

The proof led was of the most distressing character (the age of the injured child not exceeding seven years), and completely established the commission of the crime (which had been repeated on several occasions), as well as the communication of the disease. The medical reports are subjoined.

Report by Messrs. John and Henry Duncan Spens Goodsir.

"*Edinburgh University Anatomical Museum, 9th September, 1843.*—Having been requested to examine certain stains or spots on some shirts, a shift, a sheet, towel, and apron, in possession of the police, and to pronounce, if possible, as to their nature, I have to report, that, after careful investigation, I have arrived at the following results:

"1st, On a shift, labelled as belonging to a girl named Braidwood, and on two coloured shirts, labelled as having been taken from the house of John Hamilton, I observed large spots or stains of a yellow colour, entirely resembling the stains produced by purulent discharges from the genitals.

"2d, On the girl's shift, and on a white shirt, two coloured shirts, a coarse towel, a sheet, and a small white apron, taken from the house of John Hamilton, I observed spots characterised by their faint colour, but particularly by their stiffness, as if they had been produced by starching. On the girl's shift, which was much stained by yellow matter, the stiff spots could only be detected by the feel, but that very distinctly. These stiff spots resembled, in all respects, those produced by seminal discharges.

"3d, When one of the stiff spots had been cut from the girl's shift, and another from the towel taken from John Hamilton's house, and had been steeped in separate portions of cold distilled water for some hours, they emitted a strong characteristic odour of seminal fluid.

"4th, When the two portions of muddy water, in which the two pieces of linen had been steeped, were examined microscopically, seminal animalcules, or spermatozoa, were detected. The majority of them were mutilated—the greater part of the tail being generally broken off, and the head not so plump as in the living state; but perfect specimens were also detected, differing in no respect, or in the minutest detail, from the living animalcules, except in the want of motion.

"5th, I conclude, therefore, from the evidence afforded by the facts just stated, that the stiff spots or stains on the girl's shift, and on the man's shirts, towels, &c., were produced by the seminal fluid of a man.

(Signed)

"JOHN GOODSIR, Surgeon and Conservator of Anatomical Museum of University of Edinburgh, 21, Lothian Street, Edinburgh.

HENRY D. S. GOODSIR, Surgeon and Conservator of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, residing with Mr. John Goodsir, Surgeon, 21, Lothian Street, Edinburgh."

Certificate by Dr. James Yarrall, Professor of Midwifery.

"I hereby certify, on soul and conscience, that I have, within the last eight days, examined, on three different occasions, John Hamilton, at present a prisoner in the lock-up house. By these examinations I have satisfied myself that Hamilton has a discharge from the urethra which has the usual characters of gonorrhœa in its latter stages. Further, I have had an opportunity of seeing some of the seminal animalcules, obtained from the clothes worn by the girl, who accuses him of having attempted sexual connexion with her. These animalcules are decisive of the spot or spots on the shift, from which they were taken, being stained by male semen. On this subject, however, I enclose the opinions of the Messrs. Goodsir, two of the best microscopists in Scotland, and whose observations on such a subject as the present may be most implicitly relied upon.

(Signed)

"J. Y. SIMPSON, M.D., Professor of Midwifery. Edinburgh, 10th September, 1843."

The jury found the prisoner guilty of the graver crime, that of assault, with the intent to ravish, and other aggravations, as laid in the indictment; whereupon he was sentenced to be transported for fourteen years.

[The report by the Messrs. Goodsir, and accompanying certificate of Dr. Simpson, are of great interest, as indicating the satisfactory mode of ascertaining the presence of seminal fluid on linen some time after its being deposited. After an interval of weeks, and even months, the same method of inquiry has proved successful in other cases.]

MISCELLANEOUS.

MISCELLANEOUS GENERAL AND MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE.

Poisoning by Macc.—A case was lately recorded by Dr. Watson in the Provincial Journal. The quantity taken was about a teaspoonful. In the course of an hour pain was felt at vertex, with slight nausea. In three hours more giddiness was superadded; cold shivering succeeded, attended by excessive heats; sensation of blood flowing violently to the head, with feeling of intense pressure. Some brandy was administered, and the patient felt as if violently galvanized. Mind unclouded, conscious of danger, although not apprehensive of it. Pulse varied from 70 to 100. There was great præcordial anxiety. When seen by two physicians the feet were cold, head throbbled, eyes injected, countenance peculiar, and "the words employed to express his sensations seemed selected for their merit of being the opposite of what should have been used." Temporalis pulsat strongly for several hours. The intellectual disturbance continued for three days. Emetics were exhibited, with stimulants after. The effects produced can only be attributable to the essential oil, constituting, according to James, 1-18th of the oil obtainable by expression.—The influenza is very prevalent at Strasbourg, attended with great mortality. Bronchitis and pneumonia were its most common sequelæ.—The deaths from cholera at Constantinople were from 14 to 22 per cent. daily. 3d December last, cramps were not a common symptom. The axillary temperature was often 97° to 99°. Death commonly occurred in from 2 to 12 hours after the attack. Information to January 17 states, that, owing to the cold, it had ceased in the provinces around the Caspian; it existed, however, in Moscow, Mohilew, and Witfisk, but the cases were mild. Intelligence from Aleppo (18th Dec.), states that it had appeared at Beregik, on the Euphrates, causing 10 to 15 deaths daily. On the whole, the accounts were favourable; the wintry weather having caused a subsidence in the number of cases, and their severity.—The *Gazette Medicale* states, that a woman at Niederheim, in labour, sent for her physician. For particular reasons, he ordered his servant to bleed her, after which she sank and died. The parish curate, called to administer the consolations of religion, finding her dead, performed the Cæsarian section, with a common table knife, and extracted a child which lived long enough to be baptized. The servant was prosecuted for illegal practice, while it was held no offence in law, for any person not licensed to practise, to perform the Cæsarian operation on a female recently after death.—In consequence of the prevalence of poisoning by arsenic, it has been proposed in France to colour it with Prussian blue, and to mix with it a small quantity of nux vomica.—A writer in the *London Medical Gazette*, states the number of deaths among medical men in Ireland (about 2600), for the four years preceding 1847, was 252, forming an average of 62 per annum. Of these 252, 76 died from fever, forming an average of 19 per annum. Last year 191 died, of whom 123 were from fever alone—a rate of about 1 to every 14 of the profession.—The *London Medical Gazette* (March 3), complains (and not without cause) of the enactments of Lord Morpeth's Health of Towns Bill. In a measure of that kind one would naturally have supposed, that the chief appointments would have been held by medical men, whose education particularly qualifies them for such duties; but there is not the slightest likelihood of such being the case. On the contrary, engineers, and surveyors, and *id genus omne*, are the men who stand the greatest chance of receiving the official stations. In sanitary questions, they must have recourse to the profession again; and thus is the knowledge of its members filched away. It is time that the profession should be stirring for its own interest in these matters, and more deference will be paid to it, when the information which it is capable of furnishing is not so readily yielded. The *Gazette* remarks, that "there is no guarantee that the General Board will contain even one member of the profession, and engineers, surveyors, and town clerks, are likely to take the place of medical men in the subordinate appointments."—An arrangement has been recently entered into between the English licensing bodies for a medical reform Bill. It is intended, 1st, That there shall be a Council for the general controul of medical education and practice. 2d, That two-thirds of this Council should consist of registered members of the profession. 3d,