

tempered husband knows that he must curb his temper or lose his wife.

The law of alimony could well be modified, and the legislature could surely leave it to the Judges of the Supreme Court to determine what is cruelty according to today's standards and according to the various circumstances surrounding the particular case, in the same way as they determine what is negligence, not so much by precedent as by evidence.

The old doctrine of "Danger to life, limb or health," belongs to another century. It has lived to a ripe old age. Its existence is deplored by so eminent an authority as the Chief Justice of Ontario. The Legislature should make haste to kill it, bury it, and leave the Judges of Ontario free to consider all the surrounding circumstances and exercise their own judgment in determining what amounts to cruelty in an action for alimony.

J. C. McRUER.

THE LETTER OF THE LAW.

It has been said that "the letter of the law killeth, but the spirit giveth life," and the question is not untimely. Is the interpretation of Statute law becoming narrower and more literal today than formerly? Some indications, surely, are in the affirmative. There have been numerous instances where a new statute has come up for the first time for judicial interpretation, and the way has been open to the Court to adopt one of two constructions, the one giving to the Statute a reasonable operation though not as sweeping or extreme as its mere words would warrant. the other, looking not at the practical (or impractical) results, but proceeding solely upon a choice of the meanings to be ascribed to the words used, and in many if not most of these cases the latter course has in modern times been preferred.

Without pretending to be exhaustive, this paper will be confined to what is submitted as one of the most outstand-