

# The Canadian Journal of Medicine and Surgery

A JOURNAL PUBLISHED MONTHLY IN THE INTEREST OF  
MEDICINE AND SURGERY

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VOL. I.

TORONTO, JUNE, 1897.

NO. 6.

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## Original Contributions.

Certainly it is excellent discipline for an author to feel that he must say all he has to say in the fewest possible words, or his reader is sure to skip them; and in the plainest possible words, or his reader will certainly misunderstand them. Generally, also, a downright fact may be told in a plain way; and we want downright facts at present more than anything else.—RUSKIN.

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### CRIME AND CRIMINALS.

BY A. B. EADIE, M.D., TORONTO.

THE history of crime dates from the earliest history of mankind. Whether crime is increasing or not is a difficult problem to settle. Statistics bearing on the point are not entirely satisfactory, yet they seem to show that in most countries crime is increasing.

We propose to deal mainly with the causes of crime and the treatment of criminals. Benedict says: "The brains of criminals exhibit a deviation from the normal type," and again: "The essential ground of abnormal action of the brain is abnormal brain structure." If these statements are true in all cases, then our conceptions of crime and the treatment of criminals should be greatly modified if not entirely altered. Are these statements true? Is it a fact in the case of every criminal that the brain does not perform its functions properly because of disease in the brain itself or in some other organ? Flint in a paper on the "Scientific Treatment of Crime and Criminals" makes the following statement: "It may fairly be assumed that no mental disturbance taking the form of insanity is without a physical cause, however obscure