

accouchement. Rupture of the uterus occurred with of course cessation of the pains. To reinduce them she administered Ergot. The situation of the woman with absence of the pains alarming the friends, they sent for Mr. Rowton, a surgeon, who immediately delivered her, but she died a few hours afterwards. A coroner's inquest and an autopsy revealed a rupture of the womb, and the jury returned a verdict of manslaughter. The circumstance occurred at Dudley in England, and when committed for trial the midwife said with the greatest apathy: "They could do what they liked with her." The mortality from midwife practice is so great that we wonder women trust themselves in their hands.

*Crimes in New York.*—During the year 1860, according to the American Medical Times, 116 persons died by the hand of violence. Of this number 59 are recorded as homicides, and 57 as suicides, and of the latter 57, twenty-four effected their purpose by poison obtained of course from the druggists. This able periodical has a sharp article on the subject, and in concluding it, calls the druggists to severe account.

*Death from chlorate of potassa.*—This medicine has lately been brought forward again as a remedy in tuberculosis. A fatal case from its employment has lately occurred in Bergen, N. J. The physician's name is not given, but it appears that Mr. Tuttle, labouring under phthisis consulted one, who prescribed eight ounces of chlorate of potassa to be divided into twelve packages, one of which was to be taken daily in a pint of water. The patient took four of the powders, when severe abdominal pains ensued with vomiting, followed by death. A *post-mortem* examination was held, at a coroner's inquest upon the body of the deceased, by Drs. Booth and Alcott of Jersey City. They found the external coat of the stomach in a state of inflammation, the internal coat yellow, and so soft as to be easily scraped off by the handle of a scalpel, leaving the muscular coat bare; the lungs were diseased, but not to any very considerable extent. Dr. Booth stated at the inquest "that he had known bad effects follow from twenty grains given every three hours."

*The Sponge Fishery of the Ottoman Archipelago.*—It appears that 600 boats, and 4200 men are now employed in this fishery. The sponge is found at an average depth of thirty fathoms, and a good diver will make from eight to ten dives in a day.

*The Cinchona barks.*—The increasing demand for these barks is suggesting additional means of supply. The Dutch and English governments have imported the new plants, the former into Java, the latter into India, and the results have been most encouraging. It is stated that already in Java, the young trees have afforded a return of new bark.

*Adulteration of Bread with Alum.*—On Saturday December 15, five bakers were summoned before Mr. Ingham at the Wandsworth Police Court for unlawfully using alum in the manufacture of their bread. The analyses were made by Dr. Normandy, and the proportions were found to vary from 27 to 80 grains of alum in the quartern loaf. The information was laid under the 5 of Geo. 4, cap. 106. The penalties inflicted were £5 and £10 each with costs ranging from £3 5s. to £4 8s.—*Pharmaceutic Journal.*

*Poisoning by Opium.*—An inquest was held at Aldershot on the body of Samuel Wiles Hillier, paymaster in the 9th Lancers, who had shot himself. The following is an extract from a letter addressed to a comrade: "I really believe I am poison proof. About ten days ago I took half an ounce of laudanum, enough to poison a horse. It had no effect on me. After that I took eight grains of opium; again no effect, except a slight drowsiness. Then four grains of morphia; no effect. I then took five grains of liq. opii. sedativus, with the same result. My last mode of exit is a sure one."—*Pharmaceutic Journal.*

*The Etherization Patent.*—However derogatory to Dr. C. T. Jackson and Mr. W. T. Morton it may have been, to have patented their discovery of the employment of Ether as an Anæsthetic in surgical operations, the patent, however, after the lapse of fourteen years expired, and the latter person fyled in the office of the Commissioner of Patents lately an application for its renewal, which was very properly rejected. We think that the