

A MAD MEDICAL ASSISTANT.

A medical gentleman called at the *Star* Office on Saturday and gave some information regarding a suspicion which he entertains as to the murderer. It has been more than once suggested that the murderer is a monomaniac with medical knowledge. The doctor had an assistant who has gone mad recently, and who is exactly the sort of man Mr Archibald Forbes had in his mind in his diagnosis of the murders. "Clearly," said Mr Forbes, "the murderer is a man familiar with the geography of the Whitechapel purlieus. Clearly he is a man not unaccustomed to the manner of accosting those poor women as they are wont to be accosted. Clearly he is a man to whom the methods of the policemen are not unknown—the measured pace, the regular methodic round, the tendency to woodenness and unalertness of perception which are the characteristics of that well-meaning individual. Probably, a dissolute man, he fell a victim to a specific contagion, and so seriously that in the sequel he lost his career. What shape the deterioration may have taken, yet left him with a strong, steady hand, a brain of devilish coolness, and an active step, is not to be defined. The man's physical health ruined," continues Mr Forbes, "and his career broken, he has possibly suffered specific brain damage as well. At this moment—I cannot use exact professional terms—there may be mischief to one of the lobes of the brain. Or he may have become insane simply from anguish of body and distress of mind. Anyhow he is mad, and his mania, rising from the particular to the general, takes the fell form of revenge against the class, a member of which has wrought him his blighting hurt, against, too, the persons of that class plying in Whitechapel, since it was from a Whitechapel loose woman that he took his seathe." Now, this exactly describes the man whom the doctor suspects. He is a man of about 35. He was not a fully qualified surgeon, but had a certain amount of anatomical knowledge, and had assisted at operations, including ovariotomy. He was the assistant to a doctor in Whitechapel, and knows every alley and court in the neighbourhood of the places where the murders were committed. He has been the victim of a "specific contagion," and since then has been animated by feelings of hate, not to say revenge, against the lower class of women who haunt the streets. When seen about eight months ago he was mad. "What man," said the doctor, in concluding his story, "is more likely to have committed the crime than this maniac?"