

be the next vagaries of the "intelligent jurors." The mere retirement of Coroner Jones does not seem to have been all that was necessary to perfect the coroner system in Montreal.

It is not, however, enough that autopsies be made—they must be made properly. Following the two cases just mentioned, came the Clarenceville tragedy at Lacolle, P. Q., when three recently killed bodies were discovered in a burning house. Marks of violence galore were present in the shape of cut throats, and bullet wounds. The autopsies were made by two local medical men under the direction of the coroner, himself a medical man. With this imposing array of medical talent one is pained to find that, after the conclusion of the autopsies *the undertaker* in washing up the bodies found a bullet wound which had been overlooked by the doctors and found the bullet! What confidence can be placed in an autopsy so carelessly made that a perforating wound of the chest is allowed to pass unobserved?

This shows the imperative necessity of some detailed official instructions for the guidance of those performing medico-legal autopsies. Some definite schedule should be followed just as in the case of life insurance examinations. Had the physicians been compelled to state categorically in giving their report that the clothing had all been removed and every part of the body examined, we doubt if the undertaker would have had much left him to discover.

Supposing through the exertions of the detectives, someone is brought to trial, will this autopsy, prove a source of weakness or of strength in the case, In too many cases where convictions have, (we hope rightly) been brought about, it must be admitted that this happens rather in spite of the weakness of the medical testimony than on account of its clearness and accuracy.

PRIVATE HOSPITALS, A CORRECTION.

The editorial in our February issue against the advertising, by doctors, of their private hospitals has called forth an able article on these institutions by the *Canada Medical Record*, in which, however, the point of our article is entirely overlooked. The article in question was directed solely and entirely against the advertising. Having pointed out the mistake we hope the Editor will direct the thunder against the evil complained of.