

Syllabus of lectures on medical jurisprudence delivered in University College, London / [Anthony Todd Thomson].

Contributors

Thomson, Anthony Todd, 1778-1849.
University College, London.

Publication/Creation

[London] : [J. Mallett], [1839]

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/au22fx8q>

License and attribution

This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



C. XVI. 12852/8
800 576 19/8

ADJ

16/

Feb 21/

10

21-D. 4837

Amosethin

Rev. Col. Loring

SYLLABUS
OF
LECTURES
ON
MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE

DELIVERED IN
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON,

BY
ANTHONY TODD THOMSON, M.D. F.L.S. F.G.S.

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON; FELLOW OF THE MEDICAL, THE
SPECULATIVE, AND THE ROYAL PHYSICAL SOCIETIES OF EDINBURGH; THE
SOCIÉTÉ D'ÉMULATION DE PARIS; THE SOCIÉTÉ DE MÉDECINE
DE MARSEILLES; AND THE IMPERIAL ACADEMY
OF ST. PETERSBURGH.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY JOSEPH MALLETT, 59, WARDOUR STREET.

1839.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

SYLLABUS.

INTRODUCTION.

THE subject introduced:—its importance;—the qualifications requisite to understand its various departments.

GENERAL DIVISION OF THE COURSE.

I.—*Evidence*.—Examination in chief, cross-examination, re-examination—leading questions—references to memoranda—registers of hospitals—presumptive evidence—hearsay evidence—professional confidence—privilege from not answering, in case of professional attendance at duels, &c.—professional opinion—experience, medical writers—complaints made by patients—confessions—dying declarations—demeanour of medical witnesses.

II.—*Considerations connected with the recognition of death, at various periods after it has happened*.—The appearances which are characteristic of the decomposition of the body when it is exposed to the air:—when it is disinterred after burial:—when taken from the water.

Method of opening a body, in medico-legal investigations.

III.—*Preparation and purity of reagents*.

IV.—*Nature of the Courts in which penal inquiries are investigated*.

a. *The Coroner's Court*—its nature—the duties of the office of Coroner.

b. *The Criminal Courts*.

V.—*Inquiries connected with the results of crimes of a penal nature, which involve medico-legal questions*:

1. Sudden death from POISONING.

Definition of a poison—general mode in which poisons operate: causes modifying their operation:—sketch of the

5-9 - history of secret poisoning. Evidences of poisoning in the
 74 - living body ;—fallacies in judging of these :—evidences of
 poisoning from the examination of the dead body ;—method
 of conducting the dissection ;—fallacies arising from the
 effects of disease on the viscera—perforation of the stomach
 by its natural juices—by the introduction of acrid poisons into
 the body after death :—evidence derived from the chemical
 examination of the poison,—in its simple state—in combina-
 tion with articles of food and drink—with the contents of the
 stomach, either vomited or found in the viscus after death.

Classification of Poisons :

- a. Acrid poisons.
- b. Narcotic poisons.
- c. Narcotico-acrid poisons.
- d. Sedative poisons.
- e. Septic poisons.

a. ACRID POISONS :—

1. *Inorganic Substances.*

General symptoms of poisoning by these—when taken internally—when externally applied :—their effects on the tissues :—distinction between these effects and the morbid appearances from diseases, as displayed by dissection.

1. *Acids.*—a. Sulphuric :—symptoms of poisoning by ;
 —post-mortem appearances ;—tests to discover the acid.—
 35 - b. Nitric :—symptoms ;—post-mortem appearances ;—tests.
 c. Hydrochloric :—symptoms ;—dissection ;—tests. Treat-
 ment of cases of poisoning by these acids when the patient
 is not dead.—d. Oxalic acid :—symptoms ; post-mortem ap-
 03 - pearances ;—tests ;—treatment.—e. Acetic Acid :—symptoms ;
 32 - —tests ;—treatment.

- 16 - 2. *Pure Alkalies and Earths.*—a. Potassa :—symptoms,
 8 - —morbid appearances on dissection,—tests ; treatment of
 the person poisoned when death does not ensue.—b. Ammo-

nia:—symptoms;—post-mortem appearances;—tests;—treatment.—*c.* Lime:—symptoms;—post-mortem appearances;—tests;—treatment.

3. *Salts.*—*a.* Carbonates and Nitrate of Potassa;—*b.* Chloride of Calcium;—*c.* Carbonate of Baryta;—Chloride of Barium;—Nitrate of Baryta;—symptoms of poisoning by these salts;—dissection;—tests;—treatment.

