

the court, when the sympathetic assistance of some member of the Bar in full standing is obtained to examine witnesses and make arguments. So far the dispensary has received about thirty applications, accepted twelve cases, and carried two into court—and won them. The improvement of this system over the ordinary suit *in forma pauperis* must commend itself to litigants, however differently it may be regarded by the various legal professions that adorn the various nations of the world.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

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SHOOTING BURGLARS.—The following letter, discussing the right of a householder to fire at a burglar in his house, appeared some time ago in the *Times*. It is reproduced now as in point in connection with some recent housebreaking events: "In my own case, having just missed catching the burglars in the pantry in consequence of their escape through the window, I fired two shots from my revolver after them, and again, having an hour after, by chance, and at a greater distance from home, met one in the road, from whose possession I forcibly abstracted about a third of the plate of which he had robbed me, I should undoubtedly have fired when he fled away had I had my pistol with me. As it was, he escaped in the darkness and rough ground, carrying off some £20 worth of my plate. The question arose afterward between me and several of my legal friends, including two judges and a police magistrate, whether I was justified, first, in firing from the window, or, next, should have been justified in firing the second time, when the burglar was flying before me with my plate in his hand, had I carried my pistol with me. Here is a quotation from 'Stephen's Digest of the Criminal Law' (1877), which one learned friend gives: 'The intentional infliction of death or bodily harm is not a crime when it is done by any person in order to arrest a traitor, felon, or pirate, or retake or keep in lawful custody a traitor, felon, or pirate who has escaped or who is about to escape from such custody, although such traitor, felon, or pirate offers no violence to any person, provided in each of the said cases that the object for which death or harm is inflicted can not be otherwise accomplished.' And he adds: 'Where an actual felon is concerned, a private person has the same rights as to arrest and detaining as a constable.' Another learned friend says: 'A man may shoot another whilst actually