

American veterinarians are graduates in medicine who take up animal practice as a specialty, as it were, indicates the elevation of veterinary practice in this country above its position in other lands." So it must be admitted that in England, the United States and Ontario, at least, veterinary surgeons are members of the profession of medicine,—professional men, and experts in veterinary science. We can now better examine into the treatment complained of by Dr. Coleman. Here is a professional man, an expert, engaged in a very lucrative practice in Ottawa city, induced to leave his business and spend two days in convicting a disturber of the peace of Her Majesty, by means of his professional skill. *As a reasonable reward* for his services he is tendered one dollar and sixty cents. In other words, in the district of Ottawa, the judge, a member of the profession of the law, receives ten dollars for his day's work,—while a member of the profession of medicine receives but one dollar for his day's work. And we are informed that such has been the custom in this district for years past.

According to Dr. Coleman, the judge made a distinction between a Crown witness at common law and a Crown witness at criminal law. Such a distinction is not known in modern English law, which now rules that;—"When subpoenaed on the part of the Crown in criminal and other cases, a witness is allowed his travelling and other expenses according to a fixed scale of allowance, in proportion to his position in life."

The Ontario law is very similar. In England the allowance to professional men as witnesses in common law cases varies from one guinea to three guineas per diem, plus travelling expenses. The members in other walks in life are paid a smaller allowance. In that country the old doctrine and practice that witnesses in Crown cases cannot claim as a matter of right, the payment of their expenses (it being considered by the law to be the public duty of every citizen, to obey a call of this description), was discarded long ago, and in order to encourage the due prosecution of offenders, witnesses attending the courts of assize being members of the profession of medicine, are allowed one guinea per diem and their travelling expenses.

The consensus of the authorities in England, the United States and Ontario seems to be that, while there is a hesitation to accept the decision that "A professional witness is entitled to his costs as such, whether called to give professional or merely ordinary testimony,"—the majority agree that "Without the aid of a statute, an expert cannot be compelled to bestow his skill and professional experience gratuitously upon any party, for his skill and experience are his individual capital and property." (See Foster, Supreme Court code, p. 77. Imperial, —and Rogers' law of medical men, (p. 24, etc., Ontario).

The best service Judge Wurtele can do to the community in which he lives is to remove, at least from the laws of Quebec, the stigma of mediævalism fixed to her laws and customs by other peoples.

RICHARD J. WICKSTEED.

Ottawa, August, 1889.

#### INSOLVENT NOTICES, ETC.

Quebec Official Gazette, August 10.

##### Judicial Abandonments.

- M. J. Cane & Co., Berthier, August 2.  
Collette, Décairy & Co., wholesale dry goods, Montreal, August 7.  
John G. Darling, boarding house-keeper, Montreal, August 5.  
Delia Ménard (N. Leroux & Co.), Ste. Cunégonde, August 7.  
Herménégilde Potvin, Ste. Louise, Aug. 3.  
Soucy & Duperré, saddlers, Quebec, Aug. 3.

##### Curators appointed.

- Re Delphis Desjardins.—C. Desmarteau, Montreal, curator, Aug. 5.  
Re Joseph Desmarais, tanner.—Joseph Bouchard, Notre Dame de Stanbridge, curator, July 27.  
Re Vincent F. Lefebvre, St. Jérôme.—Bilodeau & Renaud, Montreal, curators, Aug. 6.  
Re Edouard Lemieux, Chicoutimi.—Kent & Turcotte, Montreal, joint-curator, Aug. 7.  
Re Alfred Normandin.—C. Desmarteau, Montreal, curator, Aug. 8.  
Re Daniel Ruest.—J. A. Talbot, St. Germain de Rimouski, curator, Aug. 1.  
Re C. A. Simard, furniture dealer.—G. W. Henshaw, Jr., St. Hyacinthe, curator, July 31.

##### Dividends.

- Re Onésime Bouliane, Tadoussac.—Sixth and last dividend, payable Aug. 28, T. Lawrence, Quebec, curator.  
Re H. Brulé, St. Barthélemi.—First and final dividend, payable Aug. 29, Kent & Turcotte, Montreal, joint-curator.