

that came off in our County Court last month, and as it may be interesting to the readers of the Journal, I place it at your disposal, prefacing it with a fuller explanation, to give you an idea of the kind of persons who are encouraged to practice medicine in this county. Some time about the first of last October there came to this village a German, innocent of a knowledge of the merest elements of a common school education, by the name of Hessel, who called himself a German physician and professed to be able to cure "all the ills that flesh is heir to." He soon had quite a practice among the Dutch farmers, who mostly compose the yeomanry in this (Waterloo) township, as he went around among them, asking for cases and promising a sure cure in every case and "no cure, no pay."

His practice this winter, however, was getting "small by degrees and beautifully less" until about the first of February, when he was applied to by a married woman (pregnant) who wanted, as she said, "something for the piles." On being made aware of her condition, he assured her she had nothing to fear; she took the medicine and immediately aborted.

This coming under the observation of my neighbour, Dr. Koetsch, also a German, but holding a provincial license, he at once had him arrested, not (as I would have supposed) for malpractice, but for practising physic without a licence.

While before the magistrate, Hessel stated that before coming here he had practised a length of time in Lockport without being troubled and that "he supposed he could do so in Preston or *any other place belonging to the States*."

He was committed to the county jail at Berlin to await his trial at the County Court, but was subsequently bailed out, and continued to attend one or two patients until the day of trial, which came off on the 12th of March, before his honour, Judge Miller.

During the trial, it was most distinctly proven by two of his patients that Hessel had demanded and received payment for medical treatment from each of them; and from one of them he had demanded more, but was refused because he did not, according to agreement, first effect a cure. And, although the charge was so distinctly proven, the jury returned a verdict of *not guilty*. But this did not much surprise those who were present, and witnessed the almost perfect indifference with which the case was treated by the prosecuting attorney on the one hand, and the rabid and uncourteous address of the defendant's counsel on the other. And even the presiding judge himself seemed to have a leaning towards the defendant, which was afterwards explained by his stating, that he considered the statute (under which Hessel was arraigned) *inhuman, unjust, and ought to be repealed*.

Judge Miller, with many others, does not seem to understand that it is the *people* and not the profession that require protection from heartless quackery; but I cannot here do better than introduce the following from the inaugural address of Dr. Bulkley, the new president of the New York County Medical Society:

"But is it so? Do we require the strong arm of the law to protect us? Which is the greater sufferer by this removal of all legal restraints from the practise of medicine, and surgery, the profession or the public? Does not the public stand more in need of this protection than the profession? and are not many of the evils inflicted upon the public the indirect result of the indiscriminate use of dangerous weapons by those who