

mission; Sir William Grantham was well known as a politician, and Sir Arthur Charles is one of the youngest judges of modern times.

There are only two ex-members of the judicial bench alive. Sir James Bacon is ninety-one, and continued in harness until three years ago. When he retired there was an unique scene in the Chancellor's Court. The attorney-general and most of the leading members of the bar said "*au revoir*" to him in neat and touching speeches. Sir William Robert Grove was an eminent electrician before he was promoted to the bench. He contrived the powerful voltaic battery which bears his name. He was Professor of Experimental Philosophy at the London Institution, and his address on the "Continuity of Natural Phenomena" before the British Association in 1866 demonstrated that the changes in the organic world, in the succession of organized beings, and in the progress of human knowledge, resulted from gradual minute variations. He made several discoveries in electricity and optics.

When a judge retires from the bench he does so in an unostentatious manner, generally writing to the lord chancellor to be relieved during a vacation, and at the next sittings a new judge takes his place, and is formally congratulated by the bar.—*Herald*—(London Edition.)

THE MAYBRICK CASE.

In Mr. Maybrick's case the proximate cause of death was clearly gastro-enteritis and irritative fever. But what was the cause of the gastro-enteritis? In our opinion the defence were in error when they endeavoured to establish as two distinct and alternate hypotheses *quoad* the cause of death—gastro-enteritis and arsenical poisoning; for arsenic poisons primarily and chiefly by setting up gastro-enteritis. The total amount of arsenic existing in the body *post mortem* was calculated at something under two grains, or in itself nearly a fatal dose; but this would probably be—especially considering that the stomach and its contents contained no arsenic—only a fractional amount of what was taken, seeing how rapidly the poison is eliminated.

As proof of this assertion we quote the following statements, made at a trial, by Professor G. F. Parker, of Yale College: "It (arsenic) is eliminated from the liver, and may entirely disappear in from eight to fifteen days after being taken; depending on the quantity and other circumstances." "It is not a cumulative poison." "Persons have died from the primary effects of arsenic in eight days, and no trace of the poison has been found in the body on analysis." On this head we must subscribe to Dr. Stevenson's testimony of opinion. He is *facile princeps* amongst contemporary toxicologists, a man of unrivalled experience in this special department of medical science, of world-wide reputation. There remains for consideration the questions, Was the arsenic administered by design or taken by accident? and if by design, Was it taken by Maybrick himself or at the hands of his wife? The circumstantial evidence is too strong to seriously entertain the theory of accident. Look at it from whatever point we may, we are bound to face the assumption—nay, even accept it—that Mr. Maybrick was not cognisant of what was destroying his life. We can have no desire that the royal prerogative of mercy should not be exercised in this case, but as a duty to the living relatives of the deceased, to a painstaking, fearless, and honest jury, and to one of the greatest ornaments of the English bench, we solemnly assert as our unbiassed opinion that the verdict arrived at in Mrs. Maybrick's trial was warranted by the evidence.—*The Lancet*.

DECISIONS AT QUEBEC.*

Bail—Résiliation—Diminution de loyer—Dommages-Intérêts—Arts. 1612, 1614, 1616 et 1641 C. C.

Jugé :—1o. Le locataire qui est troublé dans la jouissance de la chose louée, par des actes légitimes du Gouvernement, mais qui n'en est pas absolument privé, n'a droit qu'à une diminution de loyer, et ne peut demander la résiliation du bail.

2o. Le locateur n'est pas tenu des dommages-intérêts résultant du trouble provenu

* 15 Q. L. R.