, the Rev. H. R. Haweis has turned his rhetoric on to the exterior of St. Paul's Cathedral. "Generation after generation of citizens die without ever seeing Wren's work and labour of love. He built and beautified a noble House of Prayer; we have turned it, outside at least, into a den of dirt and microbes. . . . Sir, the remedy is simple. At 4 o'clock on some summer morn, when all the mighty heart of the City is lying still, have round the fire engines, charge them with a stiff soda and water solution, or only pure water, and pump! . . ." Bravo, Mr. Haweis. The Canons of St. Paul's have keen, perceptive organs, and will see the desirability of being pure outside as well as in. We may hope, in fine, to see the cleansing of the great unwashed.

NURSES AND THE COMING SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION.

An election time is always interesting. It discloses many cloaked characteristics of human nature, good and bad. Promises *ad infinitum* are given. Taxes will be reduced; efficiency increased; and the electors will see a bright time dawn. Old birds, however, are not caught with chaff; they look steadily for solid good wearing qualities in a candidate, and will not put up with cheap sentiment. They also require the candidate to state clearly his opinions. The candidate who was so accommodating as to say "Gentlemen, I am at your service," is condemned by thoughtful and thoughtless alike; the former know such a man is no good; the latter are aware that they have no ideas to give him, unless it be abuse of the rates. London has been in a ferment for months over the School Board contest on religion and sectarianism. The November elections will bring the controversy to a head. Candidates are putting forth their circulars—some promising to make for progress and economy, some to support Mr. Athelstan Riley, some to made the education more technical and effective. But there is one item we should like candidates to consider very seriously, and that is, whether it would not be advisable for the School Board to employ a certain number of fully trained Nurses to visit regularly, say, once a week, a number of Elementary Schools, for the purposes of inspecting the children, binding up sores and little cut fingers; notifying cases of illness cold and catarrh; suggesting, through the children, remedies to the parents. "Please, mother, Nurse says I must be kept clean," would come with more grace and effect through the Nurse than through the schoolmistress or teacher, who, doubtless, would receive next morning an abusive visit from the scandalised parent. These Nurses would also be in a position to collect frequent statistics as to the comparative states of health observable in different schools, and different districts. We should be very glad to receive the opinions of Nurses and others on this suggestion.

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