

positive on this point, I think the Paris Medical-Legal Society, which is in regular communion with us, was founded after our experiment had proved successful. Be this as it may, however, the Medical-Legal of this city has already attained great prominence and popularity, and numbers on its list of membership some of the most distinguished physicians and lawyers of the community. There was a meeting of this association on the 9th ult., to listen to a paper, by Dr. O'Dea, on "The plea of insanity in criminal cases." He took for his text title vii, Section 2nd, of the Revised Statutes of the State of New York, defining the legal status of insane criminals. After characterising in strong terms the recklessness with which the plea of insanity is urged in our law courts, he sketched its history from the time of Lord Hale, one hundred years ago. He forcibly exposed the contradictions and inconsistencies of this criterion delivered to juries, as tests of the sane or insane character of a given act, and concluded by stating the reforms necessary to remove the abuses of which he spoke. They are as follows: the reform proposed by Governor Alcorn, of Mississippi, viz.: to have the question of insanity decided in the Chancery Court, before the trial of the alleged criminal act can proceed in the Circuit Court; and his own proposition, that in addition to this, the calling of medical testimony should be placed in the hands of the Court. The paper will be published, in full, in the *Psychological Journal* for October, a very able quarterly, under the editorial management of Professor Hammond. I hope to be able to send you a copy.

The question of admitting women students of medicine, to the clinics and operations attended by men, though for some time practically settled in many parts of this country, has been causing some animated discussion in Great Britain. I refer particularly to the debate at the recent half-yearly meeting of the General Council of the University of Edinburgh, in which Professor Masson championed the ladies, and Professor Laycock opposed them. With the merits of their arguments I wish to have nothing to do here. My object is to point out that both in the United States, and many European countries, the adoption of women to clinical instruction, and to operations attended by men, is an accomplished fact, from which no serious practical inconveniences have arisen. Thus, in our Bellevue Hospital, in the medical school of Wurzburg, Switzerland, in Paris, in Vienna, and, I think, in Moscow, females aspirants to a medical career are admitted to the clinics and demonstrations given to the men.

This leads me to say a few words on the system of clinical instruction adopted here. I will speak particularly of Bellevue Hospital. I may say, parenthetically, that this noble charity was established in the autumn of 1826, and it contains provision for *twelve hundred* patients. The maximum charge for admission to the sick is \$3.50 a week, which is only asked of those who are amply able to pay. The cost of conducting this institution is nearly \$90,000 a year. Well, the system of clinical instruction here in vogue is, I am informed, purely voluntary. Such members of the attending medical staff as feel competent to teach give, sometimes, informal expositions of disease at the bedside, sometimes, formal lectures on particular cases in the theatre. Such instruction is announced at the beginning of the season, and certain days during the week fixed for it. To these instructions all students who pay the entrance fee—three dollars, I think—are admitted. The system works admirably, and insures a quality and quantity of instruction not to be surpassed in any city I have ever visited.

Death has been busy of late in the ranks of celebrated British physicians. Simpson, Syme and Clarke, have followed in rapid succession to that mysterious hereafter, "whence no traveller returns." They were great lights, and all suddenly put out.

—"O proud death!

What feast is toward in thine eternal cell,
That thou so many princes, at a shoot,
So bloodily hast struck?"

To the Editors of the Dominion Medical Journal:

GENTLEMEN,—Could you inform me who are responsible for the following errors which appeared in the *Canada Medical Journal*, for June, 1870; the mistakes occur in an article entitled "Attempted Simulation of Disease," and are as follows:—

Pons Assinorum,.....	Blot No. I.
Echymosis,	" II.
Cheff d'ouvres,.....	" III & IV.
Nonchallance.....	" V.

Any information on the above would be gratefully received by

Your Obedient Servant,

19th July, 1870.

[We suppose the printers could explain the matter best, as a writer of the high classical attainments evidently possessed by the author never could make such *faux pas* as the above. When persons like ourselves, who do not belong to the "Cream of the Profession," trip in our orthography, the little *imp of the galley* is charitable enough to correct it for us, but he obviously either feared to meddle with the above, or doubted his own slender acquirements.]—ED. DOM. MED. JOURNAL.