

"less illless," is free from it? Is lack of *common sense* a proof of insanity? Let philosophy define what common sense is, and tell what per centage of the population possess it. If it can be defined by jurists, as being "a due regard for the usual institutions and habits of mankind," then those, who *ab initio* introduce institutions, and contract habits, are *non compos mentis*. Habit may make one idea so dominant as to be considered the sole end of life. To such an extent is this evident, in every neighbourhood, that feelings, emotions, desires, passions, and aptitudes, absolutely govern the subject, and make him sacrifice his own interests, and those of his dearest relations and friends. These may be right or wrong, but, to such, of absorbing interest, and hence become monomania. Has it not been an epidemic since about the time Eden bloomed? It may be a patent churn *perfectionism*, or a perpetual motion, Will o' the wisp, or a Figuer theory, to which all other hypotheses must bow, that the sun has for its fuel the souls of the good: or any other hobby which such men straddle, and John Gilpin like, ride it far enough—too far—and back again. With such, money goes—property vanishes—health is sacrificed—families are plunged into beggary—and all, because of eccentricity, oddity, peculiarity, or, shall I say, insanity? This state may only be an exalted condition of the understanding, and quite normal, without the balance wheel of tact to regulate the power. Even the moral nature becomes subservient to the bias of intellect, and in a wild-goose chase incites and excuses to crime. Jealousy will murder without real cause, for suspicion becomes "confirmation strong as Holy Writ." Envy will defame to the death, without compunction. Greed will cheat and rob, then smack the lips over its fiendish exploits. Impulse will commit all the crimes in the calendar, then with a demure face, go into the dock, and potently plead innocence, because of insanity. Dr. Bolus, Dr. Scalpel or Dr. Lancet is called to explain, if such is the case. They give all the phases of this so-called abnormal state, in technical language to a jury, and rascals by the score go unwhipt by justice, because they have been proved to be afflicted with dementia, monomania, insane impulse, or any other fraction of the unit, insanity. This popular plea has become a standing nuisance, and medical men, not accustomed to perceive daily the multifarious manifestations of unsoundness of mind, are not fit judges in the witness box. Sane, clever Drs. could be found in scores, in Canada,