

On appeal, the First Division of the Court of Session on 28th October, 1896, concurred in the finding of Lord Stormonth-Darling, and gave decree as sued for with expenses.

This case is of interest in respect of the rejection of the medical evidence in favour of suicide, as above set forth. In brief, it did not seem possible for the judge to accept the statement that the initial stage of melancholia is not apparent to the man in the street. Yet, about the same time as this trial, the newspapers were printing the circumstances of Lady Mary Bligh's suicide; how she was found drowned after having entered the water divested of clothing; how her father stated that "it was not the fact that she had been in a very depressed frame of mind, or a despondent state of mind. Battling with ill-health though she was, she was uniformly cheerful and the brightest of companions. It is absolutely untrue that she had a love affair. That she was ever seen weeping bitterly in her walks must appear to those who knew her most unlikely. There can be no doubt that she acted as she did under some uncontrollable influence, rapidly developed, which at once deprived her of reason and overcame her will, which those who most lately conversed with her know was to live, not to die."

DR. A. JAMES ON CRIME.

At a recent meeting of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Edinburgh Dr. James read a paper on "Crime," which is of interest, as representing the thoughtful conclusions of an able general physician in regard to this subject. Dr. James pointed out the analysis of crime, pauperism, and insanity in the constancy of numbers year by year. Just as diseases occur and cause death in a wonderfully constant number, so do crimes happen. He pursued this subject in regard to liability at different ages, and showed the dependence on season, temperature, weather, and so on. Dr. James entered at some length into questions of social relationships—the influence of trade, the preponderance of crimes against property in bad times, of crimes against the person in prosperous times. He showed how the crimes of the people are like themselves innately, and how the environment influences the criminal, and how the criminal is generally behind the age, although sometimes in advance of it.

Dr. James concluded by reference to the treatment of crime, and emphasised the necessity for treating the criminal rather than the crime. While acknowledging the usefulness of primitive measures to aid defects of action in the higher evolved centres of mind, he laid down the principle that all criminal law should be founded on natural science, and that special education in this respect is necessary for those who make the laws and those who administer them. Dr. James would have the governors of gaols competent in physiological psychology, and would enlarge their powers for detention or dismissal of criminals. He advocated greater publicity in affairs of business, and an extension of education in the best sense for all. He looked upon the improvement of the social condition of women as an important factor in the decrease of crime.

The discussion which followed was of an interesting nature, and will be published in full in the *Transactions of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Edinburgh* for 1896-97.

ARCHITECT ASSESSORS.

It is of great importance, when new asylums are being erected in different parts of the country, that the best advice should be sought by those responsible for the after working of these institutions. There are now, at the service of the public, men who have given long and special attention to the many and intricate questions arising out of the continuous necessity for additions to asylum accommodation. There is a danger in adhering too rigidly to the traditions of asylum