

I did with an ordinary exploring trocar, passing the instrument carefully a little to the left of what seemed the apex of the heart, the trocar going through the edge of the cartilage of one of the ribs on its way to the pericardium. About one ounce of yellowish-red fluid was drawn off, and it was clear this came from the pericardium, as the cannula could be seen "hobbing" up and down with each pulsation of the heart. She bore the operation very well, and the symptoms were at once relieved, the respirations rapidly falling to about thirty-five to forty a minute. She made a good recovery, and has been earning her livelihood as a domestic servant for some years. Tapping the pericardium is an operation which has not been often performed, I believe; but I feel sure, unless we had done it in this case, we should have lost our patient; and, if ever called upon to perform the operation again, I should not hesitate to do it, for surely the relief given to the embarrassed heart was the means of saving the patient.—*Hugh Taylor.*

REGINA V. CLARENCE.—For a man to give his wife syphilis may be an unlawful act in the sense of being cruel, but it is not an offence which justifies a conviction upon a criminal charge. Such is the verdict of the Court of Appeal in a full court of judges by the decisive majority of nine to four. Horrible as the disease is in itself, and terrible as its far-reaching effects are, we nevertheless recognize the strength of the legal grounds on which the majority of the judges declined to consider that the existing statutes can be construed to apply to the transmission of syphilis from husband to wife. Perhaps the chief point in the case was the question as to the woman's consent to the act, which was undoubted. Those who were in favor of a conviction urged with much truth that had the woman known what would be the full consequences of the act, she would have resisted, and would have been legally justified in resisting, that the act she had consented to was an innocent and lawful one, and that consent to one act which was innocent was no consent to another which was different. But on the

other side it was argued that the doctrine that fraud vitiates consent was not applicable in this instance, and that mere suppression of a fact did not render criminal an act in itself lawful. A case which was decided some few years ago by the late Mr. Justice Willes in an opposite sense presented this very important difference in that there the parties were not husband and wife. The language used by the judges in reference to the act as abominable, cruel, wicked, foul, and atrocious barbarity, and a most malignant injury, is not one whit too strong. The question remains how far this decision calls for a revision of the law. To communicate scarlatina knowingly is an offence against the law. Why not, then, to communicate syphilis? Such a law would, of course, apply alike to both sexes. At present, this dire disease may be propagated with impunity; the innocent are the sufferers, and their case calls for relief.

AUSTRIAN JUVENILE INEBRIETY.—The temperance of Austrian women has long been proverbial; but, if the accounts recently published respecting the intemperance of boys and girls in that country are reliable, we fear that Austria will not long continue to sustain its former good character for feminine sobriety. So serious and widespread has inebriety been of recent years among school children that the Vienna School Board have, though hitherto ineffectually, been making strenuous efforts for the prohibition of the sale of intoxicating drinks to children. The Board has just resolved to invoke the intervention of the Government, and a Bill is to be laid before Parliament during the present session to prohibit the selling of intoxicants to boys and girls under 15 years of age. So alarming is the present state of matters that the appearance of a boy at school in a state of drunkenness is by no means a rare sight. During the winter poor children are often sent to school with only a glass of the cheapest spirits for breakfast, partly to allay hunger and partly to "keep out the cold"—that venerable delusion which still lingers in England. Slav children of the tender