

the verdict of an intelligent and respectable jury, of the atrocious murder charged against you in the indictment, upon evidence which could not leave a doubt of your guilt on the mind of any one who heard it. I so fully concur in the view which has been so eloquently given by my learned brother of the nature of the offence, that I will not occupy the time of the Court with commenting on it. A crime more atrocious, a more cold-blooded, deliberate, and systematic preparation for murder, and the motive so paltry, is unexampled in the annals of the country. It is now my duty to inform you, that if ever it was clear beyond all possibility of doubt, that sentence would, in any case, be carried into full execution, this is one of those cases. You may rest assured that you have no other chance; and I would now solemnly warn you to prepare your mind, in the most suitable manner, to appear, in a very short time, before the throne of Almighty God, to answer for this crime, and for every other with which you stand chargeable in your own conscience. The necessity of repressing crimes of this nature precludes the possibility of mitigating your sentence. The only doubt I have in my mind is, whether, to satisfy the violated laws of your country, and the voice of public indignation, your body ought not to be exhibited in chains, to bleach in the winds, in order to deter others from the commission of similar offences. But taking into consideration that the public eye would be offended by so dismal a spectacle, I am willing to accede to a more lenient execution of your sentence, and that your body should be publicly dissected. I trust that if it is ever customary to preserve skeletons, your skeleton will be preserved, in order that posterity may keep in remembrance your atrocious crimes. I earnestly advise you to lose no time in humbling yourself in the sight of God, and that you will seek the aid of the ministers of religion to whatever profession you may belong. The present charges having been fully established against you, it is my duty to inform you, that you have but a few days to live."

His Lordship then pronounced, with due solemnity, the sentence of the law, to be carried into execution, at the usual time and place, on the 28th of January next.

The scene was altogether awful and impressive. The prisoner stood up with unshaken firmness. Not a muscle of his features was discomposed during the solemn address of the Lord Justice Clerk, consigning him to his doom.

After the trial, Burke and M'Dougal were removed to the lock-up-house, whither Hare and his wife had been conveyed after giving their evidence. They were detained there till four o'clock yesterday morning, when

Burke, Hare, and his wife were taken to the gaol: M'Dougal was liberated last night, having been only detained in the lock-up-house for her personal protection. We understand that Hare has made some disclosures, in which he confesses having been concerned in no less than twelve different acts of murder, in some of which he was the principal, and in others an accessory, and that he knew of another, in which, however, he was not a party. Burke, previous to his trial, stated, in conversation to those near him, that he had made up his mind for the worst, being certain that he would be convicted, which may, in some measure, account for the apathy and apparent indifference which he maintained during the trial, and particularly when the awful sentence of the law was pronounced upon him. Since his conviction he is apparently penitent, and seems resigned to his fate. In his religious opinions, we understand he is a Roman Catholic.

SUCCESSFUL CASE OF TRANSFUSION.

DR. BLUNDELL on the 7th instant performed the operation of transfusion on a lady at Walworth, assisted by Mr. Poynter (of Somerstown,) Mr. Davies, and Mr. Lambert. The circumstances of the case were briefly as follow:—The patient, a delicate woman, 25 years of age, the mother of two children, was taken in labour on the morning of the 7th; Mr. Poynter had been engaged to attend her, but it was found necessary, before the arrival of this gentleman, to call in Mr. Davies. There was nothing remarkable in the labour; the child presented naturally, the placenta came away entire in the course of a few minutes, and the patient remained for about an hour and a half, to use her own expression, "quite comfortable." An alarming state of collapse somewhat suddenly ensued, and it was found that considerable hæmorrhage had taken place from the uterus: pressure was made on the abdomen; ice was introduced into the vagina, and various means employed. No further discharge of blood took place, but the patient was in an extreme state of prostration, blanched, and perfectly bloodless in appearance; the pulse not higher than 120, but sometimes almost imperceptible. Stimulants (brandy and port wine) were freely given, but with no marked benefit. In this state of affairs, Dr. Blundell arrived, and determined on transfusion, observing, that although there were some symptoms absent, which were necessary to make the case one of an extreme kind, namely, a greater rapidity of pulse, and

