Editorial Items.

A paper was lately read before the Medico-Legal Society of New York, by Dr. Beard, in which he maintained that out of the fifty thousand physicians in the States, there were only one or two hundred whose opinion in difficult psychological cases would be of value in a court of justice. We fear that if accurate investigation were made, Ontario would not show more favourably in this matter. There is such rivalry in medical schools that the tendency is to multiply graduates, whose attainments are not at all in proportion to their numbers. We hope that the same infection is not about to extend to Universities which confer degrees in law. It is bad enough to have Q.C.'s flocking into court in such swarms that there is not room enough to receive them, but it will be more intolerable to have "Doctors of the Laws" thrust upon the profession, whose recommendation has been the capacity to run the gauntlet of a nominal examination.

It is a duty which we owe to the profession, as well as to ourselves, under the rules laid down for our guidance as journalists, to discountenance anything which can be looked upon as unprofessional or inconsistent with a nice sense of what is due to the honourable profession to which we belong. Our notice has been drawn to a circular, which calls the attention of practising attorneys at a distance to the fact, that the subscriber has been appointed Master and Deputy Registrar in Chancery, at a certain county town in Ontario, the name of which it is not necessary to mention. The circular then continues :—"Any Common Law Agency business entrusted to his care, will receive prompt attention." The person who thus seeks to bring himself to the attention of his brethren, should remember, in the first place, that he occupies a *quasi* judicial position, which is, by means of this circular, made to do duty in a way which is alike improper, unprofessional, and unfair to his fellow practitioners, who are obliged to depend upon their own merits for business, they being unable to present any attraction so glittering as that of Master and Deputy Registrar in Chancery. Were we inclined to joke on the subject, we might refer to the transparent logic which deduces the capacity of the advertiser for *Common Law* Agency business, from the bare fact of his being a local Judge in *Chancery*. But believing, as we do, that had our young friend thought twice on the subject, the circular would never have been written, we shall not pursue the subject further.

The case of *McLean* v. *McKay*, "an appeal from the Supreme Court of Judicature for the County of Halifax, in the Province of Nova Scotia, in the Dominion of Canada," has lately been decided by the Privy Council. The question was one upon the construction of an inartificially drawn clause in a deed of conveyance upon which the decree of the Judge in Equity, the Court of first instance, had been in the plaintiff's favour. The case was appealed to the Supreme Court, consisting of five judges, of whom the Judge in Equity was one. The Common Law judges were equally divided in opinion on the appeal, but the Equity Judge, having changed his first view of the case, turned the scale against his own decree. Sir Montague Smith, who delivered their Lordships' judgment, blandly regrets that the learned Judge in Equity should have found occasion to change the opinion to which he had originally come, for their Lordships] were of the opinion that his first judgment was right. A little further on we find his Lordship indulging in a little pleasantry as to some alleged local usage in the town of New Glasgow, where was situate the land in question. He observes "Soon after McLean pur-