improvement, for each advance has been met, in the first place, by the most strenuous opposition. Of course, these remarks are made of the body of superintendents. There are some—although a few—who have acted from a more enlightened spirit than the mass of their associates.

Dr. Buckham labors apparently under the disadvantage of being unacquainted with the French or German, or even with the English or American, literature of the subject to be found outside of Maudsley and Wharton and Stillé. Indeed, the work is to a great extent a commentary on the able volume on psychological medicine, forming a part of their treatise on medical jurisprudence. For a writer on insanity to ignore the vast body of literature contributed by that nation of the world which stands first in psychological medicine, the French, or to confine his citations to the translation of an author, is unpardonable.

Dr. Buckham's remedy for the ills of which he very properly complains is the organization of a corps of experts who shall be specially charged with the trial of the question of insanity. In theory this notion is a good one, and has been often advanced before; but when we look at the records of courts and see how many notorious and sane criminals have been acquitted of crime on the ground of insanity sworn to by so-called experts, and how many others evidently insane have been condemned by like testimony, we may doubt the applicability of his plan. We have seen superintendents of lunatic asylums, the class from which, we presume, Dr. Buckham would take his experts, rushing to Washington, at the dictation of public clamor, to aid in hanging a man whose whole conduct was that of a lunatic, and in whom the post-mortem examination showed the existence of organic disease of the brain.

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Par le Dr. J. LUYS, Membre de l' Académie de Médecine, Médecin de la Salpêtrière. Paris: Adrien Delahaye et Émile Lecroisnier, 1881.

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