

valuable. I venture to say that physicians examining husbands alleged to be insane, seek in every equivocal or obscure case, for the most reliable information from the wives.

I have never allowed the consideration of McConnell's doom to weigh one straw in my expression of opinion as to his mental condition. He is in the hands of an enlightened representative of a just, wise, and God-fearing Queen. If royal elemency be extended to him, I shall be thankful; if it is withheld, I may regret it, for the grave will not reveal my error of belief, and no man should be ashamed to confess his mistakes, "which is," as a great writer has said, "but to acknowledge that we are wiser to-day than we were yesterday."

But whatever disposal may be made of McConnell, of the propriety of one requirement I am overwhelmingly convinced; he never should have an opportunity of committing another homicide, be he sane or insane; for, sane or insane, he is a dangerous man; more dangerous, in my belief, if insane than if sane.

In taking leave of this painful, though to me, in a scientific view, deeply interesting subject, I cannot refrain from assuring the numerous friends of the lamented Mr. Mills, of my heartfelt sympathy in their bereavement. To plead for truth and dispassionate judgment is one thing; to excuse or palliate *actual* crime is quite another. If what I have written will but awaken thoughtful inquiry on the momentous question of the responsibility of the mentally diseased, I shall think very lightly of all the rash and harsh words that have been written or uttered against me.

JOSEPH WORKMAN, M. D.

Toronto, 28th Feb. 1876.

To the Editor of the Canadian Journal of Medical Science.

MR. EDITOR,—Will you ask Mr. McKim, the janitor of the University, if he will please give me a certificate of character for sobriety, &c., as I wish to apply for the position of Examiner for the Medical Council next year.

Yours, &c.,
MEDICUS.

P.S.—Just tell him it was not I who vomited on the carpet of the Chancellor's room during the recent examinations.

M.

Miscellaneous.

WOUNDS IN RELATION TO THE INSTRUMENTS WHICH PRODUCE THEM.—The *Glasgow Medical Journal*, for Jan. 1876, contains some interesting investigations on this subject by Dr. Wm. Macewen. Seventy-one cases, and one hundred and four wounds, produced by fifty-one different kinds of articles are detailed. Most of the wounds noted were seen within a short period after their production, while they were yet fresh and bleeding. The greater number were brought to the central police station in Glasgow.

The following conclusions are formulated by Dr. Macewen from the examination of these cases:—

"1. Blunt instruments sometimes produce scalp wounds, having straight outlines and sharp clean edges, which in these respects could not be distinguished from wounds produced by sharp-cutting instruments.

"2. Scalp wounds, which exhibit entire hair bulbs projecting from the surface of their sections, have been produced by a blunt instrument.

"3. Wounds, exhibiting nerve filaments or minute blood-vessels bridging the interspace between the lips of the wound, toward the middle of the depth of the section, while the tissues have receded all round them below as well as above, have been produced by blunt non-penetrating instruments.

"4. When a wound, even with sharp well-defined margins, bears in contour a resemblance to an osseous ridge in close proximity, there is a *probability* that it was produced by a blunt instrument through forcible impact against the underlying osseous ridge.

"5. *Cut-hairs* found in the immediate vicinity of a wound are valuable aids in determining whether a sharp or a blunt instrument has been made use of.

"6. As to the diagnosis between wounds produced by instruments of the knife kind and other sharp-edged substances, such as glass, earthenware, etc., no dependence can be placed on the mere regularity of outline or sharpness of edge, or the reverse.

"7. Sharp clearly-defined wounds in certain cases present peculiarities in their terminations which may be sufficient to enable a probable diagnosis as to whether they were produced by a knife or a portion of glass or earthenware.

"8. The same instrument, used by the same person in delivering several successive blows, may produce wounds of different characters."—*Monthly Abstract*.