

Mr. Haffenden sought delivery from his trouble by committing suicide. The case came before the court in due course, and after a trial lasting the whole day, a verdict of acquittal was declared amidst loud applause. The chief witness for the prosecution broke down in cross-examination, and that, combined with the entire openness of Mr. Haffenden's proceedings and the evidence of Dr. Robert Barnes, the only medical witness called for the defence, left no doubt in the minds of the jury that the charge could not be upheld. The *Medical Times and Gazette*, in commenting on this painful case, says: It is to be deplored that the prosecution was ever instituted, and it is still a greater matter for regret that Mr. Haffenden did not abide in life to see his reputation vindicated. The case, though reported so meagrely in the journals as to be useless for medico-legal purposes, will serve as a timely reminder—first, to the Public Prosecutor and his advisers never to bring such another charge against a medical practitioner without an overwhelming mass of proof; secondly, to pregnant women that it is something more than a peccadillo to destroy the fruit within their womb; and thirdly, to medical practitioners to be more wary in the use of the uterine sound. Ladies have been known to go to gynecologists so well coached up in the symptoms of displacement that the sound has been introduced as a matter of course, and the doctor has not found out till afterwards that he has been made the subject of a plot."

We refer to this case for two reasons; first, because medical men, especially those who have to deal with diseases of women, are liable at any time to have charges trumped up against them, and therefore require to be constantly on their guard to surround themselves with every means of answering any false accusations that may be made against them; and secondly, to counsel medical men under all circumstances, if conscious of their innocence, no matter how dark the horizon may seem, or how damaging the slander may appear to be to their reputation, to fight it out. Let there be no compromise, and above all let there be no flying in the face of Providence by committing suicide in order to be delivered from impending trouble.

Many of our readers will remember the case of Dr. Edwardes, of Hounslow, who committed suicide about a year ago. In this case a charge of indecent assault was made by a Mrs. Bignell against

Dr. Edwardes, at the instigation of Dr. Whitmarsh, his partner, in order to drive the former into a disadvantageous and dishonorable dissolution of partnership. Instead of boldly meeting the charge and hounding down the villainous plotters, poor Edwardes, his quietus made, with a dose of prussic acid.

ANOTHER LIBEL CASE.—An action has been recently instituted by Dr. Lachapelle, editor of *L'Union Medicale*, against Dr. F. W. Campbell, *et al.*, of Montreal, to recover alleged damages incurred in consequence of a criminal action brought against the former gentleman. Some time ago an editorial appeared in *L'Union Medicale* to the effect that some French-Canadian medical students had received a private examination from the faculty of one of the medical schools of Montreal, and had received certificates which would enable them to practise in the United States. The drift of the editorial pointed to the faculty of Bishop's College as the guilty parties, and a criminal action for libel was brought against the proprietors of the journal in question. The bill, however, was thrown out by the grand jury, and the present suit has been entered by way of retaliation. The whole circumstance is much to be regretted, as it appears that both parties have been the victims of a fraud. The certificates referred to are believed to be forgeries.

HEALTH OF PANAMA.—Latest advices from this beautiful tropical city inform us that yellow fever prevails at present. In an article in the daily *Star*, written no doubt by Dr. Nelson, port surgeon, it is stated that while the disease is not epidemic, the fact of isolated cases occurring from month to month and from year to year, would point forcibly to the conclusion that the abominable neglect of all sanitary measures has allowed this disease to establish a permanent footing in their midst. The writer complains of the want of attention to sanitary matters, and says that with proper care Panama could be made one of the healthiest places in the tropics. It is hard to arouse the municipal mind to a sense of its duty. This is the experience of sanitarians in all parts of the world.

TRINITY MEDICAL COLLEGE TORONTO.—An official communication has been received by the authorities of this school from the Royal College