

but we regard the evidence of the experts (we refer to their experiments) although confirmatory, and on the whole, satisfactory of its kind, as the least portion of the proof against him. We should be sorry, in the present state of science, to see a conviction for murder on such evidence alone.

A writer in a French journal has criticised the report of MM. Tardieu and Roussin on the ground that it descended too deeply into minutiae, and as, for instance, in noticing the contracted condition of the heart, invalidated their conclusions by raising points on which a critical defence could seize. We do not sympathize with the objection. If a man's life depends on a physiological experiment, for Heaven's sake let the minutest particulars be observed and noted, whether they weigh in the scale of guilt or innocence. A more valid criticism appears to us to have been that it would have been better to avoid experiments on animals so remote in the zoological scale from Man as rabbits and frogs. We are, however, most ready to confess that, considering the great difficulties under which the investigation was conducted, it was performed with surpassing skill and sagacity. We only wish that all the great Medico-legal inquiries which have taken place in this country were as creditable to British science. But whilst thus expressing our appreciation of the performances of the experts, we are bound to add that never were we more impressed with the superiority of English judicial proceedings than when reading the reports of this trial. The debates—we had almost said altercations—between the experts for the prosecution and defence would have been scarcely tolerated in an English Medical Society, much less in a court of justice; whilst the frequent interruptions, the loose reception of evidence, the attacks of the judge on the prisoner, and his mode of detracting from the value of the evidence, offered by the defence, contrast most strongly with the order, the careful sifting of evidence, and the even-handed fairness which are the characteristic features of our own legal tribunals.—*Medical Times and Gazette*.

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## Medicine.

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### NECRÆMIA, PIARHÆMIA, GANGRENE, AND GAS IN THE VEINS.

By S. FLEET SPEIR, M.D., Brooklyn, L.I.

Patrick Wright, æt. 44 years, of good constitution. Admitted to Brooklyn City Hospital Oct. 6, 1863, for compound comminuted fracture of the leg. Service of Dr. J. M. Minor.