

Dr. Paris, from all these facts, gave it as his opinion, that death had been caused by manual strangulation, and that the suspension was subsequently made.

There was considerable testimony involving Buscatel as the murderer, and he was found guilty, and sentenced to imprisonment at hard labour for twenty years.—*Gazette des Tribunaux*, October 4th, 1845. T. R. B.

91. *Infanticide*.—The neighbours of Margaret Francon had for some time suspected from her appearances, that she was pregnant. At last a report spread that she had been delivered. The mayor of the arrondissement visited her, in order to institute a legal inquiry. She denied both, ascribed her increased size to taking cold, and from which she had been relieved by a bloody discharge. A physician was called in, who, on examination, declared that she had been recently delivered.

After continuing the farce for some time, Margaret at last confessed that she had been delivered of a dead infant, which she had wrapped in linen and concealed in her bed, and three days afterwards had buried it in the ground near her house.

The child was born on the 28th of May. It was examined on the 6th of June. It was of the full size, well made, and pronounced to have lived after birth. The head was considerably flattened transversely, and, on dissection, a quantity of blood was found in the cellular tissue which unites the skin with the bones of the cranium. This effusion was greatest in the two parietal regions. The physicians pronounced it to be the cause of the child's death.

But was this effusion the result of crime or of accident? Might not a tedious delivery produce such a compression? In the case of Margaret, this was not probable, since, in her confession, she had stated that it was neither tedious nor difficult, having continued only three-quarters of an hour, and, above all, she was delivered without assistance.

This effusion further proved that the child had lived after birth.

The testimony of a number of physicians all tended in favor of the infanticide. Dr. Molière, of Tournon, also an examiner of the body, counteracted the effect of this, by expressing a doubt whether the delivery might not have caused this effusion.

The public prosecutor, fearing that the prisoner might totally escape, abandoned the charge of murder, and asked a verdict on that of homicide by imprudence, and she was convicted of this and sentenced to imprisonment for three years.—*Gazette des Tribunaux*, Jan. 2d, 1846. T. R. B.

92. *On the Composition of Air at different heights in close apartments*.—M. LASSAIGNE has drawn the following conclusions from a series of experiments on this subject.

1. In rooms where the air is confined, and had been respired for some time without renewal, the carbonic acid expired, is not found exclusively, as some have asserted, in the lower strata.

2. In accordance with the law of physics, confirmed by experiment, the carbonic acid is nearly equally diffused throughout the whole volume of confined air which has been respired by a certain number of persons.

3. The slight differences observed would lead to the inference, that the proportion of carbonic acid was, under these circumstances, greater in the upper strata, were it not that the differences may depend upon errors in the quantitative estimation of the gaseous components of the air.

4. These facts show the erroneous principles upon which some modern theories of ventilation are based; for it is clear that the *whole* mass of air which has been respired by many persons requires renewal, so that the vitiated air may be entirely expelled.

5. The uneasiness experienced from respiring the heated air in the upper part of crowded and badly ventilated theatres is due rather to its rarefaction, than to its chemical composition; for the latter is almost identical in the upper and lower strata. The acts of respiration are more (?) full and frequent when rarefied air is breathed, hence certain physiological effects are induced, which are not observed in the respiration of air at the common temperature.—*London Medical Gazette*, from *Comptes Rendus*. T. R. B.

93. *Janipha Manihot*.—The root of this plant, which in its natural state is so