

western Russia, and at Kiev, a large town on the Dneiper, on the frontier of Poland, and about six hundred miles, W. by S. of Warsaw. The authorities of Warsaw were preparing hospitals, and a lazaretto. The mortality from it is not given.

*Jury of Matrons.*—This ridiculous relic of antiquity has been again revived. A woman, named Mary Ann Hunt, having been convicted at the August session, at the Old Bailey, for murder, pleaded pregnancy in arrest of execution of her sentence; on which Mr. Baron Platt ordered a jury of matrons to be empannelled, to try whether the prisoner was "quick with child or not." Their verdict was, that she was not; whereupon the law was ordered to take its course. The sooner that this blot on our code of Jurisprudence is removed the better. The question submitted to the judgment of old women under these circumstances, is one which can only be properly settled by medical men, not unfrequently calling forth the exercise of a sound judgment and practical skill. The worse than folly of trusting the solution of such a question to such a jury, was clearly demonstrated in the case of a woman, who had been convicted at the Norwich Lent Assizes, 1832, for murder, who pleaded pregnancy in arrest of execution. The jury of matrons, in this instance, also, brought in a verdict of "not quick with child." This woman having been examined afterwards by medical men, it was found that she had actually passed the period of quickening, and she was delivered of a living child four months afterwards. It is a singular anomaly, that women, who are continually blundering on these matters with reference to their own persons, and consulting medical men for solutions of their own doubts, should not only undertake to pronounce opinions on the matter in the cases of their neighbours, but be permitted by the law to assume a trust of such responsibility.

*Provincial Medical Board.*—The first meeting of the Board of Governors of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, as the Provincial Medical Board, was held, pursuant to notice, on the 26th and 27th ult., on which occasion a large number of candidates presented themselves for examination. Out of about twenty who thus presented themselves, fourteen were remanded to their studies; and of four who came forward to pass their preliminary classical examination, two only were permitted to enter upon the study of Medicine. The Bill under which the Board is constituted is of itself

amply sufficient to sustain the honour and integrity of the profession, and if the members of that Board be but true to the important trusts confided to them, and will persevere in the same strict path of conduct just adopted, we venture the prediction that before long the Profession in this Province will rank high in point of intelligence, and will make itself respected, by numbering only, among its members, men thoroughly competent to the discharge of all their important relations to society. This important fact must be, and we trust has been, now firmly impressed upon the minds of candidates for Provincial license, that an intimate knowledge of their profession will be expected from them, and that while their pupilage lasts; *they must study*. We can see no reason why medical men, in this Province, should be let loose upon society with a minimum amount of knowledge, or with less than is required in other countries, as has been too frequently the case hitherto.

*Present to Dr. Barrett, 77th Regiment.*—It gives us unfeigned pleasure to record in this Journal the presentation of an elegant pitcher to Dr. Barrett, assistant surgeon 77th Regiment, by the inhabitants of St. Johns, as a tribute for his professional services during the late visitation of typhus fever in that city; we state that it gives us unfeigned pleasure; for the whole circumstances are exceedingly honourable to all parties. It is the first instance of the kind which has arrived at our knowledge as having occurred in the Province, and it must be both a pleasure and a pride to the citizens of St. Johns, that they have been the first to recognize the value of gratuitous professional services. The following circumstances attending the presentation, we copy from the *Morning Courier* of the 14th October:—

The piece of plate, a magnificent pitcher, weighing fifty-nine ounces, and holding five bottles of champagne, was manufactured in New York, and is of very chaste and elegant workmanship, richly engraved with scroll work and some Canadian scenes on its base chased in bright relief on a frosted ground, and bore the following inscription:—

"Presented to WILLIAM BARRETT, Esq., A. B. and M. D., Assistant Surgeon H. M. 77th Regiment, by the Citizens of St. Johns, Canada East, as a token of their esteem and gratitude for his benevolent and gratuitous professional services during the fatal malady which afflicted that town in the summer of 1847."

The pitcher was presented to Dr. Barrett yesterday afternoon, at Wood's Railroad Hotel, St. Johns, in the presence of the gentlemen of the presentation committee and several other citizens. Mr. Seymour, in presenting the address and the piece of plate in the name of the subscribers, observed, "That though i-