

typhus. The best proof of defective observation on these subjects is afforded us by the trichinous disease, of which not a single fatal case has been recorded in this country, but many abroad. That the disease is often amongst us is certain, and the infant that died in Paisley last year, as the result of eating 'measly (?) pork,' undoubtedly, in my mind, succumbed to trichinous infection.

"Knowledge gathers slowly, and medical men must proceed with prudence in drawing inferences from cases observed; but I hold that they have hesitated too much and too long in raising their voices against the filthy and demoralizing practice of slaughtering diseased animals as human food. With a proper organization, I will engage to reduce the mortality in the London dairies from forty and fifty per cent. per annum to four and five. This would at once prevent the sale of several thousand diseased cows as human food in the metropolis alone. Would not such work be better worth paying for than inspection of markets? and is it not worthy of the strongest recommendation on the ground of economy, if not on that of saving human life? We 'strain at a gnat and swallow a camel' when we condemn the French for their vivisections, and allow our population to be cut down in thousands by painful and preventable diseases. On no ground can we defend the slaughter of diseased cattle, and medical officers of health need not wish to be fortified by evidence of cases of death in man from eating diseased meat in order to interfere vigorously with the traffic in diseased animals. That traffic is the most potent cause of disease in animals themselves, and unless checked our stockowners will suffer even more in the future than they have in the past. We cannot keep pace with the demand for meat, and prices are ruling higher every year. To secure an adequate supply of wholesome animal food we must devote ourselves to the prevention of disease amongst animals, and no greater blunder was ever committed than that of declaring that our poor must starve if we condemn all the diseased animals sent to the butcher. The poor may console themselves a little by the reflection that it is the finest cattle in the best condition that usually die of splenic apoplexy, and the accidents which befell the pigs and ferrets from this cause are more likely to be witnessed in the homes of the wealthy than in those of people who cannot afford to pay the highest market price for beef."

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE AND TOXICOLOGY.

44. *Etherization followed by Death.*—At the meeting of the Imperial Society of Medicine in Lyons, on July 20, M. CHASSAGNY communicated the case of a lady aged 40, to whom ether was administered previously to the removal of an urethral polypus and two sebaceous cystic tumours on the head. Thirty grammes of ether (rather less than an apothecary's ounce) were used; but the anaesthesia produced was incomplete, and the patient was aware that the operations were being performed. The administration of the anaesthetic was not pushed further, because the stage of excitement did not manifest itself, and because, on the contrary, general coldness and slowness of the pulse were present. On the completion of the operation, which occupied a quarter of an hour, vomiting set in; the coldness increased, and was accompanied by clammy sweats; and the patient had convulsions, attended with foaming at the mouth. The attack passed away in a few moments, but soon returned with equal intensity. After the fourth attack, the patient died. M. Chassagny considered that the patient had died of eclampsia induced by etherization, which was thus the indirect cause of death. She had previously been subject to epileptic vertigo.—*British Med. Journ.*, from *Gaz. Méd. de Lyon*, 16 October, 1864.