

On the other hand, some very eminent Jurists pretend, and we have heard it from the mouth of a distinguished Judge in Quebec, that, as it is frequently impossible to establish the intention of murder which qualifies that crime in the eyes of the law, an assailant is held responsible of the consequences which may arise from the violence committed, however slight it might be at first; and as it is equally certain that a wound which is harmless in one case, may prove mortal in another, a knowledge of the distinction between mortal and dangerous wounds, could not be very material in the generality of trials for murder, since the denomination of the crime would rest on the better chance of recovery, which some constitutions are known to possess over others. We are laid to believe, on the contrary, that a proper attention to the circumstances attending an injury, will sufficiently point out the natural consequences to be expected from them, with a view to facilitate the due execution of the laws, and we shall only say that the Coventry act itself does not appear to afford those satisfactory explanations of the different denominations of crimes which it embraces, whereby the Physician can effectually co-operate in the due execution of its objects, upon the principles by which a medical observer is to be guided in his researches.

*Of mental Alienation.*—This chapter is one in which Dr. Beck displays the most enlightened judgement and an uncommon accuracy and precision in his statements, and this will warrant our extracting at some length. To the ordinary division of insanity into mania, melancholia, and idiocy, he prefers the classification proposed by M. Esquirol, in his masterly article on insanity in the *Dictionnaire des Sciences Médicales*, as better calculated to illustrate the various appearances of the disease. “The following is the order pursued by him:—1. Mania, in which the hallucination extends to all kinds of objects, and is accompanied with some excitement. 2.