

acute rheumatism to ulcerative endocarditis and pneumonia, which were formerly believed to be due to a specific micro-organism, but in which it has been shown that various different micro-organisms are capable of producing the same group of symptoms.

CRIMINAL ABORTION.

Few medical men, especially in the early years of their practice, escape the temptation to earn large fees by inducing criminal abortion. Some friend has got a young woman of good and large family connections "into trouble." He applies to the doctor for help, urging the impossibility of marriage, and the certain disgrace and ruin of both himself and the "lady" if the matter is not attended to. Only one period has been missed, it would be so easy to do; so little risk of discovery would be run, and the eternal gratitude of the friend and his partner in crime would be certain. The doctor knows also, that if he does not assist, some one else, less conscientious, or at least less cautious, will do so, and earn the fat fee, etc. The tears and supplications of the fair sinner are sometimes added to other modes of entreaty, and occasionally the doctor yields.

In the great majority of cases the culprits escape with a few days or weeks of anxiety. But now and then, even with all the care and skill used, death comes to the unhappy young woman, and exposure and ruin to the doctor and his accomplice.

We believe that if all the cases of abortion brought on by doctors and others were known, the list would be appalling. Married women, with large or small families, often seek the aid of professional abortionists when their own physician refuses to aid them in avoiding an increase of maternal cares. The history of nearly every city and large town shows that, persons pursuing the nefarious calling of abortionists live and thrive by it.

Not one case in a thousand perhaps, comes to the courts. Many a woman is done to death, and the public is never the wiser, the family preferring to suffer her loss, rather than bring disgrace upon themselves.

Young women, and indeed married women, have as a rule very lax ideas as to the sin of

doing away with an unborn child, especially when *they* are personally concerned. If it is someone else's ox that is gored, that changes at once and completely, the complexion of the case.

Quite recently, at Warwick, in England, a midwife was sentenced to death for having brought about a miscarriage. The defunct woman had attempted in vain to induce a medical man to aid her, the midwife had done so, with the result of septicæmia and death in a few days.

It could not be shown that the midwife had used any "instrument," and she denied having used any. By "instrument" we suppose was meant one of metal or rubber, such as a sound or catheter, though why ergot or rue should not in law be considered an instrument, we are not able to discover.

The learned judge in summing up, held that if the intention was to commit a felony, and in carrying out that felony, death ensued, that was murder. The jury accordingly brought in a verdict of guilty of murder, and the judge passed the death sentence.

It should be the duty of the police in this and in all other countries to discover, and prosecute those abortionists, who, by their criminal practices, cause the death of many women.

TRINITY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The final meeting of the above society for the session of 1895-96 was held in the College building, Spruce street, on the evening of the 18th Feb. The President, M. J. H. Allin, occupied the chair. Dr. J. T. Fotheringham opened the meeting with a paper on medical ethics. Dr. Shuttleworth followed with a paper on "Serum Therapy," which will be published by the society. Dr. Lamont then presented a case of stricture of the œsophagus for diagnosis and also the clinical history, P. M. report and specimens of a case of heart disease. Mr. Eagleson presented a case of congenital abnormality of the kidney, found in the dissecting room. Mr. Brereton closed the papers by relating the history and treatment of a case of leucæmia. These papers proved of such interest and instruction to the large assemblage of members present