On the Importance of the Physicians

Being well versed in Medical jurisprudence.

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The science of Medical Jurisprudence is closely allied to the legitimate and successful practice of Medicine; and, in its application, it is not less related to the interests of mankind at large.

Concerning: A variety of considerations affecting life as well as property; this science demands of the Medical Faculty, to whom its exercise is entrusted, the closest habits of attention, investigation, and comparison. The great gift of life bestowed by the Creator is often suddenly terminated by the stroke of disease, the hand of violence, or the subtle poison; circumstances may arise sufficient to point suspicion
And the physician is summoned to determine by what event death has been occasioned. One unit is lost to society, and the public voice demands
A strict account of the forfeiture; another life may be at stake when a charge of murder, and the same authority demands its acquittal or condemnation. The first rests with
the physician, to whom the task is committed of unraveling the evidence so far as it relates to the examination of the deceased, and his words may restore the accused to his accustomed place in society or consign him to the scaffold.

Death by poison has to frequently occurred in every country,
But in this received its share of
observation in the Study of Forensic
Medicine. The subject is so extensive
it admits of such a variety of
considerations on a moral, maternal,
chemical, and pathological point
of view, that the exertions of
Science are almost necessarily
dedicated to its elucidation, and
the attention even of the young
mind is attracted by the enticing
display of experiment, whereby
its study is accomplished.

When we consider how fertile the
animal and vegetable kingdoms
are in deleterious substances;
then suddenly the life of man is
terminated by the administration
of time, and how slowly others are judged. When one reflect upon their various modes of action upon the human economy, and upon the regard the several appearances presented by different tissues under the action of poison, and the diversity of symptoms occasioned, one may well admit that the utmost care and sagacity are required in adequately performing the office of examiner and reporter upon circumstances of incaramel'd character.

**Asphyxia.** A condition under which life departs its terminus, imposing on anxious duty upon the physician in announcing that for accident or design may have
Operated in an exposure of the
suffer to situations or circumstances
reducing T. Insanity is a subject
of important reference, both as respects
the condition of the individual and
the interest of society. Liberty of
person as the birthright of man may
in all instances, be interfered with upon
alleged pretenses; man may an individual
be deprived of the control of his property
without an obvious necessity arising
from mental imbecility, inconsistency,
or violence, which incapacitates him
from its rational use; and, in fact,
enables him to outrage the feelings
and institutions of the community.

But there are a number of
grades in insanity; from the
Mercy, meekness of intellect to the most savage savagery; the former may nearly justify the transfer of rights or the restriction of person, whilst the latter demands exclusion from the world, and frequently the exercise of force and severity. The physician is here summoned to mark the mental character to judge of its fitness or inability to correspond with the circumstances of society, and frequently to detect the lunatic under the mask of cunning, or in the disguise of eccentricity. The freedom of a fellow creature rests upon this decision.
The foregoing together with those of Rape and Gestation are the
principal subjects comprised in the Study of Medical Jurisprudence,
and to which the attention of the Physician is called in
determining the doubts, wherein other consideration is involved.

Placed in the jury-box, he is frequently the most important
witness, and directs the verdict by the nature of his evidence,
whether it be applied in a question of life or death, or to one simply
affecting the custody or inheritance of property. We are aware there are often
the Medical testimony is attested to be shaken in Cross-examinations
And consequently the reputation of the practitioner must be suffered for a want of skill and tact in their defense as engineer counsel. And unless the counsel be well armed up by adequate study and investigation upon the abstract points connected with defense medicine, the majority of the lawyer will involve the physician in a mass of contradictory statements; he will be betrayed into an inconsistency of reply to the most simple query, and defeat the very end for which he has been summoned to appear. But being fortified with the necessary degree of knowledge upon this subject, the physician multiplies
Air usefulness, one ranks not only as the preserver of health but as a moral agent. In society in the detection of crime, and in the rescue of innocence from suspicion and unwarranted punishment.