

Medical expert evidence is discussed by Mr. E. F. B. Johnston, K.C., in another place in an interesting article which will receive at least the commendation of the medical fraternity. The latter have been rather hardly dealt with from time to time, and the writer draws attention to and combats the prejudice which largely pervades the professional as well as the judicial mind in reference to expert evidence by medical men. The suggestion he makes for the appointment of a board of medical witnesses is worthy of discussion. As we understand his suggestion, it is not that their duties should be the same as those who, for example, in collision cases in the Admiralty Court, in England, under the name of assessors, are occasionally called in to advise a judge in relation to nautical matters. They would rather be officials who would in appropriate cases be appointed to look into the matter in dispute and give evidence therein from a non-partisan medical standpoint, and be subject to examination by either party. There is certainly need for something of this sort, if only from the fact that the volume of medical evidence given in important cases has of late years often become very burdensome, and occasionally would seem to result in giving an unfair advantage to the litigant with the longest purse.

The *Albany Law Journal* remarks that Justice of course never sleeps, but her ministers, being merely human, sometimes do, and occasionally take "forty winks" while litigation is in progress. The above remarks refer to the fact that a judge before whom a case was recently tried in Chicago fell asleep and so remained for several minutes. An appeal from the verdict was dismissed, the Appellate Court holding that the circumstance of the trial judge having slept for four or five minutes during the hearing of the case did not constitute what is in that country called "reversible error." There have been occasions when, both in England and in this Dominion, similar applications might have been made, but, so far as we know, no attempt has been made such as has recently failed in the comparatively "wide-awake" country to the south of us.

The annual dinner of the Hardwicke Society, held last month in London, is specially worthy of note, in that it was graced not only by the presence of a brilliant assembly of English judges and counsel, but also by that of Maitre Labori, whose grand advocacy