

the cuticle streaked, and of a dark colour, uterus nearly doubled its natural size, and tender to the touch, os uteri open and relaxed. Lochia copious, her linen much soiled with it; says she did not know she was pregnant; says she has not menstruated for nearly two years.

I was requested by the same magistrate, the following day, to examine, post-mortem (55 hours after supposed death), the body of a female child, which had been exhumed for the purpose of holding an inquest. It had been interred about 36 hours, in a wall-nut wood coffin. The body presented no external marks of violence, and but very slight marks of putrefaction. Measured 19 inches long, weighed 5lbs nearly. Umbilical cord cut about a hand's breadth from the belly and tied. Nails and hair well developed; cellular tissue filled with fat; gall bladder containing bile; meconium abundant in the large intestine; thymus gland large, and of a pale colour; lungs small, and of a dark violet hue, exposing the heart and pericardium, which appeared *proportionately* very large.

I removed the lungs and the heart from the thorax, and they sank in water to the bottom of the vessel. I then removed the heart and its appendages, and submitted the lungs alone to the same test, with the same result. I also obtained the same results from each lung separately. I then cut each lung into 15 or 20 pieces, and each of these pieces sunk to the bottom of the vessel; there was no distinct crepitation in any part of the lungs. The foramen ovale was perfectly open, and the ductus arteriosus was not contracted.

It appears from the evidence of Louis P—, which was corroborated by his wife, that on the 29th of May, 1840, they retired to bed about  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 9 p.m. (the house consisted but of one room, in which the prisoner, their servant maid, and two small children, slept in separate beds); that about midnight he heard the prisoner get out of her bed, and sit upon a bucket, which was used by the family (in lieu of a pot de chambre); that there was water in it, when he retired to bed. The prisoner remained upon the bucket for about 10 minutes, and then returned again to bed. While on the bucket he heard her moan, and discharge a quantity of liquid, which he supposed was from the bowels; he asked her if she was sick, and she replied that her menses, which had been retarded for nearly 2 years, had that moment commenced, and that she felt relieved. He recollected her appearing a little unwell the evening before, on going to bed.

The prisoner got up out of bed as usual about half past four A.M., and left the house, and was absent about ten minutes, during this time the witness and his wife rose, and his wife directed his attention to the bucket, which contained a female infant, with the placenta attached and some clots of blood. While they were making this

examination the prisoner came in, and when they accused her of the crime she made no reply. They separated the child from the placenta, and it was buried in the afternoon of the same day. They swore positively they heard no child cry. The infant, as well as the coffin, was duly identified.

I examined the bucket. It was of common size  $9\frac{3}{4}$  inc. deep, and the witness swore that there was at least 5 inc. of water in it when they retired to bed. The rupture of the membranes, and the escape of the liquor amnii, would necessarily increase the height of the fluid, and from the spare make of the prisoner, her buttocks would descend considerably into the bucket, and added to this, before the fœtus could escape the os externum, the perineum would be advanced some little more, which left scarcely a doubt that the child was carried by the uterine efforts directly from the vagina, into the water contained in the bucket, and that it never respired, which was borne out by the post mortem examination. Such was my opinion at the inquest, and I there stated that from the post mortem appearances, I was of opinion that the child had not breathed.

The jury returned a verdict that the child came to its death by "negligence and simplicity," on the part of Zoe L—. The prisoner was sent to the Montreal Prison, and at the quarter sessions she was discharged without a trial, the Grand Jury finding no bill.

I find that a somewhat similar case occurred in London in 1842, when a woman attempted to destroy the child by immersing its head only, in a bucket of water. The child was discovered and resuscitated.

While on this head, I may relate a case similar to one that appeared in your August number, related by Dr. Sewell, of Quebec, but with opposite results; where the woman, aged 40, was walking across her room when a violent pain came on, and expelled the child, which fell upon the floor. The umbilical cord broke about a hand's breadth from the belly of the child. I arrived just at this moment. There was some little irregular action of the uterus, which gave rise to considerable hæmorrhage. The child received no injury, and both the mother and child did well.

#### CASE OF SEVERE GUNSHOT WOUND IN THE KNEE.

*Amputation of the thigh, followed by irritative fever and retraction of the muscles, terminating fatally.*

By ALEX. ROWAND, M. D., Montreal.

Between two and three o'clock P. M., on the 19th of October last, I was sent for in great haste to visit Mr. P—, who, I was informed, had received a severe wound in the knee, from the accidental discharge of his fowling-piece. Accompanied by Dr. Badgley, I immediately proceeded to the spot where the unfor-