

the attacks on the medical profession so often heard. These self-constituted experts are a menace to the cause of justice and the profession they claim to follow. Every one, who has ever followed up closely the operations of the courts, knows the great value and perfect reliability of the general medical practitioner as a witness. No better and more careful testimony could be desired than what is usually given by the local doctors in any case with which they are connected. But also nothing could be more worthless and dangerous and unscrupulous than evidence of the kind given by the alienists in the Thaw trial."

THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The seventy-seventh annual meeting of the British Medical Association was held at Belfast, Ireland, July 27 to 30. It will be remembered that one of the most interested guests at the Montreal meeting, in 1897, was the Governor-General of Canada, Lord Aberdeen, now the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. Two of the most interested guests at the Belfast meeting were the Lord-Lieutenant and the Countess of Aberdeen. His Excellency, in replying to the toast of "The Lord-Lieutenant and Prosperity to Ireland," devoted his reply (*Brit. Med. Jour.*) to a sketch of the public health work done in Ireland during the last few years, especially that done by the Women's National Health Association, to check the ravages of tuberculosis. The statistics for 1908 indicated that the death-rate from tuberculosis was declining. His Excellency added that the Countess of Aberdeen was exceedingly gratified that her work in this direction should have been recognized by the British Medical Association, for he was permitted to say that the Council had that day resolved to recommend the Association to elect her an honorary member, a privilege he had himself enjoyed since the annual meeting in Montreal.

We understand the meeting was at least equal to the average of the last few years. The principal addresses, in addition to