

MEDICAL EXPERT EVIDENCE

OF the making of laws, there is no end. The observance of them is "a moveable feast," it would seem, according to the fancy or frenzy of the public mind, diseased or otherwise. As the body of man, or, to more correctly express it, his physical condition, has frequently such an effect upon his choice of words, or deeds, Law and Medicine must put him, often, in the middle and on each side take a guiding hand and lead him just where and how he ought to go. So in our courts of law, when important points hinge on expert medical testimony, again Law and Medicine must join forces, each offering in tablet form the condensation of years of study and experience.

The question of medical expert evidence has been discussed a good deal of late, not only in professional circles, but by the laity. Perhaps never before has the medical man who appears in court as an expert been the subject of as much discussion as at the present time. A recent case of alleged insanity was argued at Osgoode Hall. At the trial the battle royal, we regret to term it, was between six medical men, three of whom swore that the man was a lunatic and unfit to contract a marriage, and an equal number of men just as well versed in psychiatry swore that his case was one of senility only. Then did the public talk, and one heard on every side derogatory remarks as to medical evidence in general. The public are not