

be simplicity itself. Now we fail to see the force of this argument; indeed, it seems to be a pretty generally admitted that "law is what no fellah can understand." At all events, we think medical men, never having received a legal education, would make generally poor work at understanding legal documents, and Dr. Dagenais' pet Bill has *too much law* about it. As to the advocates and the notaries having twelve times the intelligence of the Editor of the *Record*, we are proud to know it they are accountable for such an excess of brains; and our only regret is that our correspondent, Dr. Dagenais, does not belong to either the legal or notarial profession. He is one of the very few men who claim to understand this Bill, and therefore he must feel that such an amount of intelligence as has fallen to his lot should not hide itself in such an humble profession as that of medicine.

#### NUTS FOR THE ANTI-VACCINATIONISTS.

Dr. Purdon, factory medical officer at Belfast, has lately published a report on the subject of vaccination in relation to that populous manufacturing town. During the epidemic of 1871, Dr. Baker, one of the inspectors of factories, stated that the directions issued by the Poor-law Board were insufficient to stop the spread of the disease, and, in consequence, was requested by the Secretary of State to draw up a circular for the use of certifying surgeons, suggesting an examination with the purpose of vaccinating every young person under 16 applying for work; and recommending that employers should make vaccination a condition for employment. The result of these judicious measures has been that, since these directions were issued, 1,000 young persons were vaccinated who had not previously undergone the operation, and at the present time from two to four of those seeking work require to be vaccinated every week. This compulsory vaccination has been of considerable service; for example, in one mill in 1871 there had been 150 cases of small-pox, but in 1874 there were only 10, all being adults. In 1871, the persons employed in mills, factories, workrooms, etc., numbered 44,318, and of these 837 were attacked by small-pox; but, in 1874, out of 48,650 *employés*, only 176 were affected, 39 of whom were young persons. Stronger evidence than this could hardly be adduced of the benefits of compulsory vaccination.

A Dr. Toscani has also published a very elaborate report on a recent epidemic of small-pox in Rome, Italy. From it we learn that of 3,149 persons attacked, 1,219 died. The mortality among the

vaccinated was 72, or 13.81 per cent., and among those not vaccinated 1065, or 46.61. In 339 cases no positive evidence whether vaccination had been performed could be obtained, and the mortality was here 82, or 24.30 per cent. After this, anti-vaccination leagués, we need hardly say, have no foothold in Rome.

#### CHILBLAINS AND CHAPPED HANDS.

The returning cold, damp weather brings in its train the seasonable series of complaints, such as chilblains, chapped hands and lips, &c. These appear to be most prevalent just now, amongst those exposed to the inclemency of changeable weather, who possess a fair complexion, delicate skin, and other constitutional predispositions. To those specially liable to these tiresome and painful affections, we recommend as a preventative wearing kid skin gloves lined with wool, which not only keep out the cold, but absorb any moisture that may be upon the hands; and to rub over the hands before washing a small quantity of glycerine, which should be allowed to dry or become absorbed to a partial extent. When chilblains do manifest themselves, the best remedy not only for preventing them ulcerating, but overcoming the tingling, itching pain and stimulating the circulation of the part to healthy action, is the liniment of belladonna (two drachms), the liniment of aconite (one drachm), carbolic acid (ten drops), collodion flexile (one ounce), painted with a camel's-hair pencil over their surface. When the chilblains vesicate, ulcerate, or slough, it is better to omit the aconite, and apply the other components of the liniment without it. The collodion flexile forms a coating or protecting film, which excludes the air, whilst the sedative liniments allay the irritation, generally of no trivial nature. For chapped hands, we advise the free use of glycerine and good olive oil in the proportion of two parts of the former to four of the latter; after this has been well rubbed into the hands and allowed to remain for a little time, and the hands subsequently washed with Castile soap and tepid water, we recommend the belladonna and collodion flexile to be painted, and the protective film allowed to permanently remain. These complaints not unfrequently invade persons of languid circulation and relaxed habit, who should be put on a generous regimen and treated with ferruginous tonics. Obstinate cases are occasionally met with which no local application will remedy until some disordered state of system is removed