

at the house of her master, the body of a male child was found underneath the clothes which it contained, these having been carefully smoothed over it.

Without entering further into detail, it will suffice to enumerate the conclusions arrived at by Drs. McCulloch and Sewell after a *post mortem* examination, performed by order of the Coroner :

“ 1. That the child had breathed freely.

“ 2nd. The marks of injury on the right breast and neck were inflicted during life.

“ 3rd. They were in all probability caused by the left hand of an adult grasping the neck of the infant.

“ 4th. The protrusion of the tongue and the position of the hands are probably referable to strangulation.

“ 5th. Death was not caused by hæmorrhage from the cord ; and

“ 6th. The child was between seven and eight months of utero-gestation.”

To conclude this case using Dr. Sewell's own words when narrating it ; “ the rest of the evidence went to shew that she had been a widow for some years ; that she had carefully concealed her pregnancy ; that she had taken powerful emmenagogue medicines prescribed by an irregular practitioner up to the day of delivery, and that she was seen half an hour before Dr. Sewell's arrival at the house, to get out of bed, stand by its side, take a pair of scissors from underneath the pillow and *cut something under the bed clothes.*” There seems to be an incongruity in the latter part of this statement, the italics of which are my own. The cord could not have been divided under the bed clothes, she standing at the time by the bed side, as the shortness of the cord lying in the vagina, evidently indicates it to have been severed close to her own person, furthermore proved by the length of the cord attached to the infant which was found to be nine inches. I cannot explain this apparent discrepancy. The result however of the case was, that the coroner's Jury returned a verdict “ of wilful murder ” and she was immediately put under arrest. The bill of indictment founded upon this verdict was afterwards thrown out by the Grand Jury. The woman was then indicted for concealing the birth of an illegitimate child, convicted, and sentenced to six months' imprisonment. It is not only unnecessary, but out of place here, to consider the important medico-legal bearings of this case.

Case 2.—*Turning by external manipulation in a trunk presentation.*

Mrs. McM. was admitted on the 24th July 1852, and labour set in on the following day. The membranes had not ruptured, but on vaginal examination a hand was detected presenting at the os uteri. Dr. McCulloch was notified of the circumstance and was in prompt attendance. The right hand was now diagnosed to be the presenting one ; and by careful examination, the head of the fetus was distinctly felt in the right iliac fossa. Instead of turning the child, he determined to attempt to bring the head to the superior strait. By a series of well managed external manipulations he eventually succeeded in displacing it from the right iliac fossa, and lodging it over the brim of the pelvis where it fortunately remained. A rupture of the membranes, with the consequent increase in the force of the uterine contractions, maintained it in