

of any well governed state or province is here wanting. To narrow the subject to a purely pecuniary, professional standpoint, this illegal, turning of all the fees in connection with lunacy cases, paid out of the public purse, into the pocket of one man is unjustifiable. If there was an expert in lunacy in the city, as well as a gynecologist, chest specialist and Kerganite, some shadow of excuse might be made for appointing him. But in other places a knowledge of the grave abuse which might possibly arise from such an appointment, has hitherto prevented its being filled, and the liberty of the subject is considered to be better secured by an investigation conducted by two medical men, who, at separate interviews arrive at a conclusion as to a person's mental condition. No special medical men being appointed, the only qualification required being, that the medical examiners should be duly registered practitioners. The profession can do much in having the system now in vogue in this city set aside. It is one which has neither law, justice or common sense to recommend it, and is a blot in the government of the province.

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We have much pleasure in placing before our readers the first of a series of hospital notes of cases treated in the Winnipeg General Hospital. This Hospital is the only institution of the kind for a vast district, and though, no doubt, cottage Hospitals will spring up throughout Manitoba and the Northwest, all serious cases capable of removal will for a long time to come gravitate to this Institution which is now taxed to its utmost capacity. Of late, many cases of great interest have thus come under notice, and the Professor of Surgery, Dr. A. H. Ferguson has had abundant opportunities of carrying in-

to practice the various improvements and modifications of modern surgery which he witnessed during his late tour among the European and Continental Hospitals. We had the pleasure of seeing this gentleman operate last week for radical cure of hernia, it was intended to perform McEwens operation, but want of sac material prevented it. Dr. Ferguson has evidently taken a leaf from this great surgeon's book as to the value of antiseptis, which, in all his operations he carries out in minutest detail, and as his cases have invariably healed by the first intention its value must be apparent to all. We could not help noticing the admirable arrangements which Dr. Ferguson has made for the practical instruction of pupils attending the Hospital. His assistants at his various operations being invariably chosen from the students in charge of the case, while, to the general class he carefully and fully explains each step of the operation. It is teaching of this character which turns out the practical surgeon. A man may pass his examinations creditably by the aid of books and a good memory, but the crammed brain so soon as the object is attained quickly empties itself, and the full fledged practitioner is legally entitled "as the public facetiously, and, not always untruly say, to kill," though his surgical education is then in reality but commencing. Among all those engaged in medical education in the various metropolises there is a unity of opinion that scientific education is now too brief. Not long since, the youth intended for a surgeon commenced his career at the age of fifteen, passing his examinations when between 21 and 23 years old, thus giving six years of professional preparation, but men now leave other callings and in three years blossom out into full qualified practitioners, but rarely, if ever, take prominent professional positions. The successful surgeon and physician must be