

women who make a business of infantile murder. The proprietors of these dens of infamy, also distribute broadcast over the country, circulars promising to communicate for a consideration the means whereby this crime can be accomplished safely. Under these circumstances we may congratulate ourselves, that thus far we have escaped being drawn completely into the current. But signs have not been wanting within the past year to shew that there were victims ready to submit if the operator could only be found, and it is with feelings of deep regret that we have to admit that at last, in Montreal, one of our profession was found willing to undertake the abominable business.

On the 21st of April, Mr. Robert Notman, a person of some social position, was placed in the dock at the Court of Queen's Bench in this city charged with having "counselled, commanded and procured one Dr. Alfred Patton, to administer to one Margaret Galbraith, on the 15th day of December, 1867, a certain noxious thing known as the Ergot of Rye," for the purpose of procuring abortion. The evidence as given by a number of witnesses was remarkably clear. The principal witness was the unfortunate Miss Galbraith, who gave her evidence, we believe honestly, although with much reluctance. She was a pupil in attendance at the Normal School, and had been seduced by Notman. Believing herself pregnant, Notman arranged with Dr. Alfred Patton to see her at his, Notman's, office. This interview between Dr. Patton and Miss Galbraith, took place on the 15th December, 1867, Notman being at that time in Toronto. Dr. Patton informed her she was pregnant, and gave her a bottle of medicine to take—which bottle was subsequently found in her trunk and was examined by Dr. Girdwood, who, on the trial gave it as his opinion from a microscopic examination of small particles taken from it, that it had contained Ergot of Rye. Several letters from Notman were read in which brief allusions were made to the treatment she was undergoing. To shew the intent of the prisoner, evidence not pertaining to the indictment upon which he was being tried (there were four other indictments against him) was admitted by Judge Drummond who presided. This evidence showed that finding the Ergot did not answer the purpose, other medicines were tried, all of which failed; that as a last resort sponges were used, and that on the evening of Saturday the 22nd February last, she was taken to the St. Lawrence Hall, where Dr. Patton shortly after arrived. He remained with her all night, and early on the Sunday morning she was delivered of a fœtus. What became of it Miss Galbraith did not know. Dr. Patton continued to attend her and saw her for the last time about midnight on the 26th of February. On the morning of the 27th Dr. Patton was found dead in his bed. An inquest was held, and a che-