

explosions; the one a "muscular storm, the other a storm of thought, emotion and will." After the storm has passed who can detect the difference oftentimes between the sound and the unsound?

The question of hallucinations again here presses itself on our attention. They are not always the result of imponderable undetectable changes, as so many think. In many cases these hallucinations can be clearly traced to gross and palpable lesions of the optic thalami or their plexuses. These cases are accompanied usually by atrophy of certain convolutions, which is recognizable even by the naked eye. The law takes no notice of this. I do not know how to diagnose with certainty such a condition during life. If the symptoms of lesion, of what is improperly styled "the internal capsule" be wanting, there may be nothing to lead one to these intellectualizing ganglions at all. Cross lesions, which interfere with the motor apparatus, and whose locality is much more easily appreciated, be the same in the cortex, the cortico striate fibres or the corpus striatum itself, do not so frequently have a bearing on insanity, as do lesions of the sensory areas. But because you or I cannot positively say in any given case, that a man's hallucination depends on a given lesion while he yet lives, that is no reason why he must be hanged in order to oblige us with a post-mortem. And, by the way, when such judicial proceedings have been enforced, with or without protest from our side, why should not a properly managed post-mortem be held for the satisfaction of all concerned, and the furtherance of science. It is all very well to have a coroner's inquest in order to certify that the criminal is really dead; but to that should certainly be added a careful and scientifically conducted *sectio cadaveris*.

These somewhat disjointed remarks (to which perhaps I should prefix Montaigne's motto "I have gathered a bouquet of other men's flowers and only the thread which binds them is mine own,") will have done almost more than their author hopes for, if they conduce to a discussion of the subject by men abler to deal with the new question from every point than himself. There can be but one opinion, one would suppose, among all professional and lay, as to the expediency of having this legal gap in our institutions filled up. The people at large accept things as they are, partly from ignorance of facts and partly from lack of interest.

The medical profession here, as in almost every matter of reform, becomes of necessity the leader and adviser of the laity. The popular idea of what constitutes insanity must be dissipated; together with the error that it only needs common sense to discriminate between a sane and an insane man. In truth, it needs more acumen, skill, judgment and special education probably, than any other problem we are called on to solve. And how often do the best make mistakes or fail in arriving at a conclusion. Let any one read the medical evidence in Lady Mordaunt's trial, where the most distinguished men, not only of that time, but probably of all time, investigated the question of her sanity; and how humiliating the confession we have to make, that their investigation amounted to nothing. Fortunately such cases do not arise every day. Who among our sapient editors, etc., who so glibly pronounce on questions of such fine spun yarn, would consider the author of the following lines insane:

"There is a winter in my soul,  
The winter of despair;  
Oh, when shall spring its rage control?  
When shall the snow-drop blossom there?  
Cold gleams of comfort sometimes dart  
A dawn of glory on my heart,  
But quickly pass away;  
Thus Northern lights the gloom adorn  
And give the promise of a morn  
That never turns to day."

And yet he was a confirmed lunatic when he wrote these lines, which with almost incredible faithfulness and clear insight pourtray his condition and the mental disease from which he died.

As remarked before, it is a subject which is not remote to anyone. Besides, the old maxim "*Nihil a me alienum humanum puto*," every man has a personal and living interest in the question of mental alienation, and the responsibility dependent on that condition. Let the Dominion House of Commons take up the matter. Let the dead past bury its dead! We are the heirs of the future! Let a committee be appointed, say of the medical men in the House, with others, if deemed necessary, to investigate this question; and to formulate such amendments to our law on the subject as will prove a model for the mother country well worthy her imitation. By doing this our parliament will confer a lasting boon on the world at large, and deserve lasting pæans of praise from all men for all time. To break free from the trammels which a bigoted and purblind judiciary