4. *Arsenical Poisons.*—*a.* Protoxide of Arsenic.—*b.* Sulphuret of Arsenic.—*c.* Arsenious Acid;—symptoms of poisoning by Arsenious Acid,—when taken into the stomach,—when introduced into the rectum,—into the vagina,—when externally applied;—evidences when the person dies soon after taking the poison,—when after surviving a few days—weeks—months;—when he recovers and lives;—morbid appearances presented on post-mortem dissection;—tests;—treatment.—*d.* Arsenite of Potassa.—*e.* Liquor Arsenicalis.
f. Arsenite of Copper.

5. *Mercurial Poisons:*—Action of mercurial preparations on the body,—mercurial Erethism;—influenced by idiosyncrasy;—evidences of poisoning by red Oxide of Mercury,—Nitrate of Mercury,—Subsulphate of Mercury,—Bichloride of Mercury,—Bicyanide of Mercury,—derived from the symptoms;—from morbid appearances;—tests;—treatment when the person survives.

6. *Cuprous Poisons:*—General symptoms produced by the Salts of Copper when taken into the stomach;—Sulphate of Copper,—Verdigris;—morbid appearances which present themselves on dissection;—tests;—treatment of poisoning by Salts of Copper.

7. *Antimonial Poisons.*—Tartar Emetic;—Chloride of Antimony;—symptoms excited by these poisons;—appearances on post-mortem examination;—tests;—treatment.

9. *Nitrate of Silver.* *Cyanide of Silver.* } Symptoms;—

10. *Subnitrate of Bismuth.* } tests;—treat-

11. *Oxide of Zinc.* *Sulphate of Zinc.* } ment.

12. *Lead Poisons:*—Effects of various substances of food

and drink on metallic Lead;—comparative influence of the salts of Lead as poisons:—Litharge;—Carbonate of Lead;—Acetates;—dissection of fatal cases from poisoning by salts of Lead;—tests;—treatment.

13. *Iodine*:—Tincture of Iodine;—Iodide of Potassium; Iodides of Arsenic,—of Lead,—of Mercury;—symptoms of poisoning by these substances;—morbid appearances on dissection;—tests;—treatment.

14. *Mechanical Irritants. Irritating Gases*:—Sulphurous Acid;—Nitrous Acid Gas;—Chlorine.

II. *Organic Substances.*

15. *Animal*:—Cantharides;—symptoms excited by overdoses of these in the healthy body;—morbid appearances;—treatment.

16. *Vegetable*:—Elaterium;—Euphorbium;—Croton Oil; Colocynth;—Ranunculaceæ;—Delphinium Staphysagria,—Delphinia;—Mezereon;—Savine, &c.

b. NARCOTIC POISONS:—

Symptoms of poisoning by Narcotic Poisons;—distinction between these symptoms and those of Apoplexy,—Epilepsy, Phrenitis, Asphyxia, and diseases of the spinal chord.

1. *Opium*:—Morphia—salts of;—symptoms of poisoning by Opium and its products;—morbid appearances;—tests; treatment.

2. *Hyoscyamus*—extract of:—Hyoscyamia.

3. *Lactuca virosa*—Lactucarium.

4. *Solanum nigrum*—*S. Dulcamara*—Solania.

5. *Cocculus Indicus*—Picrotoxia.

c. NARCOTICO-ACRID POISONS:—

Symptoms distinguishing these poisons from the Acrid and Narcotic;—morbid appearances;—tests;—treatment.

1. *Atropa Belladonna*—Atropia.

2. *Datura Stramonium*—Daturia.

- 913 3. *Nicotiana Tabacum*—Nicotina.
 914 4. *Conium Maculatum*—Conia.
 916 5. *Cicuta virosa*.
 917 6. *Ænanthe crocata*.
 918 7. *Æthusa cynapium*.
 926 8. *Scilla Maritima*—Scillitina.
 923 9. *Colchicum Autumnale*—Veratria—(Colchicacia).
 919 10. *Aconitum paniculatum*—Aconita.
 938 11. *Secale Cornutum*.
 950 12. *Strychnos Nux Vomica*—*S. St. Ignatii*—Strychnia—
 Brucia.
 13. *Camphor*.

d. SEDATIVE POISONS:

Symptoms distinguishing these from Narcotics; morbid appearances;—tests;—treatment.