restlessness; and although there was a possibility of the patient recovering, as the hæmorrhage was restrained, yet looking to the exhausted state of the patient, and the slight temporary benefit that had accrued from the use of stimulants, he thought the balance was against her, and that it was desirable to give the *pabulum vitæ*,—*blood*. About eight ounces, procured from the arm of Mr. Davies, were injected at different times—the whole operation occupying upwards of three hours. It was not until the whole quantity had been thrown in, that there was any decided amendment in the condition of the patient; she then rallied, and became in every respect better. Her convalescence has been gradual, and at this time, eleven days after delivery, she is doing well. The lochial discharge has returned within the last three days, and she says that she feels stronger and better than in the same lapse of time, after her two previous labours. There has been some tumefaction, and likewise pain of the arm, in which the transfusion was made; but these have subsided. It is worthy of notice, that the patient expresses herself very strongly on the benefits resulting from the injection of the blood; her observations are equivalent to this—that she felt as if *life* were infused into her body.

SECALE CORNUTUM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The following case, the treatment of which, though some may be induced to censure, I consider may be useful to the profession at large, I submit to your disposal.

A lady, in the sixth month of pregnancy, after some premonitory symptoms, which had then vanished, was suddenly seized with labour, and as her medical attendant resided at some distance, a neighbouring practitioner was called in. The fœtus was quickly born; but, unluckily, in attempting the extraction of the placenta, which adhered very firmly, the umbilical cord was broken near, if not at its placental extremity. After some time the pains left, and the Doctor also; one, two, three, and even five days passed, yet still the placenta was retained, and was evidently a source of considerable irritation. It was absolutely necessary that something should be done; and having heard of the extraordinary effects of the *secale cornutum* on the uterus, it was determined to give it a trial. Accordingly, four scruples were boiled, in four ounces of water, down to two, and half an ounce given every half hour, until some effect was produced. Two doses occasioned

a very slight pain only; but, after the third, the uterus acted most powerfully, expelling a quantity of coagula, together with the after-birth. The patient remained in a very weak state, but soon recovered, and, in most expressive language, extolled this invaluable medicine.

The pains, she observed, were of a severer kind, and gave considerably more torture than any experienced during previous confinements. This, probably, might be owing to the revival of the action of the uterus so soon after delivery, which always produces some soreness of that organ, and also to the presence of a substance, which though formerly natural, had become foreign to the cavity.

It has been said that the ergot becomes inert by keeping; that used in this instance was above twelve months old, and it certainly possessed all its virtues. That it varies in quality, seems much more plausible.

Dec. 6, 1828.

M.

GLASGOW INFIRMARY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—You most undoubtedly know, that the intent of the presence of medical students at surgical operations, performed in public hospitals is, that they may see the various steps of various operations; but really, when I reflect upon my attendance in the theatre of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, in nine cases out of ten, I saw the patient only brought in and taken out: during the performance of the operation I looked, but, in faith, I could see nothing. This entirely arises from the presence of a multitude of unnecessary spectators immediately surrounding the patient. I could particularize one man, a branch of the medical department of said hospital, who generally makes it a point to stand directly between the students and patient, (believing, no doubt, that he is as transparent as the goggles he looks through,) to the no small annoyance of such as may attend for practical information. Now, I consider that, for the benefit of all concerned, such a practice ought, most decidedly, to be annihilated, and that no person should be allowed to stand *hard by* the patient, excepting those who are actually indispensable to the performance of the operation. Nothing but the consideration that the above-mentioned practice is a "*morbus ingravescens*," induces me to request that it may be made public through the medium of your Journal.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ALEX. NAPIER.

Glasgow, 19th Dec., 1828.