

and invited the Court to ascertain by an operation the truth of his plea. The Sessions Judge sentenced him to death, and the High Court of Bombay supported this decision on appeal. In Sir Woodbine Parish's work on Buenos Ayres a somewhat singular case is recorded (*Cf.* Mayo's "Expert Evidence," pp. 60-61). "Some years ago Juan Antonio Garcia, aged between thirty-five and forty, was executed for murder at Buenos Ayres. He was a person of some education, and rather remarkable for the civility and amenity of his manners. When the *vento niorto* (north wind) set in he appeared to lose all command of himself, and such became his irritability that during its continuance he was engaged in continual quarrels and acts of violence. Before his execution he admitted that his present victim was the third man he had killed, besides being engaged in various fights with knives. When he arose from bed he told Sir Woodbine's informant he was always aware of its cursed influence upon him—a dull headache first, then a feeling of impatience at everything about him. If he went abroad his headache generally became worse; a heavy weight seemed to hang over his temples; he saw objects, as it were, through a cloud, and was hardly conscious where he went. He was fond of play, and if in such a mood a gambling house was in his way he seldom resisted the temptation. Once there, a turn of ill-luck would so irritate him that he would probably insult some one of the bystanders. If he met with anyone disposed to resent his abuse they seldom parted without bloodshed. The medical man who gave me this account attended him in his last moments, and expressed great anxiety to save his life under the impression that he was hardly to be accounted a reasonable being. But (adds the quaint old traveller) to have admitted that plea would have led to the necessity of confining half the population of the city when this wind sets in."

Deeming's Appeal.

Deeming's appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council ended, as everyone expected, in failure. The only strong points that could have been urged in the convict's favour, viz., the somewhat indecent haste with which the whole proceedings in Australia were hurried through, and the peremptory refusal of Mr. Justice Hodges to grant any adjournment, were studiously omitted from the petition, and

allegations that fresh evidence—with which the Privy Council in its judicial capacity had nothing whatever to do—was forthcoming were made in great part the basis of the application for “special leave” to appeal. The so-called evidence of insanity was insufficient to create even a *prima facie* presumption of irresponsibility. A criminal impulse that carefully adjusted itself to opportunity, selected the instruments of its gratification, and surrounded itself with every possible weapon of defence against detection, whatever else it might be, could not, with any fairness, be described as “irresistible.” The proofs of epileptic insanity smacked strongly of simulation, while instinctive criminalism is not yet, according to English law, an exculpatory plea. On the case as a whole we suspend judgment until his whole mental history from reliable sources is in our possession.

The Irish Question.

In the ranks of the Medical Profession in Ireland, it may be said that “the Irish Question” has for some time been centred upon the new rules of the Privy Council in regard to the abolition of Visiting Physicians to the Irish asylums. The Dublin newspapers have teemed with angry protests against the proposed change. Able letters have not been wanting on the other side defending the radical change which will in the future be effected in the medical staff of Irish lunatic asylums, should the new regulations be finally sanctioned by the Government. In our review of the Fortieth Report of the Inspectors of Lunatics in Ireland in this Journal, January, 1892, we observed that “a great advance in efficiency could doubtless be secured by doing away with the obsolete visiting staff, and replacing it with assistant medical officers. This is a reform which we have thought necessary to suggest many times during the last quarter of a century” (p. 108).

The position of the Visiting Physicians to an Irish public asylum has become a sinecure, and altogether an anachronism in consequence of the conditions having entirely altered since the time the office was first established, and when it was a necessary part of the medical management of an Irish asylum. This change must be recognized by English medical men before they can understand why in the course of time Visiting Physicians have been superseded by