

woman, "I have got pneumonia. If I have I shall die, and if I am going to die you must die with me." Shortly afterwards he committed the acts for which he was indicted.

Dr. Annger said that when the prisoner was admitted into the Royal Infirmary (apparently on June 10th, immediately after the crime) he was in a dazed condition, and did not realise where he was or anything that had happened. In this condition he remained for the next twenty-four hours.

Dr. Price, of Walton Gaol, said that prisoner had been under his observation since June 20th. During that time he had been perfectly sane, but confessed to an utter want of knowledge as to what had passed during the period from 10 p.m. on June 9th to 8.30 on Sunday the 12th.

Dr. Wigglesworth had visited prisoner on July 23rd, and found that he was quite sane. Witness considered that prisoner was not capable at the time of the tragedy of understanding the nature and quality of the act he had committed.

His Lordship told the jury that the prisoner appeared to have been for a time not a human being at all. No conduct such as was ordinarily associated with humanity offered a parallel to what occurred on June 10th. It appeared that from the time he awoke on that morning until he came to consciousness again he acted like a wild beast rather than a man, and as if he was not in possession of his faculties. If the jury considered that this was so, it was their duty to find that the prisoner was not responsible for his actions. Guilty, but insane.—*Liverpool Assizes*, August 1st, 1898 (Mr. Justice Ridley).—*Liverpool Daily Post*, August 2nd.

A good instance of the complete freedom which a large-minded judge assumes when the facts are strongly in favour of the insanity of the accused. It does not appear from the report that the judge considered himself bound in any way to refer to the rule of law. He allowed a wide latitude to the medical witnesses, and charged the jury in terms which left that rule on one side.

Reg. v. Norris.

Prisoner, a solicitor æt. 35, had lived happily with his wife for nine years. On the early morning of February 13th he shot her with a revolver while she was asleep in bed. He then cut his throat in four places. Indicted for shooting with intent, &c. It was proved that prisoner had always been on affectionate terms with his wife, and that they had never had a quarrel; that he had been much overworked for a long time, that he had complained lately of sleeping badly, of bad dreams, and that "he could not distinguish between his dreams and his thoughts when awake." He had always been a strict teetotaler.

The judge told the jury that there was only one verdict that they ought to find, and that was that owing to overwork and not having sufficient change the defendant's mind became unhinged, and that he did what he did in a fit of temporary insanity, and did not know what he was doing, and that he was not responsible for his actions at the time. It was only a passing fit of brain exhaustion, and he hoped that with change the defendant would soon recover, and that he would go back to his business as good a man as ever. "Guilty, but insane,"—*Central Criminal Court*, March 11th, 1898 (Mr. Justice Grantham).—*Times*, March 12th.

Another instance of the freedom assumed by a judge who forms a strong opinion on the depositions.

Reg. v. Woolford.

The prisoner, æt. 29, of no occupation, was seen kneeling outside the church door at Heckfield, dressed in a torn shirt only, and praying aloud. Some neighbours saw him and tried to induce him to come home; but he became very excited and violent, and seizing a ladder, tried to batter down the church door. He fought and shouted, got away, ran along the Reading road, assaulting a bicyclist in his way, ran on to a farmhouse, jumped the hedge, and seeing a child in the garden, knocked her down and knelt on her, beating her about the head and face with his fists, and so injured her that her life was for some time in danger. It was proved that the prisoner was subject to epileptic fits, and the medical evidence was that he

was not responsible when suffering from the fits, and was not safe to be at large. Guilty, but insane.—Winchester Assizes (the Lord Chief Justice), June 28th.—*Times*, June 30th.

One of the numerous instances of crime committed by a man who ought not to have been at large.

ASYLUM NEWS.

THE NEW EDINBURGH ASYLUM.—Competitive plans for the asylum to be erected by the Edinburgh District Lunacy Board were exhibited to the public during the week of the British Medical Association meeting. We have already indicated that the system of construction developed at Alt Scherbitz was adopted, and the architects who sent in plans have worked in strict accordance with instructions. Mr. Hippolyte J. Blanc has been successful in securing the first place in order of merit, and his designs are to be adopted with certain modifications in detail. We hope to give a full account of the completed plans at no distant date.

QUEBEC MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The physicians attached to the asylum of the province of Quebec have organised themselves into an Association for the advancement of the specialty. Dr. Vallée has been appointed president, Dr. Burgin vice-president, and Dr. Chagnon secretary. The first meeting of the society was held at the St. Jean de Dieu Asylum on July 14th, 1898, and we have been favoured with an account of the proceedings, which will find place in our next issue.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM DR. PERCY SMITH.

In the July Number of the *JOURNAL* I notice on page 653 a statement reported as made by the Chairman of the meeting of the Northern and Midland Division, held at Cheadle on May 25th, to the effect that "every hospital had pensioned its superintendent on retirement." I think it is right to correct this statement and say that no superintendent of Bethlem Hospital has ever received a pension. This has, however, not been the fault of the governing body, but owing to the fact that the superintendents have gone into other spheres of work, with the exception of Dr. Helps, who died while still superintendent.

OBITUARY.

HENRY CASE, M.R.C.S.

We record, with regret, the death of Mr. Henry Case, at Folkestone, on the 15th of June. He had but recently retired from the office of medical superintendent of the Leavesden Asylum, which he had held since 1876. Born in 1843, and medically educated at the Middlesex Hospital, at which he held with credit the post of house surgeon, he became subsequently house surgeon to the West Herts Infirmary and to the Hampstead Smallpox Hospital, and assistant medical officer to the Leavesden Asylum, of which, on Dr. Claye Shaw's removal to Banstead, he was entrusted with the chief charge.

For upwards of twenty-one years he held this important appointment, and discharged with zeal and efficiency its onerous duties, maintaining throughout the best relations both with his colleagues and patients, and, despite the number of the latter, having an intimate knowledge of their cases, and himself directing their medical treatment. For some years, and until increasing work compelled his relinquishment of the office, he was also lecturer on psychological medicine at the Middlesex Hospital.