

ECCENTRIC REPORTERS.

The mental vagaries of reporters are discussed in a note entitled "Mental diversions for lolling lawyers." We could match some of these in this country. The weather, however, is too warm to do more than refer to one which comes to our mind as we write. In the digest to a volume of the Upper Canada Common Pleas Reports appeared the title "Sue." Curiosity induced an enquiry as to whether this short word had reference to any litigation anent any black-eyed Susan, but it appeared that the rest of the sentence was "Right of Foreign Corporations to, in this country." We decline to do more than refer to the old story of "Great mind" as an index word in an old English Digest. Our contemporary's research appears in the following:—

A few minutes of gentle intellectual exercise for lawyers relaxing on the summer hotel verandah can be got out of the reporter's indexes to volumes 55 and 56 of the Texas Criminal Reports. Read aloud some of the titles in those indexes—all the black-letter words are titles, and there are no sub-divisions—and ask your professional neighbour to guess what sort of a case is indexed under each of the titles named. Thus: "Bad Spelling." Little doubt about that if he is aware that you are reading from a criminal report; it was a motion to quash an information because of bad spelling. "Cooling Time," a murder case of course, says your friend. "Adequate Cause," "Inadequate Cause," "Insult to Female Relative," and "Jealousy" are also murder cases, he will say, if he knows that it is a Texas report. And "Appearance of Danger" will not suggest a contributory negligence case. But "Contemporaneous Transaction" should compel him to scratch his head. Here is the case: "Upon trial for violation of the local option law there was no error in shewing on cross-examination of the defendant that *he had whiskey on hand* like that which he was alleged to have sold to the prosecuting witness." Nor has the Texas reporter put a "bromidic" paragraph under "Conditional Promise." It reads as follows: "Whereupon trial for seduction"—your companion interrupts you by correctly guessing the premise and the condition.