

HON. W. J. HANNA.

This title does not mean that we are going to write an essay on politics. No; a medical journal has no politics; it only knows things medical and scientific. It is in this aspect that we speak of Hon. W. J. Hanna.

Mr. Hanna came into the active life of the Province of Ontario in January, 1905. Since then he has held the portfolio of Provincial Secretary. Under this department comes the care of the asylums, the hospitals, the prisons, the refuges, etc. It is in the bettering of these institutions that Mr. Hanna has done his splendid work.

Year by year he has improved the legislation of the province in health matters and in the care of the insane and the sick. He has had a wide outlook over this field of the province's duty towards its citizens.

The province will have occasion to long remember with feelings of pleasure and gratitude the wise legislation that has proceeded from the fertile mind and kindly heart of Mr. Hanna.

INSANITY AS A DEFENCE FOR CRIME.

Quite recently the legal and medical professions in the United States have been once more stirred by an address by Mr. Stephen S. Gregory, president of the American Bar Association. He puts forth the plea that Guiteau, who assassinated Garfield; Prendergast, who shot Mayor Harrison of Chicago; and Czeolgoez, who took the life of McKinley, were all insane, and should have been sent for life to an asylum for the criminal insane. He contends that the execution of these men were judicial murders, where the judges and juries yielded to the clamor for the blood of these degenerates and gave it.

He sets for in his address that Guiteau had made crazed statements just prior to the shooting of Garfield; but that the argument for his insanity was brushed aside. Prendergast thought that he should be made corporation lawyer for Chicago, and that unless he were appointed the deaths due to level crossings would continue. In this frame of mind he shot Harrison. He repudiated the idea of his insanity at his trial and claimed that his act was justified by the circumstances. In the case of Czolgoez there was a typical degenerate, with anarchist delusions, and one who acted on impulse.

Mr. Gregory points out that in the trial of these three persons the American test of whether at the time of committing the crime they were capable of distinguishing right from wrong was ignored. He contends