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CURRENT TOPICS AND CASES.

The *Cosmopolitan* magazine for September contains a clear and graphic account of a celebrated case which created an extraordinary sensation more than forty years ago—the murder of Dr. Parkman by Professor Webster. The latter was a professor in the medical school of Harvard College. Dr. Parkman was an uncle of the late Francis Parkman, the well known historian. A short account of the trial will be found in volume 15 of the *Legal News*, p. 363. The case is of great interest, the conviction, after a trial which lasted eleven days, being based solely upon circumstantial evidence; but the proof was so complete as to leave no room for reasonable doubt, and Webster was convicted and executed. Before his execution he admitted that he had killed Parkman in the medical school, but he asserted that he had no intention of killing him; that, being angered by taunts and threats, he struck him on the head with a thick piece of grape vine which was at hand, and that death unexpectedly resulted. This statement was not quite in accord with the evidence, which showed that Parkman called at the medical school by appointment to receive a sum due to him by Webster; that Webster when making this appointment had no means of dis-