

flies in the face of accepted facts. An illustrious race of English judges, for centuries past, and down to this hour, pronounce verdicts based on this inadequate judgment. On examining recent charges to the juries of Canada, I see indications of change of opinion, in this respect, among our judges, which are more in keeping with the truths of modern investigation.

In the Toronto Asylum there is an estimable lady, who is afflicted with religious melancholy. She has made several attempts at suicide. She never loses her sense of "the wickedness of the attempt," as she calls it, but the uncontrollable impulse is too strong for her. On one occasion recently she felt the strong desire coming on, and begged to have the leather muff put on her hands, lest she might be forced otherwise to accomplish her design. The courts would hold her to be an accountable being, seeing the sense of right and wrong had not been extinguished. A powerful mulatto is in the refractory ward, who is constantly persecuted with spirits. He has, intermittently, a longing to kill somebody. He knows it is wrong to even think so, and at these times he asks the supervisor to lock him in his room. According to the interpretations of law, should he commit homicide, he ought to be hanged. In another ward is a patient, who was at one time a prominent writer for the press. He is afflicted with chronic mania, of the most pronounced kind. On a recent occasion he told me that he "felt like wanting to kill" one of the patients, against whom he had taken a dislike. He said he knew it was wrong to think so, but cunningly added, "you know I am crazy so they wouldn't hang me." If, unfortunately, such homicide should take place, he should be hanged according to law. Dozens of such cases could be cited in any of our asylums. Dr. Hammond, a reputed expert on insanity, an extensive