nard Rice, who said—"I am a surgeon, practising at Stratford-upon-Avon. I came at the request of Dr. Parsey, on the 18th August, to take his duties as superintendent and resident medical officer at Hatton County Lunatic Asylum. I first saw the deceased, John Frazer Mutone, on Saturday the 19th of August." After describing the symptoms during life, which were not remarkable, he said—"On Friday the 25th (the day after death), I made a post mortem examination of the body of the deceased. There were no bruises; some sores were on the chest and thighs, and marks of old sores. There was a slight scratch on the skin of the neck. There was a swelling in the right side over the false ribs, and the ribs seemed larger on that side, and bulged where the swelling was. On opening the body I came upon a quantity of matter above the ribs, between the flesh and the ribs. I sponged that away, and some more oozed up between the ribs. When I cleared it away, I found the ribs were broken. When I cleaned it, I found that the sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth ribs were broken on the right side. The fifth was entire; the fourth and the third were broken. The fifth, also, on the left side was broken. I removed the ribs and found a considerable quantity of matter under them, and the matter surrounded the broken ends of the ribs. I examined them carefully, and found that some quantity of bone had disappeared altogether. There was no blood diffused in the neighbourhood of the broken part, and there was none amongst the matter. The appearance of the broken ends of the bones was very different from that of the bones which I broke at the time for the purpose of comparing them. There were no bruises in the skin or tissues over the ribs. The lungs and pleura were inflamed, and the liver, one kidney, and the brain were diseased. I am of opinion, that no one symptom or appearance alone was sufficient to cause death, but all of them together. The inflammation of the pleura and lungs was not general, but confined to one half. There were no old adhesions, but some recent. The lung was merely congested, just passing into the first stage of inflammation. There were no remains of any clots of blood. They must have been absorbed. There was a little fluid in the pleura. The pus found was healthy. The bones did not touch one another, nor did they fit. I am satisfied that the ribs could not have been recently fractured. It is a difficult matter to fix the precise period when they were fractured; *but I am prepared to say, that they could not have been fractured within the last month.* I should think they had been done some time before that, but whether a long or short period I can't say. My reasons for my opinion are, the quantity of bone which has been absorbed would require a considerable time for its absorption. At the time of the fracture there must have been a very considerable quantity of blood effused and injury done to the neighbouring soft parts. This blood must have been all absorbed, which would require three or four weeks at the least. It could not have been removed by the formation of matter, or I should have found the matter discoloured, or with lumps of blood amongst it. The formation of matter must have been distinct action going on after the absorption of the diffused blood, and this would have required at the very least a week; so that, with the three or four weeks required for the absorption of the blood, extends the period to four or five weeks. The deceased walked about the ward several times after the day I first attended him."

Dr. Parsey stated, that on the admission of the patient he had a peculiar gait and carriage; he was somewhat bent forward, and always walked with his arms folded across the lower part of his chest, and his movements were slow, but I had no reason to suspect any malformation or any accident having happened to him. "I think that if what is stated of Woodward's conduct by Briscoe is correct, Woodward's conduct was very brutal and uncalled for; and if what Harrison states is correct, Woodward's conduct was most injudicious and improper."

The jury returned the following verdict: "The jury are of opinion, that the evidence does not justify them in coming to any other conclusion than that the deceased died from natural causes; but they are of opinion, that Woodward used more violence than was necessary, and that the attendants Harrison and Briscoe are to blame for not checking such violence, and they would suggest that for the future greater care should be taken in the selection of attendants. The jury think it necessary to state, that they discredit Briscoe's evidence."

Appointment.

DR. SHERLOCK, late Medical Superintendent of the Royal Asylum at Perth, to be Medical Superintendent of the Asylum for the County and City of Worcester.

Obituary.

J. H. B. SANDON, ESQ., late Medical Superintendent of the Dorsetshire County Asylum, at the latter end of August, of phthisis.

Mr. S. Highley's First List of Announcements for the Session 1854-5.

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All Communications for the forthcoming Number should be addressed to the Editor, DR. BUCKNILL, *Devon County Lunatic Asylum, near Exeter, before the 1st day of November next.*

Published by SAMUEL HIGHLEY, of 32, Fleet Street, in the Parish of Saint Dunstan-in-the-West, in the City of London, at No. 32, Fleet Street aforesaid; and Printed by WILLIAM AND HENRY POLLARD, of No. 86, North Street, in the Parish of Saint Kerrian, in the City of Exeter. Saturday, October 1, 1854.

https://doi.org/10.1192/S2514990300001117 Published online by Cambridge University Press