

all nonsense for lawyers and courts to haggle over what is practising medicine, and when one can escape the meaning of the medical act on the plea that he does not order medicine. A man does not need to prescribe drugs to reduce a dislocation, and yet he is practising in a very skilful manner and should be paid.

The medical profession has been altogether too easy going in these matters. It should oppose these classes of practitioners and vendors of patent medicines with vigor. If we cannot secure proper amendments to the act then break the act altogether and let the people take the consequences.

INSANITY, RESPONSIBILITY, AND PUNISHMENT OF CRIME.

This is the title of an article in the August issue of the *American Journal of Medical Sciences*, by James J. Walsh. He refers to the murders, many in number, for which no one is arrested. These murders remain as mysteries. There are many murders in states and countries where there is no capital punishment. Many murderers escape through the false evidence submitted to court, the clever work of experts, and the tactics of lawyers. Some murderers escape execution through the influence of political friends.

We have pointed out that murderers fall under several classes. 1, The wilful murderer who commits the deed for revenge or plunder; 2, The person who slays another in a passion or fit of temper, as in some ordinary altercation; 3, The person who takes the life of another in self defence; 4, and the one who commits homicide as an insane act under the influence of some delusion. Viewed from this standpoint the value of capital punishment becomes more apparent.

It is now very common for the defence of insanity to be set up. This raises the question as to what is to be our standard of sanity or insanity. On this point Dr. Walsh lays much stress on the complete absence of agreement among experts. The medical expert is too often a paid partisan. It is thus a very open field to introduce into any trial, and has often led to a complete miscarriage of justice. It is not the knowledge of a person on the subject of mental diseases that places him in demand, but how far will he go in proving that a certain person accused of a murder is, or is not, insane.

Dr. Walsh is of the opinion that all except idiots should be punished. The person of sub-normal mental capacities can reason some and should be made responsible for their acts. This is the only safe rule to follow, as otherwise there is bound to be a great crop of crime by these persons. These sub-rational individuals are cunning and will do crimes under the