

physician is besought to lend his aid. Alas! that some of these, through hope of reward or fear of losing patronage, should ever have given their consent to this foul crime!

WHY IS THIS CRIME COMMITTED?

Trivial excuses, at best, are given. I speak not now of the unmarried, in whom dread of exposure is the prevailing motive. It is with the married I am dealing.

They plead poverty at times; they are not able to support an infant, though it often costs more to pay the expenses of the evil results that follow an abortion, or for the indulgence in many needless luxuries.

Ill-health is sometimes the excuse. She thinks she is too delicate, and that the birth of a child would be the death of her; and so she procures an abortion, which is far more dangerous to health and life than a birth at full term.

Other reasons, of a meaner nature, are not so frequently disclosed, though they are oftener the real cause. Fear that she will lose her beauty, though nothing contributes so much to its loss as the practice of abortion. Love of the pleasures of life; balls, parties, and social enjoyments are apt to be interfered with by the cares of maternity; and the trifling butterfly of fashion thinks more of her own present amusement than the future well-being of both soul and body.

All these causes, and perhaps others, tend to make abortion a thing to be desired in the eyes of our married women; and ignorance of its moral and physical nature encourages its practice. On these two points let me speak. Abortion is

A CRIME AGAINST THE LAWS OF GOD.

It is murder! I know some women think it is not. Some think there is no life till the child breathes; others that there is no life before the period of "quickening." Both are alike in error. Quickening and birth are but the progressive stages of the embryo's development. The first is but its instinctive movements within the mother's womb, occurring at varying periods of pregnancy, and sometimes not at all. The second is but the period of its detachment from the mother's body. They mark the stages of its progress in life, but not the beginning of life; that dates from an early period. *It dates from the very moment of conception.* From that moment *it lives.* For nine months it is attached to its mother's body, drawing its sustenance from her veins. Then it is expelled from her womb, and for perhaps