

by what means she had come by her death. Unfortunately it seems to be quite a useless task to urge upon our Coroner the real performance of his important duties, and such meaningless verdicts as that above given are of constant occurrence, the presiding officer seeming to be able by some means to set at defiance public opinion. But the point to which we would draw the attention of our readers, especially those in this Province and in this city, is the horrible results of our present means (or rather want of means) of dealing with the insane poor. Is it not shocking and revolting to all our natural instincts, our ordinary feelings of humanity, as well as contrary to our medical sense of reason, that an imbecile girl should be closely confined in a prison ward for the purpose of giving her mind a chance to improve? Is it not clear that we are thus voluntarily and basely taking away from her whatever remaining chance there may be of her intellect recovering? Is it not the acme of cruelty for a civilized community to treat as a criminal and make to live with criminals one whose only fault is to have been afflicted by the Divine hand? It is said, this confinement is but temporary and cannot be avoided: but is not thus that precious time worse than lost which, if devoted under the eye of an experienced physician to appropriate measures for relief might have been crowned with success? To our own shame, and to the special disgrace of our rulers be it said, this subject is not new. Time and again have cases of this kind, involving the greatest hardships, been commented upon both in this Journal and in the public prints, but hitherto all our efforts have resulted in vain; no action has been taken, and the evil still exists as a standing slur upon our boasted civilization. The startling revelations that have been again brought prominently to light owing to the tragic story of this poor girl's imprisonment, dismissal, and final lonely death, have served at last to rouse the people to a consciousness of the glaring ills that are allowed to remain unattended to in our midst. A public meeting has been held, and the cruelty of sending lunatics to jail, the