

man attacks one who is not arrived at the age of puberty. The following answer of the Medical Faculty of Leipsic is here given, which we believe worthy of being copied:—

“ Si circumstantias quæ in actu coeundi concurrunt, consideramus, non credibile, nec possibile videtur, quod unus masculus nubilem virginem, (excipe impubem, teneram, delicatam, aut simul ebriam puellam) absque ipsius consensu, permissione, atque voluntate vitiare, aut violento modo stuprare possit; dùm sœmblæ cui-libet facilius est, si velit, penis immissionem recusare, vel multis aliis modis impedire, quam viro eidem invitæ planè intrudent.”

Menstruation has been mistaken for defloration, as well as other appearances of momentary inflammations produced by the introduction of irritating substances or bodies. From this remark of our author, we are led to ask this question with regard to the case to which we alluded at the commencement of this article; was not the state of the parts as reported by the women, the consequence of the first menstruation? This would seem not to be altogether impossible from the fact of her not having menstruated before the period complained of, and from the assertion on the part of the accuser of the hemorrhage having continued during the three subsequent days.

Here the author gives a sketch of the laws of different nations against rape; those of England and Scotland make it a felony without benefit of clergy, as well as some of the Provinces of the United States, but in the generality of these and in France, from the Napoléon code, it is punished by imprisonment or fine, or by both. The remainder of this chapter is devoted to some medico-legal questions, connected with this subject. To the question whether the presence of syphilis in the female is a proof in favour or against her accusation, the author remarks that the infection generally taking place not before three days, the examination should be made within that time. We must observe that this is not frequently the case in our climate, as it mostly occurs after 48 and sometimes