

to observe, for in our own streets may be daily seen many unfortunate wretches who should be taken care of in an asylum. But it is not done. And why? Because there is no asylum. With a population of 120,000 in our city, and a large populous surrounding county, there is no asylum. There is nothing but the cells of our common gaol, where these unfortunates would be far worse off than by allowing them to roam at large, with the possible alternative of their committing some desperate act for which the law cannot hold them accountable.

Since the above was in print, the tragedy enacted at St. Damase has occurred. We take the account from the daily papers. This lamentable affair proves more fully than words can express the culpable negligence of the Government in not providing means for the care of this afflicted class.

HORRIBLE MURDER AT ST. DAMASE.—On Friday last a dreadful tragedy was enacted at St. Damase, by Jean Baptiste Drolet, the unfortunate victim being his own mother. It appears that the murderer, about two o'clock in the afternoon, asked his mother for some milk. She sent him to where it was kept in an outhouse, but fearing that he might spill some of the cans, followed him. She had no sooner reached the place than her son seized an axe, and struck her a fearful blow on the head. The poor woman died an hour afterwards. The son was immediately arrested; an inquest was held on the body; and a verdict rendered that the deceased had come to her death by a blow inflicted by her son Jean Baptiste Drolet, and accusing him of wilful murder. It appears that the son is insane, and must have committed the act in one of his wilder moments. He has a wife and five children living. This sad affair has cast a gloom over the village St. Damase, where the deceased and her family were highly respected.

In a private letter received by Dr. F. W. Campbell, from Dr. William Frazer, lecturer on materia medica in the Carmichael School of Medicine, Dublin, and author of "Elements of Materia Medica, &c.," occurs the following passage, alluding to the several articles published in this journal, on the unfortunate case of accidental poisoning at Quebec some few months ago: "You had a curious discussion about a case of poisoning; your correspondents were a little bitter, but, in spite of all the evidence, I feel disposed to think that aconite was the tincture used." Dr. Frazer also remarks: "Much excitement has been caused by the reports of the Russian epidemic. At the College of Physicians, a few evenings since, Professor Houghton read a letter from one of the leading St. Petersburg