

the author himself, which some ill-natured readers might say best qualifies him to deal with his subject; for, is it not known as a melancholy, if not an admonitory fact, that many eminent medical men have died of the very diseases which they had made their life-long studies, and on which they have left treatises of imperishable merit?

But before pronouncing on Dr. Buckham's mental status the reader will do well to weigh carefully some of his more startling utterances. Here is one: "There cannot," says Dr. B., "be two criteria of insanity, a legal and a medical, the one contradictory of the other and both be correct. That which is false in science, cannot be true in law; and that cannot be health in law, which is disease in fact."

Certainly, there cannot be two criteria. There is, in fact, only one criterion, and that is the criterion of the man in the black cap, who lucidly (*lucens a non lucendo*) from the seat of doom, defines insanity, and sends to the gallows whom he deems sane, despite the remonstrances of all the Buckhams in creation. Science, forsooth! Is not law the science of sciences; is it not the hub of the harmonies, the gem of the consistencies, the touchstone of wisdom? Has not might always been right, and is not the judge mightier far than the entire conclave of scribbling doctors who have lived among the insane, and studied insanity in the concrete, so long that their own brains have become muddled and utterly unfit for any reasoning process? "That which is false in science cannot be true in law!" What rubbish! Is it not true that many lunatics have been hanged? Have they not hanged according to law? This is fact, and is not fact truth?

But we may be told judges have differed in their deliverances. Well, what of that? Do doctors, do parsons, do politicians never differ; and has not a very able poet told us that—

"All discord is but harmony, not understood."

Any one who is desirous of learning the harmony of judges in their rulings on the obscure question of mental sanity will find both instruction and amusement in the perusal of Dr. Buckham's appendix. Since the days of "Cobbett's gridiron," nothing half so ludicrous as this miscellany has appeared in print. Perhaps this part of the book, just like the postscript of a lady's letter, is the best of it. We must commend

it to every unfortunate chopfallen alienistic expert, who has passed under the frowns of the bench, or the sneers of the bar. Its carminative effect will be stronger than a double dose of chloral; but let him not dream that the oracles of law will stoop to the study of the "Medico-Legal Relations of Insanity." He might as well request Jack Smith to come down from horse-back and see how awkward a rider he is. Judges can ride as they please, and override all the medical legists that cross their path; nay, indeed, they may ride facing either the head or the tail of their steeds, and what is even more funny, they ride down one another. If anybody questions these facts, let him buy Dr. Buckham's book. If he rises from it without wondering at the wisdom of law he must be a rare specimen of modern mentality.

Personal.

It is said that Professor Lister has been offered, and accepted a baronetcy.

THOMAS BEATTY, Esq., died suddenly of heart disease on Dec. 26th at Lambton Mills.

DR. J. E. WHITE, of this city, has been made a director in the Acadian Science Association for his labours and researches in entomology.

DR. G. B. SMITH, of Wilton Avenue, was elected Recording Secretary of the Toronto Medical Society at its last meeting, Dr. Duncan having resigned.

DR. H. E. BUCHAN has been appointed Assistant Superintendent of the Asylum of the Insane at Toronto, vice Dr. Lett, who has taken charge of the Homewood Retreat.

MR. JOHN HERALD has been elected President of the Alma Mater Society, after an exciting election, in which the students of the Women's Medical College exercised their suffrage.

THE EXAMINERS in Medicine at Trinity University, for the year 1884, have been appointed:—Medicine, Dr. Alex. Davidson; Medical Jurisprudence and Sanitary Science, Dr. Allen Baines. The other examiners are the Professors and Lecturers on their respective subjects in the Trinity Medical School.

Birth.

MACHELL—At Owen Sound, Nov. 17th, the wife of Dr. A. G. Machell, of a daughter.
BALDWIN—On 13th December, the wife of Dr. H. G. Baldwin, of a son.