

**Transcription of Dr John Stiell's Declaration in the trial
of Agnes Hugh for culpable homicide, 4 November 1887,
National Records of Scotland JC26/1888/1**

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I hereby certify on Soul and Conscience,
that by warrant of the Sheriff, I made a
Post-Mortem examination of the body of a
Female child.

The examination was made at the new
Cemetery Lochgelly at 7:30 a.m. on the
4th inst.

The body was that of a fairly well nour-
ished female child born at the full term
of Uterine gestation. The length of the body
18 inches, weight about 7^{lbs}.

There was slight post-mortem lividity
across the back, otherwise the surface was
pale, lips and gums bloodless.

About four inches of the Navel Cord was
attached to the abdomen, loosely encircled
about its middle by a piece of worsted.

The cord at point of ligature was slightly
discoloured.

On making an incision through the
integuments, I found the muscles pale
and bloodless.

On opening the chest, I found the lungs
Completely filling that cavity, They were
of a pale mottled colour, and on section,
a slight quantity of frothy serum
exuded from the cut surface –

I then removed these organs along with
the Heart and Thymus Gland "en masse",
and placed them in a deep vessel
filled with water, they at once floated
well on the surface.

The Heart was all but empty of blood.
On opening the abdomen I found all
the organs healthy, but paler in colour

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than usual.

There was little blood in the large vessels.
On removing the scalp the vessels there
were entirely empty of blood.

On opening the skull the membranes
of the brain were very much engorged
with blood. The interior of the brain
itself was bloodless.

In conclusion, I am of opinion, that
this child was born alive and had
breathed, that all its organs were healthy,
and that it died from Syncope due
to loss of blood, which might have been
caused by the insufficient ligature of
the navel cord.

John Stiell M.D.

Lochgelly
4 Nov[embe]r 1887