

ART. I.—*A Surgeon committed for Manslaughter.*

On Friday an inquest was held at Wellow, a village in the neighborhood of Bath, before J. Whitmore, Esq., deputy Coroner for the Northern Division of Somerset. and a respectable jury, upon the body of a woman named Ann Nokes, the wife of a laboring man residing in the village, in consequence (it was alleged) of the gross neglect of the medical man who had attended her in her confinement. The evidence occupied several hours, but the facts may be briefly stated. The poor woman (the deceased) was forty-five years of age and the mother of eleven children. On Sunday afternoon she was taken in labor with her twelfth child, and there being peculiar circumstances in her case, the woman in attendance upon her sent her husband for Mr. Bourn, a surgeon, residing at Radstock, a few miles off. That gentleman appears to have come as early as possible and remained nine hours in attendance upon her, during which time he removed part of the infant. At 4 o'clock in the morning, however, he received a message from Mrs. Parker, the wife of a yeoman living a few miles off, requiring his services under similar circumstances, and by whom his services had been bespoke two months previously. Strange as it may appear, he immediately resolved to leave the poor woman whom he was attending to go to his richer patient, on the plea that he had been bespoke by Mrs. Parker but not by Mrs. Nokes. As soon as he was gone, a messenger was dispatched to Mr. Marsh, at Midsummer Norton, who immediately attended and proceeded with the operation left unfinished by Mr. Bourn. The unfortunate creature, however, was completely exhausted, and died in two hours after. The jury consulted together for a few minutes and then returned the following verdict:—"We are of opinion that Ann Nokes (the deceased) died through exhaus-

tion consequent on the neglect of her medical attendant, Mr. Bourn." The coroner inquired if he was to understand their verdict to be one of manslaughter against Mr. Bourn. The foreman said they had carefully considered the case, and that was the only conclusion they could come to. The coroner's warrant was accordingly made out for the committal of Mr. Bourn.

[There can be very little doubt that the jury returned a proper verdict in the foregoing case. The man who could, for filthy lucre, abandon an unfortunate woman, under the peculiar circumstances of the foregoing case, could hardly expect a more lenient punishment. —*Boston Med. & Surg. Journal.*