such ordained places. Deponents would say: “What I have said is as true as the fact that on a certain site has been placed such and such.”

The groom Goorban again raised the question: “Why do you foreigners, who know so much, do not find the entry-way into the underground kingdom? You know how to do everything and boast of knowing everything and yet you do not enter into the secrets which are guarded by the great fire?”

“Man lives in mysteries, and these are numberless!”

2. NEW LIMITS.

The question has been raised, when does life become extinct from the legal point of view? From London one writes: “When the man is dead. When the remnants of heart action and breathing have ceased, it must be considered that life has abandoned the human body.”

The strange episode of the fifty-year old gardener from Harley, John Pickering, who is at present recovering from an operation when heart action and breathing stopped for five minutes, brings about an entire revolution in the medical world.

The case of John Pickering has upset the criteria of the medical reference books. All those present at his operation were agreed with the statement of the physicians and verified his death.

Any physician, in fact, would certify death at complete absence of pulse, breathing, and heart reflexes, as was done in Pickering’s case.

In Principles and Practice of Medical Jurisprudence, Taylor says:

“If no sign of heart-beat is revealed in the course of five minutes, a period which is fifty times longer than is required for making an observation, then death must be regarded as unquestionable.

“There is every reason to assume that if the heart absolutely stops beating for a period longer than one minute, death is certain. The same observations also apply to breathing.”

The contradictions which arise in the case of Pickering indicate that the manuals of principles must be revised. They were written before the discovery of adrenalin, that life giving stimulant which restores people to life from that state which in the opinion of medical authorities has been called death.

The consequences are very far-reaching, and it is difficult to foresee them. In the first place, relatives will require the most extreme measures of their physicians in cases of apparent death.

Questions also arise in the social and legal fields. For example, what about the last will and testament in such a case as that of Pickering? Will life insurance premiums continue to be demanded? Will marriage be terminated by such a death?

Indeed, besides these questions which spring up, there can be enumerated many others no less significant. In general, the moment of so-called death becomes an extremely conventional one and in reality is subject to revision.

Thus, for example, a case has been cited, when, under hypnosis, a death which has been pronounced inevitable has been considerably deferred. Likewise it is explicitly related that a quasi dead man has uttered words under the influence of suggestion. Most likely some will say that this is impossible. And
yet precisely the authors of the widely used reference books would assume that the above cited case from London would have had to be recognized as terminative death.

Let us not recur to all the erroneous or contemptible conclusions which in their time have led humanity into error. One can recall how at one time people defamed experiments with steam, with electricity, and with many manifestations which have now become matters of common knowledge even in primary schools. It can only be regretted that now, the same as in days past, negation obviously predominates and much is made difficult by these destructive snarls and growls.

Many times people have been advised to keep diaries or written records in which to list known authentic facts. Just as meticulously as meteorological observations must be carried out generally and persistently, likewise many other facts must be noted down in all their unusualness.

One has occasion to read about the birth of quadruplets and even sextuplets. The fact in itself is extraordinary. But when all such facts are gathered together, observations based on them can be very instructive.

Generally speaking, without any negations, one must steadily go on learning to peer into actuality. When timid people exclaim: "This is impossible!"—one should refer to such negative outcries more than cautiously. All those new limits which are seeking recognition in the everyday life of present-day humanity must be realized, and primarily in good.

Even when we speak about new limits, can we affirm that they are new and that they are limits? Who assumes the presumption to insist that this very thing has not some time been known? Perhaps that language has been forgotten in which these same facts were enunciated, but no one can assert that in the essence of one's being they were unknown.

It is cause for rejoicing to note how recognition of the past and together with it prognosis of possibilities are made broader and deeper. The authentic written record of the ordinary inquisitive man can produce immeasurable usefulness by lessening superstition and ignorance, and by corroborating true experimental investigation.