

thing, and if any person or persons maliciously and without lawful justification shall use any instrument or means whatever with the like intent, he shall, on conviction thereof, be adjudged guilty of a high misdemeanor; and if the woman or child die in consequence thereof, shall be punished by fine not exceeding *five thousand* dollars, or imprisonment at hard labor for a term not exceeding fifteen years, or both, at the discretion of the court. And in case the woman or child do not die in consequence thereof, such offender shall be adjudged guilty of a misdemeanor, and be punished by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or imprisonment at hard labor for a term not exceeding five years, or both, in the discretion of the court before whom such conviction shall be had."

And on this law there have been several decisions; we will name but two, to show how the courts regard it.

First. "A woman who voluntarily takes a potion administered to her for the purpose of causing an abortion, is not an accomplice in the crime of the person administering it, the law making it no crime in her to take the potion." And,

Second. "The thing administered must be noxious in its nature, but it is not necessary to prove it will produce miscarriage; the crime is complete, whether in the opinion of others it is capable of producing that result or not."

Thus you see, Mr. Editor, that New Jersey is not one of the States that *winks* at that too frequent crime, and one that some of our profession at times yield to at the appeals of the unfortunate. Hoping that in justice to the fame of our State you will give the above a place in THE JOURNAL, I am, Yours truly,

D. B. INGERSOLL, M.D.

May's Landing, N. J., Sept. 10, 1888.

The Report of the Medical Examining Board of Virginia.

Dear Sir:—Your editorial in the issue of September 8, on the Report of the Medical Examining Board of Virginia, should be widely read and deeply pondered. To the schools such a report is as the handwriting on the wall, "Mene, mene, tekel, upharsin;" to the profession of every State an encouragement to persevere in the good work of organizing Medical Boards.

It is not a function of the University to grant the license to practice. That the M.D. degree carries this privilege is a modern usurpation, which does not extend to degrees in other faculties. It is a function of the State, to be exercised either directly, as is done in Germany, or indirectly, by the profession organizing and appointing suitable examiners. The struggle is between the colleges and the profession, and I would refer any one who may feel doubtful as to the issue of the

fight, to an address which I delivered in 1885, when President of the Canada Medical Association (*Med. News*, 1885, ii), in which I sketched the organization of the profession in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, which led, in the former Province, to the complete subjugation of the schools.

You may be surprised, Sir, at these sentiments from a dyed-in-the-wool school-man, but I feel convinced that the future of medical education in this country lies largely in the establishment of State Boards, such as exist in Virginia and North Carolina, which shall (1) control the entrance examination, (2) regulate the curriculum, and (3) grant the license to practice.

Yours very truly,

WILLIAM OSLER, M.D.

1502 Walnut St., Philadelphia.

"The Ethics of Marriage."

Dear Sir:—In your editorial notice of "Ethics of Marriage," by Dr. H. S. Pomeroy, in issue of Sept. 1, you refer to "Dr. Pomeroy's illustration of plucking unripe and ripe fruit from the tree." As the illustration is as ancient as it is striking, I take the liberty of sending it as originally stated by Dr. Percival Willughby, in 1670. In a work of this date written for midwives, he says: "Let midwives observe the waies and proceedings of nature for the production of her fruit on trees, or the ripening of walnuts and almonds from their first knitting to the opening of the huskes and falling of the nutt; the greene huskes sticking so close that it is not possible to separate the huske from the shell, whilst it is unripe; but as the fruit ripeneth the huske choppeth, and with a fissure openeth, and by degrees separateth the fruit without any enforcement." This quotation, with others from the same author, will be found in the preface of "Denman's Practice of Midwifery," 1821.

Respectfully,

HUNTER H. ROWELL, M.D.

467 Prospect St., Cleveland, O., Sept. 11, 1888.

BOOK REVIEWS.

PROCEEDINGS AND ADDRESS AT A SANITARY CONVENTION held at Albion, Michigan, Dec. 6 and 7, 1887, under the direction of a Committee of the State Board of Health and a Committee of Citizens of Albion. Reprint No. 274. Lansing: 1888.

This pamphlet of 70 pages is interesting as showing what kind of papers are read at the Sanitary Conventions for which Michigan is becoming somewhat famous. Sanitary conventions teach the people what sanitation is, and show sanitary and health authorities to what extent and in