having carnal knowledge of a girl under 16. He was tried and acquitted on December 16th. The evidence justified acquittal, although there seemed little doubt of the pregnancy of the girl, as it was perfectly clear that some one other than the prisoner had had carnal knowledge of her unless gross perjury had been committed. I am told she was delivered of a living child on February 14th, 1891.

I have more than once delivered a married woman at the full period of gestation in whom the hymen was perfect up to the moment of delivery. The record of this case is instructive, as with the others it seems to show the possibility of complete sexual intercourse with persons whose vaginae are capacious without rupture of the hymen, and to have an important bearing on the possibly of rape without rupture.

THE TURKISH BATH IN PHTHISIS.

DR. M. ALTDORFER (Resident Physician, St. Ann's Hill Hydropathic Establishment, co. Cork) writes: Will you allow me to corroborate the statement of Dr. Wilberforce Smith with regard to the efficacy of the Turkish bath in pulmonary phthisis? I have only had occasion to use this mode of treatment in the incipient stage of the disease, but in these cases the results have been most satisfactory. The improvement could always be proved objectively by the physical signs; but the most marked effects were observed in regard to night sweats, appetite, and body weight. The latter always increased. One patient gained 7 lbs. in four weeks, although he had lost 14 lbs. during the preceding twelve

Concerning weight. I would like to state that I find it generally much more difficult to reduce the body weight by means of the Turkish bath than the reverse, and I have seen delicate patients taking one bath daily gain as much as 5 lbs. in one week—a fact which is, in my opinion, principally due to the improved appetite and the better assimilation

principally due to the improved appetite and the better assimilation of food.

I am, however, not inclined to attribute the beneficial effect of the Turkish bath in cases of tuberculosis to the direct action of the high temperature ou the bacilli. Mosso and Bondelli have proved by experiments that the temperature in the larynx of a dog inhaling air heated to 320° F. rises only to 100.4°, and in the bronchial tubes to 100.0°:¹ and the blood temperature of a person staying in the hot room of a Turkish bath is only raised by a few degrees owing to the evaporation of the perspiration. The highest temperature measured by myself in a man who had stayed for half an hour in a room of 160° was 102°; as a rule the temperature was one or two degrees less.

My belief is that the curative action of the Turkish bath must be explained by the assistance given to the cells in their struggle with the invading bacilli. By the moderately raised temperature of the blood the cells, especially the phagocytes, are roused to a greater activity, similarly as in a feverish state; at the same time, the toxic products of the bacilli—the "ptomaines" or "toxines"—are partly eliminated through the greater activity of the organs of excretion, the skin, kidneys, lungs, and partly destroyed or made innocuous through enore lively oxidations within the body. That the processes of oxidations awell as the absorption of oxygen into the blood are greatly increased, not only in the hot room, but more especially after the applications of cold water with which we wind up the Turkish bath, I have pointed out in a paper published some time ago.²

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¹ Arch. Ital. di Biolog., 1889, p. 259.

2 Medical Press and Circular, May 2nd, 1888, The Hot Air Bath in Relation to Ptomaines and Leucomaines: Deutsche med. Zeitung, 1888, No. 76, Heilfleber und Heissluftbad, ein Vergleich.