

might, in cases of epidemic among the human family, be preferable, as we cannot in such a case be certain that the blood to be injected is free from the germs of the disease it is intended to combat.

The treatment of fibroids of the uterus by hypodermic injections of ergot was also alluded to, Dr. Hodder having found great benefit from it. The address concluded with a reference to the serious losses which the medical profession and the world at large had met with by the death of a very large number of distinguished men. Great Britain had lost Bennett, James Clark, Latham, Headland, Sir George Gibbs, Letheby, Donovan and many others. Germany had lost Prof. Franke; France had lost Andral, Levain, Ballard, Duchesne; while the medical ranks of Canada had lost Dr. Cole, of Clinton, Dr. Yates, of Kingston, and Dr. Beaumont, of this city.

In the remarks which followed the reading of the paper, Dr. Trenholme stated that the use of the injections of ergot had not yielded the same happy results with him; and that in some cases when the fibroids had been inaccessible, he had with good result removed the ovaries to check their growth. In one case he had operated for their removal *per vaginam*.

After some further remarks a vote of thanks was tendered to the President for his address.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE.

Drs. Canniff, Thorburn, Trenholme, Robillard, Temple, Rosebrugh, Osler, David, Strange, and Zimmerman were appointed Nominating Committee.

It was moved and seconded that Dr. Philip, of Watertown, be elected a member. Carried.

CRIMINAL INSANITY.

Dr. Joseph Workman was then called on and read a paper with the above title.

This paper (being one of great practical importance to the public at large as well as to the profession) has already been published in full by the author in the secular press. We will merely say in brief that, among other points, it raised certain questions in connection with the "epidemic of crime," which has been raging in this province, its relations to insanity, and some of the causes which tended to increase and spread it. In dealing with the latter part of the subject the doctor read a severe lesson to those journalists who are in the habit of hashing up the most disgusting details to tickle the morbid tastes of their readers, and make their papers sell, and who thus excite the weak-minded, and incite the "imitative instinct" to the commission of crime. He also rebutted the self-

assurance of certain of them who assume to know more about insanity, and in fact about any other subject, than those who may have made such subject a special study. He spoke, too, of the rash haste with which men whose sanity was a matter of doubt had been hurried to trial, and to the gallows, and that in opposition to scientific opinion. He also threw out some hints of value to the practitioner who may chance to find himself in the witness box, for example, that it is not the bounden duty of the witness to help furnish questions as well as answers, and that he must be in no hurry to answer till he gets a definite, intelligible question, one which will not leave his interrogator at liberty to misconstrue the answer.

The paper being one which will well repay perusal, we would refer our readers for a full report to the *Leader* of the 9th ult., or to the *Mail* in two consecutive numbers about the same date.

Dr. HINGSTON spoke in high terms of this valuable paper. In the course of his remarks he suggested that medical men should be shy of giving opinions in these *causes celebres*, except on such points as they were specially familiar with. In this way they would avoid throwing discredit on their own knowledge as well as on the opinions of those more specially versed on the points under discussion.

Dr. KINCAID, Peterborough, said he had noticed in a city paper a letter respecting the Fox case from a student of medicine, who was now a school-teacher, the communication tending to lead the people to doubt scientific evidence on the subject of insanity. Dr. Workman, Dr. Dickson, and another medical man held that Fox was not insane, while the people of the locality, especially the clergy, held he was insane. The writer of the communication indicated that the result of the *post-mortem* examination was that evidence was discovered of disease of the brain; but the certificate signed by the medical men present at the *post mortem* examination stated that Fox's brain was found to be perfectly sound and well developed, showing no organic disease leading to insanity.

After some remarks by other members, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Dr. Workman for his paper.

Dr. HORNIBROOK, Mitchell, said he thought the system which prevailed in France was the correct one. He would move, "That in the opinion of this Association it would be desirable that in all cases of alleged murder, where the plea of insanity is raised, the accused should be placed under the supervision of one or more experts, until the existence or non-existence of insanity is determined."

Dr. ROBERTS said the result of that would be