

nation, and excusing herself for performing such a deed upon the grounds of the despicable nature and the fiendish motives, actions, and words of her victim, would have been determined to finish the work at all hazards, and to cease from her labors only when she felt sure that death had claimed her antagonist for his own. Stopping short, with the work half done, knowing that it was uncompleted, and seeking the shelter of an excuse behind a creed already twice violated, is to my mind an evidence of such infirmity of will as is possessed only by a person afflicted with insanity.

Another curious case of paresis of will has recently come to my notice. A gentleman residing in one of the Western States wrote to me for advice, and in the letter describing his case (which he gave me permission to use among my confrères) he says: "I am haunted day and night with the fear that when I am left alone with my wife at night, in a fit of transitory mania I might strangle my dear wife. I labor under this fear a great deal, and oftentimes, after the toils of the day are ended, I fear to go to bed lest in an unguarded moment I might harm my wife. I never trust myself with a revolver, knife or any weapon at such times." This patient suffers with paresis of will and has fears relating to himself, and he says: "I never allow myself to stand in front of a high window or door, for fear that I may jump to the ground. I never wish or think I ought to harm myself or any one else. I never willingly contemplate such a thing, still I am haunted continually with the fear that I may." Again he says: "My daily routine of business makes it necessary for me to cross two high bridges over deep rivers. I cannot swim. The bridges both have railings, and quite often in crossing I am so fearful that I may lose my will power and jump in that I grasp the railing to restrain myself as I go along." If possible he gets some one to accompany him in his work, and then he feels stronger and better able to resist the temptation to self-injury. This man does not wish to harm either himself or others, but his will has become so impaired by overwork, anxiety, worry and disease that he is unable to use fully and readily the ordinary powers of self-restraint or self-impulsion.

The object of this brief paper is to call attention to a few of the states of disturbed or impaired will power which are so common in those who suffer from mental or nervous diseases. It seems necessary that the attention of physicians should be directed to this matter, because impaired will power is not always recognized as it should be, and thus dangers arise and disasters occur which might have been avoided. As physicians it is proper that we should consider not only the objective and readily apparent conditions in diseases of the brain and mind, but we should push our investigations to the utmost limit, and seek always to ascertain those mysterious causes which impel human action for wise or otherwise purposes.

A consideration of the subtleties of will-power may inspire those who are educating the young to pay more at-

tention to the training and development, culture and growth of the normal, healthy, and active will.

A consideration of the aberrations of the will may lead physicians to discover the existence of mental or nervous disease at an earlier date than now obtains, thus acquiring better opportunities for successful treatment. And, again, by a shrewd discernment of the existence of an impaired will, in a person suffering with incipient insanity, you may be able the better to protect the individual by necessary and suitable environments, and to guard society against those disasters which too often occur upon our streets and in our homes, and which lead with startling frequency to the destruction of human life and to the untimely blasting of human happiness.

## PERSONAL.

**M**R. JOS. FOXTON, B.A., '88, has changed his Californian home from Los Angeles to Riverside.

The Rev. John Hay, of Campbellford, will be the University preacher on next Sabbath.

Dr. Ed. Foxton, we learn, returns to Canada next month to settle in Winnipeg.

Prof. N. F. Dupuis has, we regret to say, been confined for a few days to his room by a bad cold.

Dr. F. C. Heath, '86, paid a flying visit to his home and Alma Mater last week. He is meeting with splendid success at Brantford.

We are pleased to learn that Rev. F. Johnson has been made the recipient of a purse and address at the hands of his parishioners at Chaumont, where he is deservedly popular.

Mr. Geo. Varcoe, 90, who was laid up in the Hospital for a short time with a mild attack of diphtheria, is, we are glad to say, fully recovered.

Mr. John Boyd, '89, conducted the funeral services of the unfortunate victims of the late accident at the Wilbur mine.

We are glad to learn that Rev. Dr. McTavish is still growing in the esteem of his congregation. Last week he and his wife were each presented with a pair of handsome Persian-lamb gauntlets.

Rev. Jno. Hay, B.D., of Campbellford, was the recipient of a flattering address accompanied by a purse of \$70 from the people of Seymour East, a few days ago. During the long period in which St. Andrew's Church, Seymour, has been vacant, Mr. Hay has very kindly given his services on many occasions and the people rightly considered that such self-denying efforts should not be unrewarded.