

Canada Law Journal.

VOL. XXXV.

MAY 15, 1899.

NO. 10.

English juries have developed a new style of verdict in murder cases—"Guilty, but not premeditated,"—and in the two cases the judge entered a verdict of "Wilful murder," and sentence of death has followed. We doubt whether the judge was even technically right. The verdict was, to say the least, inconsistent, and was probably intended as a verdict of "Manslaughter." It is surprising that the death sentence should have been carried out under the circumstances.

As the subject of legal education is now under discussion it may be interesting to refer to the course of study laid down for those desiring to enter the legal profession in Germany. In addition to the acquisition by the aspirants of a knowledge of the law and its practice, there is also the desirable provision that there should not be a too rapid addition to the number of the profession. A consideration of the German law on this subject would seem to indicate that at least so far as the latter consideration is concerned they have pretty well solved the difficulty. One of our exchanges gives the curriculum alluded to as follows: "They have to pass the final examination at a public school, which qualifies them for the universities. At the latter they are taught the theory of the law, and at the end of three years' study are admitted to a legal examination, after the passing of which they are appointed "referendar," and attached to one of the courts, to be employed in the preparatory services for a course of four years, during which time they are made familiar with all the various functions of the judges and advocates, and trained in their exercise. Having acquitted themselves satisfactorily in the preparatory work, they are admitted to a final examination. If successful at this very comprehensive and stiff test of their capacity and knowledge, they are appointed "assessors" to the court, and may then either apply to be entered in the list of advocates or wait until they get their appointment as judges." Something similar in this country would effectually work a cure for the ills complained of in Ontario.