

able patients in the ward. A short time ago one of our city lawyers, who prides himself on his power to read almost intuitively the hieroglyphics of character, and who, in his own estimation, could tell an insane person at sight, mistook one of my clinical assistants for a lunatic, and commiserated him on his unfortunate condition. He afterwards came to me for information about "the poor fellow," as he had taken a deep interest in his forlorn and apparently hopeless condition. His pride had a fall when the truth came out. A prominent government official, not long since, mistook one of my most intelligent-looking attendants for a patient. I am prepared at any time to select say twenty-four intelligent attendants or citizens, and twenty-four patients out of Toronto Asylum, and present them to any court of law before our most eminent judges, lawyers and jurymen. They will be allowed to make the same superficial examination which is often accorded to medical men in similar circumstances. The selection of patients shall be made from paretics in the early stage of the disease, from those afflicted with remittent insanity, from the melancholy and taciturn, and from monomaniacs. The judgment given of the mental condition found in each case, by such an intelligent and acute Board of Examiners, would show in a comical light what a travesty of justice it is to ask, even an expert, to give an opinion of mental unsoundness, or sanity, after a cursory examination of a prisoner. About a year and a half ago I was called to attend the assizes in a neighboring county and asked to decide in a few hours the *mental status* of a prisoner, who had attempted to take the life of his neighbor by shooting him. The houses of the two parties were near together, being situated on opposite sides of a country road. The prisoner cut a hole in the gable end of his house, and being a bachelor living