

The following, taken from the *Montreal Gazette*, Jan. 16, is worthy of note:

"The case of Mechella, the criminal who was executed in Hudson City, N.J., a few days ago, would appear to offer one more proof that intellectual power by no means depends on the size of brain. Mechella, it appears, was the possessor of an extraordinary and well-developed brain. The claim was made for this prisoner that his actions showed him to be a man of deficient intelligence, and that owing to his partially idiotic condition he was not morally responsible for his acts and should not be hung. The New Jersey Court of Pardons would not, however, entertain this appeal. A *post mortem* examination showed Mechella's brain to weigh 57 ounces and 1 scruple; a weight which has only been exceeded in one instance. Daniel Webster's brain—the heaviest of any recorded—although there have very possibly been heavier ones—weighed but two or three scruples more than that of Mechella. Very recently a measurement of Professor Agassiz's brain showed that while the organ was large and healthy, it did not approach the huge brains of which special account has been kept. From these facts it is evident that research in this field has but barely begun."

When research is made in this field it will be found that the intellectual powers do in a very great degree depend upon the size of the brain; but inherited mental and physical derangements, perverted natures, polluted imaginations, combined with a reckless and dissolute life, will derange and destroy the finest brain that ever existed. It is quite possible that Mechella might have been a great and good man had he been taught in childhood to obey the laws of his being, and to shun the greatest of all vices.