

Drs. Vallée, Gardner and Cameron testified that temperatures below 95° are *collapse* temperatures, seldom met with, and generally fatal. They are quite in accord with generally received medical opinions upon this point. Wunderlich lays down the limits of recoverable temperature as ranging from 95° to 106° , 107° . He says that temperatures below 95° and above 107° are rare and usually fatal. Although this is the general rule, there may be exceptional cases of very high or very low temperature without invalidating the rule. For instance, in cases of spinal injuries, where the power of regulating the body—heat according to external conditions seems to be lost, we have several extraordinary cases recorded. Teale reports one in which a temperature of 122° persisted for some time without danger to life; Farquharson reports another in which a temperature of 81° did not cause inconvenience; and the *British Medical Journal* gives one of 75.5° , but nevertheless the general rule holds good. It is not an established medical fact that low temperatures are diagnostic of insanity. In both sane and insane low temperatures occur where there is collapse or a condition of great debility or general depression; high temperatures occur where there is excitement or exaltation; high or low temperature is not at all characteristic of insanity, but is found in those whose bodily functions are either exalted or depressed, whether they happen to be sane or insane.

In conclusion, while we do not underrate the value of such instruments as the thermometer, æsthesiometer and electric battery, we do most strongly protest against their being elevated to a position of such importance in the diagnosis of insanity as Dr. Howard seems to indicate. If we admit, with Dr. Howard, that the æsthesiometer and electric battery give *infallible* evidences of the existence of insanity, we make its diagnosis a very simple matter. We might train our hospital nurses to the skilful use of these instruments, and they would then be quite as competent to pronounce upon a patient's sanity or insanity as we would be ourselves. Such a doctrine cannot fail to do positive injury to the cause of science and bring the profession into disrepute; mechanical measures may give material aid, but can never of themselves afford reliable data for the diagnosis of insanity. A man must be the measure of himself; his mind must be the standard of comparison by which to determine his sanity or insanity, res-

pensibility or irresponsibility. The only safe way in such cases is to compare the individual with his former self; any measures which divert the attention of the medical man from this, his principal duty, are detrimental rather than helpful.

FIRST ANNUAL MEDICAL DINNER OF BISHOP'S COLLEGE.

In the Province of Ontario, Trinity College and the Toronto School of Medicine have, for a number of years, had, soon after the session opens, an Annual Medical Dinner, at which students, graduates, professors and friends attended. In this Province the Freshmen's Dinner was the only means adopted to introduce the new-comers to the rest of the class. It remained for the Medical department of Bishop's College to change this, and to follow the example of the Ontario Medical Schools. On the evening of the 7th of December between seventy and eighty students, professors, graduates, and guests of the Medical Department of Bishop's College sat down to their first annual dinner. It was held in the magnificent ladies' ordinary of the Windsor Hotel, and the *menu* was equal to the very best ever given by this now world-famed hotel. The tables were elegantly arranged with hot-house plants, and the entire floral decorations were under the direction of Mr. Bain, florist. The chair was occupied by Dr. F. W. Campbell, who was supported on his right by R. W. Henecker, D.C.L., Chancellor of the University, Mr. Smith, Consul-General for the United States, and Dr. Robillard; and on his left by Vice-Chancellor R. W. Norman, Thomas White, M.P., W. B. Simpson, Esq., Collector of Customs, and Dr. Hingston. The vice-chairs were very ably filled by Heber Bishop, B.A., fourth year, and Mr. William Patterson, jun., third year. The splendid band of the 6th Fusiliers, under the leadership of Mr. Holland, played a selection of beautiful airs during the dinner, and appropriate pieces after each toast. Dr. Wood, the secretary, read letters of regret at not being able to be present from Sir John A. MacDonald, Hon. Mr. Chapleau, Hon. Mr. Robertson, Hon. Mr. Loranger, and the Hon. Mr. Lynch; also from a number of graduates. The usual loyal toasts were given, and heartily received. The toast of the Dominion Legislature was responded to by Thomas White, M.P., for Cardwell, who congratulated Bishop's College at the energy of its comparatively young Medical