- 85 1. *Hydrocyanic Acid*—Oil of Bitter Almonds—Laurel
 Water—Noyau.
 419 2. *Tobacco Smoke*.
 414 3. *Fish Poison*—Yellow-billed Sprat—Muscles—Oysters
 —&c.
 4. *Bites of Venomous Serpents*—Viper—Rattle Snake.
 5. *Bites of Hydrophobic Animals*.
 6. *Sedative Gases*—Carbonic Acid—Sulphuretted Hydro-
 gen, Carburetted Hydrogen.

e. SEPTIC POISONS—marsh miasma—putrefying animal
 and vegetable matter.

3-13 2. Sudden death from ASPHYXIA IN GENERAL. 513

a. DROWNING:—signs of:—has the submersion been the
 cause of death?—has it been an act of suicide or of homicide?
 —length of time that the body has been submersed,—dissec-
 tion of the body found drowned,—recovery from drowning.

b. SMOTHERING:—accidental;—criminal;—recovery
 from.—*Strangulation*—signs of:—can it happen as an act of

suicide?—has the suspension been the cause of death? *Hanging*—signs of;—whether an act of suicide or of homicide?—evidences of the death having resulted from hanging when the body is not found suspended:—recovery from hanging.

3. Sudden death from INJURIES and MUTILATIONS.

31 *a. Wounds*—slight, dangerous, mortal;—danger aggravated by the nature of the parts injured;—the age, constitution, temper, health, and vocation of the wounded person; the insalubrity of the residence of the person;—the weather;—the delay in obtaining surgical aid—the want of skill of the Surgeon employed. Mode of conducting a dissection in the event of death from a wound.

b. Mutilations:—cutting out the tongue—slitting the nose; destroying the eyesight;—castration;—disfigurement and mutilation from ignorance of surgery. 521

2 *c. Burns and Scalds*:—scorching from lightning; spontaneous combustion. 521

79 4. DEATH FROM STARVATION:—signs of—whether forced or voluntary.

5. RAPE:—physical signs of virginity; causes connected with diseases which render these signs fallacious;—signs of defloration and rape; diseased appearances which resemble these; examination of the body in cases of death following the act of violent defloration. Examination of the question—can a rape be committed? Defloration committed during sleep,—during the intoxication of the female,—during fainting, or any other state which prevents the knowledge of the female. Is pregnancy after alledged rape to be regarded as a proof of acquiescence in the female?

6. INFANTICIDE:—*Criminal abortion*:—causes of,—medicinal—mechanical;—proofs of derived from the examination

of the child ;—of the mother, whether living or dead ;—murder of the child during parturition ;—by omission—by commission. *Infanticide* :—proofs of the murder of a child after it is born—derived from the state of the circulation ;—the condition of the lungs ; the liver ; the diaphragm ; the urinary bladder, &c. Infanticide by omission :—unnecessary exposure of the body to cold ;—improper treatment of the umbilical cord. Infanticide by commission :—mechanical injuries in the process of delivery ;—strangulation immediately after birth ;—submersion in water ;—blows. Method of examining the body of the child in cases of infanticide :—fallacies that may lead to erroneous conclusions.

VI. *Inquiries connected with the results of cases of a nature involving investigations in the courts of civil law.*

Description of the Courts of Chancery—commissions of lunacy. Committees of the Houses of Lords and Commons. Ecclesiastical Courts.

I. MENTAL ALIENATION :—connection between mind and body :—sound mind ;—diseases resembling insanity—hypochondriasis—epilepsy—intoxication—hysteria—nostalgia—imbecility from old age.—Symptoms of insanity—corporeal—mental ;—species of the disease ;—1. *Mania* :—whether hereditary—precursory symptoms ; distinction between bursts of anger and sudden paroxysms of insanity ;—actual symptoms,—physiognomy—state of sensibility—perverted sensations—loss of memory—timidity ;—suspicion ;—duration of paroxysm ; variety. *Monomania*—its character and consequences. 2. *Melancholy* :—symptoms—corporeal—mental ;—the age most liable to it. 3. *Dementia*—its characteristics—the result of general mania. *Idiotism*—congenital—distinction between it and fatuity the consequence of other diseases. Lucid intervals ;—how to discover the particular hallucinations of insane persons. State of the mind necessary to render a will valid ; responsibility for civil engagements

—criminal acts—on what grounds certificates of confinement in insane cases should be granted ; cautions requisite to be observed.

