

[It is much to be regretted that Dr. Wright should consider the matter in a personal light, for we have been assured by the correspondent referred to, that Dr. Wright was not in his thoughts when the letter was penned.—ED.]

### EMASCULATION FOR RAPE.

To the Editors of the CANADIAN PRACTITIONER.

SIRS,—Of late the secular press has been ringing with accounts of criminal assaults upon women and girls—mere children—and it seems that the penalties prescribed by law are not sufficient to deter the worse than brutes who are guilty of those offences. The death penalty, although pronounced, is never carried out; the lash does not inspire sufficient dread, and imprisonment for life is so devoid of terror to such human-brutes that it is apt to be regarded as the solution of the boarding-house question.

As medical men, and the medical press, exist for the benefit of mankind, I think it comes within the province of a medical journal to suggest a remedy, less radical than hanging, that would forever bind the victim to good behaviour, in that respect, during life, and the fear of which would be sufficient to stamp out the crime. Wipe out the present penalties for rape from the statute-book, and substitute emasculation for the completed offence, and HALF the penalty for assault with intent; and let there be no alternative.

I feel confident, if this punishment was inflicted a few times, *and well advertised*, that such crimes would soon disappear from the calendar.

N. AGNEW, M.D.

Winnipeg, Aug. 30th, 1887.

### Book Notices.

*The University of North Dakota—Catalogue—1887.*

*Intubation of the Larynx.* By E. F. Ingals, M.D., Chicago. Reprint.

*Names and Addresses of Health Officers in Michigan for the year 1887-8.*

*Abstract of Proceedings of the Michigan State Board of Health, July 12, 1887.*

*Paper and Addresses of Colonial and International Congress of Inebriety.* London, July 6, 7, 1887.

*Address in State Medicine—Recent Advances in Preventive Medicine.* By GEORGE H. ROHE, M.D., of Baltimore.

*Sixth Annual Announcement New York Post Graduate Medical School and Hospital, New York City, Session 1887-8.*

*On the Existence of Dermatitis Herpetiformis (of Duhring) as a Distinct Disease.* By L. D. BUCKLEY, A.M., M.D. Reprint.

*Transactions of the Medical Association of the State of Missouri at its Thirtieth Annual Session, held at Macon City, May, 1887.*

*A Review of the Most Important Advances in Surgery, Medicine and Pharmacy in the last forty years.* By C. W. MOON, M.D., San Francisco. Reprint.

*Pathology and Treatment of Gonorrhœa and Spermatorrhœa.* By J. L. MILTON, Senior Surgeon St. John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, London. New York: Wm. Wood & Co.

*Experimental Researches in Artificial Respiration in Still-born Children, and Allied Subjects.* By F. H. CHAMPNEYS, M.B. London: H. K. Lewis, 136 Gower St., W. C., 1887.

*The Principles of Antiseptic Methods applied to Obstetric Practice.* By DR. PAUL BAR, Accoucheur to the Maternity Hospital, Paris, etc. Translated by Henry D. Fry. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston, Son & Co.

This is one of the most useful and interesting works we have seen. The subject is one of vast importance and cannot be over-estimated. The author is enthusiastic on the question of antiseptics in obstetrics, but, at the same time, sufficiently conservative to prevent him from being "meddlesome." The various antiseptic procedures adopted by many institu-