

tions of 6 months are registered, and they are registered both as births and deaths. In Germany, registration is carried on by the Registrars of births. Stillbirths are registered as deaths. (Act Jan. 6th, 1874.) Their law does not define the term "stillbirth;" but in practice, only a foetus of 7 months is capable of living, and those born before that age are not registered. Paragraph 23 of the Act enacts that, "when a child is born dead, or dies during birth, the fact must be notified by the next day at latest." Anyone failing to comply with this regulation may be fined £7 10s. od., or be imprisoned. Two special forms for registering a stillborn child are supplied. In one, the fact that the child died during birth is noted; while the other is used in those cases where the child is born dead, *i. e.*, died in the womb. Abortions and mole-conceptions are not registered. When the informant registers a stillbirth, the registrar interrogates the informant as to whether the child died during delivery or died in the womb. In Greece, registration is not compulsory, and no penalties are laid down. They are registered as deaths, and their legal definition of a stillborn child is "a dead newly born child." It would appear that the body of every newly born child must be taken to the Registration officer, unless its birth has been registered before as a livebirth. The Act of October 29th, 1856, regulates the procedure. In an Appendix to the Act, there is a form relative to the showing of a stillborn child to the registrar. In Denmark, registration is compulsory by the Act of Jan. 2, 1871. It is performed by the registrar of births and deaths. A penalty of 10 kr. is imposed if the death is not registered; and if a midwife fails to register, she is fined 100 kr. (1 kr equals about 25c.). By a stillborn child is understood a child which has issued forth from its mother after the expiration of the 28th week of gestation. A special form of certificate or stillbirth is provided for the use of a midwife.

Having tried to give some idea of the number of stillbirths, I shall next proceed to answer the question—Is the criminally causing of children to be stillborn frequent? Coroner Braxton Hicks, in his pamphlet, "Hints to Medical Men Granting Certificates," says: "Many children who are termed stillborn are not really so, but have been born alive and died soon after, sometimes from natural causes, but also from suffocation and other illegal means. In fact, it is to be feared that many children termed stillborn are disposed of in such ways." Tidy, in his "Legal Medicine," says: "So notorious is it that a large number of these cases could be averted, that some legislation is urgently needed." Stevenson, in his "Medical Jurisprudence," says: "There is reason to believe that the non-registration of births of children born dead leads to many being disposed of as stillborn which really came living into the world, but have died from neglect, exposure, or violence." In the Return already referred to, the following pointed statement occurs:—

"The Secretary of State has reason to believe that in some places the practice prevails of entering in the cemetery-book as stillborn children who have survived their birth by only a few hours, and over whose body no religious service has been performed." In the *Lancet* of Oct. 11th, 1890, a writer states, that a midwife known to him signs a Declaration of stillbirth of those children who die within 5 or 6 hours after birth. Previous to the passing of the Births and Deaths Act, 1874, and when no penalties were imposed for burying live born children as stillborn, the custom of burying liveborn children as stillborn was common. I have met with a case where a woman ruptured the membranes, the os being dilated to a small extent only, in the hope that by so doing the labor would be so delayed that the child would be stillborn. Again, it is well known how easy it is to prevent