

**WANT OF SKILFUL TREATMENT NO DEFENCE IN MURDER CASE.**— In the murder case of State v. Edger-ton, the Supreme Court of Iowa holds, December 9, 1896, that the trial judge properly stated the law when he charged the jury that if they found from the evidence that the defendant inflicted wounds which caused or con-tributed to cause death, then he could not avoid the consequences of his act on the ground that the wounds were not treated according to the best and most approved methods of medical and surgical treatment for wounds of that character, and that the judge properly excluded certain expert and medical testimony, as well as some medical and surgical books offered by the defendant, tend-ing to show that by proper treatment of the wounds of the deceased his life might or could have been saved, it being especially contended that if the physician called had resorted to

"laparotomy" his patient might have recovered.

**EXPERIMENTS UPON METABOLISM MADE BY THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.**— Experiments upon metabolism have frequently been made in Europe, but the first careful investigation of this sort to be carried out in the United States, according to a writer in *Science*, March 26, 1897, has recently been undertaken at Wesleyan Univer-sity in Connecticut under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture. The apparatus included a so-called respiration chamber 7 x 4 x 6.5 feet, with glass doors, and con-taining a chair, table and cot bed. A man can remain in this chamber for an indefinite time without incon-venience. A current of fresh air passes through the box. All food, drink, excretory products, and the currents of air are weighed or

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