

the solemn compact of the United States carried out to the letter. It must not be forgotten, too, that the President of the United States, the Secretary of War and General Wood promised the Cuban Commission, which visited Washington, to use their influence to promote a treaty of commercial reciprocity between the two countries. We fancy that the Senate, judging from some of its recent performances, will hardly be in so altruistic a mood as to swallow the proposed treaty at a gulp. *Nous verrons.*

MEDICAL EXPERT EVIDENCE.

Owing to the increased number of actions founded on negligence and the modern methods of conducting criminal trials, evidence of experts has become an important factor in cases at Nisi Prius. Thirty years ago, the presence of a number of medical men as witnesses for the plaintiff and defendant respectively, was very unusual. The plaintiff called the medical attendant, and his report was generally accepted as sufficient on that branch of the case. His evidence has now to be supported by several medical experts, by reason of the fact that the defence is certain to call several doctors, either to combat the allegation that the loss is due to the injuries complained of, or to minimize the amount of damage which the plaintiff seeks to recover. The same practice to its fullest extent, holds good in cases involving mechanical construction and operation, and has also been adopted in the trial of issues turning upon disputed handwriting. Perhaps the increase in the volume of this class of evidence is more marked in criminal prosecutions and defences, when death is alleged to be the result of poison or external injury, than in other trials. It is not unusual at the present time, to find in criminal trials, a dozen doctors on each side, and in many instances, medical opinions for the defence are found to be totally opposed to those on behalf of the Crown.

The reason for this condition of matters becomes apparent when we consider the methods of modern practice. Cases are now prepared more minutely, if not more thoroughly, than they were many years ago. Every detail is worked out, and every point of the adversary is anticipated. More money is expended in preparation and trial than formerly, and counsel are now dealing much more with the scientific elements of a case than they once did. Indeed, to be a successful counsel, a thorough knowledge of