II. RIGHT OF SUCCESSION, OR LEGITIMACY:—*Questions connected with Pregnancy*:—signs of this state ;—*a.* those affecting the system generally ;—*b.* those affecting the uterus ;—uncertainty of these signs as connected with *moles*, *hydatids*, &c.—proofs of impregnation on dissection—*a.* in its earliest stage ; corpora lutea,—their value as a proof ;—*b.* in after stages ; progress of pregnancy,—quickening,—period of uterine gestation and parturition ;—utmost limit to which it has been protracted ;—delivery when death occurs ; signs of delivery having occurred ;—fallacies depending on the period within which the examination is made ;—when death occurs, appearances of delivery presented on dissection ; evidences at a distant period concealed—pretended ;—unconscious delivery connected with insanity ;—Cæsarian operation. *Birth of Children*:—signs of maturity—of immaturity of a child—size—weight—state of the skin—membrana pupillaris—fontanelles, &c.—period of birth at which a child may probably survive :—causes of the death of children, born at the full period, immediately after birth ; natural, artificial, or violent. *Natural deformity*:—degree of which constitutes a monster ;—extra-uterine fœtuses. *Premature Birth*:—causes which authorize the legitimacy of the first-born child after marriage when the delivery is premature ;—protracted delivery ;—under what circumstances the child so born is legitimate ; evidences of paternity from family likeness, colour, &c.—how proved when a widow marries within a month after the death of her former husband ;—when the delivery occurs in the absence of her husband beyond the usual period of uterine gestation. *Questions respecting the Sexes*—existence of hermaphrodites in the strict meaning of the term ;—natural distinction of the sexes ;—malformations rendering the sex doubtful ; androgyni ;—androgynæ. How regarded by the law of England. *Impotency* where no ob-

vious malformation exists ;—causes of in the male—natural and absolute,—accidental or temporary and curable ;—sterility ; natural or constitutional, temporary and curable.

III. AGE :—its influence in the development of reason, and consequently in fixing the responsibility of individuals in committing crimes ;—puberty, how determined ;—how influenced by climate. Personal identity as affected by age ;—obliteration of *nævi materni* ; alterations in the voice ;—increase of stature after the usual period of growth ;—diminution of stature in the *decline* of life ;—effects of age in overcoming acquired habits of long standing—legal age for making a will.

IV. ASSURANCE OF LIFE :—definition of health, and of disease ;—diseases tending to shorten life, and which, consequently, affect the granting policies of assurance. Concealment of diseases tending to shorten life.

VII. *Inquiries respecting Medical Police.*—

I. *Disqualifications from Military Service* :—rupture—sore legs—varicose veins—deformity—consumption—vertigo—epilepsy—insanity—imbecility—dumbness—blindness. Soldiers often feign diseases :—mode of detecting these. *Juries* :—Men are unfit to serve on Juries who are labouring under severe asthma—epilepsy—consumption—aneurism—stone in the bladder—infirmity from old age, &c.—granting certificates.

II. PUBLIC HEALTH :—nuisances—manufactories—drains—shambles—hospitals ;—exposure of persons with smallpox and other infectious diseases ;—quarantine—bills of health—cordons.

FINIS.

those malformation exists;—tendency of in the male—natural
and artificial—essential or temporary and curable—
sterility—natural or constitutional, temporary and curable—
III. AGE—Its influence in the development of reason
and consequently in fixing the responsibility of individual
in committing crimes;—puberty, how determined;—how in-
fluenced by climate. Personal identity as affected by age—
obliteration of past malformations in the voice;—in-
crease of stature after the usual period of growth;—diminution
of stature in the decline of life;—effects of age in over-
coming acquired habits of long standing—legal age for making
a will.

IV. AS ADVANCE OF LIFE;—definition of health and of
disease;—diseases tending to shorten life, and which
consequently affect the standing policies of assurance. Con-
tinuement of diseases tending to shorten life.

1. Diseases arising from urinary system;—triple—stone
legs—various kinds—deformity—consumption—verruca—
colic—jaundice—impediment—blindness—blindness. Sol-
diers often form diseases;—mode of detecting these. Laws;
—then are able to serve on ships who are laboring under
severe asthma—epilepsy—consumption—aneurism—stone in
the bladder—infidelity from old age, &c.—granular celli-
tude.

II. PULMONIC DISEASES;—balances—metastases—
diseases—tubercles—hospitals;—exposure of persons with
emphysema and other infectious diseases;—quarantine—loss
of health—corrosion.







