

Checkpoint #2

POISONER'S HANDBOOK

Book Questions

1. What did James Simpson and his team do that made them suspect chloroform would be a good anesthetic?
2. What is the effect of chloroform on blood?
3. What are 3 unique, specific changes Norris made to the office, role, or procedures of the chief medical examiner's office?
4. In December of 1919 how many deaths due to wood alcohol had been reported?
5. Describe a positive result on the Prussian Blue test for cyanide.
6. Where was cyanide found in Jackson's body and how did it get there?
7. Identify two reasons for why is arsenic poisoning easy to detect in autopsies.
8. Explain why pure mercury is less dangerous than mercury compounds.
9. What made the blue man blue?
10. Which two "opportunistic" chemical compounds attach to hemoglobin more effectively than oxygen?
11. Why was the Travia case so important to Norris and the field of forensic science?
12. How many cases of alcohol poisoning occurred before prohibition in 1919? How many cases were there in 1926?
13. Describe the test Gettler invented for detecting the presence and duration of chloroform in the body.
14. What occupational practice was occurring at the U.S. Radium factory that allowed radium to enter workers bodies?
15. Why wasn't the lawsuit against U.S. Radium thrown out due to too much time having passed?

Take-Aways

1. Describe three "take-aways" from the book. What did you learn while reading it?
2. What topics in class did the book help you understand better?
3. What questions do you still have about the topic and why?