

the purpose of securing a perfect flow of blood, the following remark of R. Yehudah is directed.] It is necessary that in killing fowl the veins at the sides of the throat should also be cut through. [With the same intent, come the concluding requirements of this section.] If but one half [of the trachea] is cut through in fowl, and one and a-half [*i. e.* the trachea, and half of the œsophagus] in cattle, it is unfit; but if the greater part of one tube is cut through in fowl and the greater part of the two in cattle it is Cashér.

(To be Continued.)

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ART. XXX.—*Observations upon Infanticide.* By A. VON IFFLAND, M. D., M. R. C. S.

NEVER is the physician seen to greater advantage, nor of greater practical importance to society, than when his science becomes the intervening agency of protection to injured innocence. As it not unfrequently happens to the frail and erring, but erroneously accused mortal, to stand charged with the commission of the revolting and unnatural crime of destroying the fruits of her illicit passion, and for the conviction of which, the offended laws have decreed the forfeiture of her own life, the following case, which points out one source of error, may not be without interest to the profession, or utility to society.

I was drawn into these reflections seven years since, on reading in the 1st volume (August number) of the British American Journal of Medical and Physical Science, so ably edited by Dr. Archibald Hall, the case of a married woman, who, pregnant with her first child, had hardly seated herself upon the edge of a rather high chair, when the uterine contraction became suddenly so energetic, that before assistance could be afforded, the child was forcibly expelled and fell head-foremost on the floor, and was killed upon the spot! The case is related by Dr. James A. Sewell, under the head "*of source of error in supposed Infanticide.*"

It is written and commented upon under those feelings of benevolence which have at all times characterised that amiable and talented physician, and with a desire of supplying those deficiencies of facts, so important and interesting in a medico-legal point of view, and which, while advancing the higher purposes of science and humanity, never fail of justly elevating the character of the author.

In cases of infanticide, the important question upon which the charge of murder can be founded, rests entirely upon the cause of death. 1. It is established that the child may die during its birth or after. 2. In either of which, it may die from natural or violent causes. The violent