

excepting statesmen, philosophers, poets, theologians, even John the Baptist and the Saviour himself—although a people accustomed to the wise utterances of a Solomon, could say of Him, "He spake as never man spake"—it will be seen how difficult a matter it is to answer the query we have propounded. In this connection a singular decision has recently been given in the Philadelphia Courts by Judge Ludlow, who contended, in overruling the motion for a new trial for Sayres, the wife-murderer, that "All wicked persons are insane." This view does not go quite as far as that of another jurist, who held the theory that not only wicked persons, but all persons, are more or less insane; but it goes far enough possibly to stir up a controversy between the bar, the medical profession and the pulpit, each having its own peculiar views on the subject.

**PUBLIC HEALTH.**—We notice elsewhere, the report, recently printed, of the Public Health Committee of last session of the Ontario Legislature, from which it appears that the country is in anything but a good sanitary state, and is very liable at any time to be visited by epidemics of the worst type. It will in truth be little less than criminal, for those high in authority to delay taking some action with the view of improving the sanitary condition of the whole province, whereby many valuable lives may be saved, and much sickness and distress avoided. In our opinion the public health question is one of the first importance, and any effort made by the Legislature with the view of preventing disease, involving a moderate expenditure, will be well received and appreciated by all intelligent people. It is confidently hoped, that during the next session of the Legislature, an act will be passed for the better protection of public health.

**MEDICAL SCHOOLS IN TORONTO.**—We have received the annual announcements of the Medical Schools of Toronto, whose session for 1878-9 open on the 1st of Oct. The announcement is made that the Schools are constantly increasing in prosperity, a circumstance upon which we congratulate the respective faculties, the *personnel* of which is such as should afford the most ample guarantee of the exalted tone and thoroughness of the training which the student may expect to receive. The buildings are conveniently situated to the General Hospital, a fact worthy of consideration to the hard

worked student who finds it necessary to economize his moments as the miser does his cash, if he would be successful. A successful reunion with a large increase in the classes, is confidently looked forward to.

**VERY SMALL.**—In the annual announcement of the Toronto School of Medicine is published what purports to be the list of members of the Senate of Toronto University, and the schools and colleges affiliated therewith. In glancing over it we observe that while corrections have been made so as to make the list complete in every other respect, "Trinity Medical School" and her representative have been deliberately omitted. Although this will not affect the interests of the school in the slightest degree, it shows to what length a spirit of rivalry and petty jealousy will carry some people.

**BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.**—The meeting of the British Association for the advancement of Science, was held this year in Dublin, under the Presidency of Dr. Spottiswoode. We have been favored by Dr. Tucker, of Pickering, with a paper containing the reports of some of the most prominent lectures, which we have read with interest, especially the addresses of Mr. Romanes, Dr. McDonnell and Prof. Huxley. The tendency amongst scientific men towards favoring the doctrine of evolution seems to be increasing. Romanes goes so far as almost to make the faculty of speech the distinguishing characteristic of *homo sapiens*, as compared with the most intelligent of the lower animals. There appears to be nothing very fresh in Huxley's address.

**DIAGNOSIS OF PERICARDIAL EFFUSION.**—Dr. T. M. Rotch, of Boston, (*Boston Medical & Surg. Journal*,) read a very interesting paper before the Massachusetts Medical Society, in June last, on the "Diagnosis of Pericardial Effusion." He pointed out the difficulties attending the diagnosis, the difference of opinion among writers, and concluded by stating, that in his opinion, absence of resonance in the fifth *right* intercostal space was diagnostic of pericardial effusion.

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