

very promptly formed if they are to cope with the number of cases that will probably require detention very early after the bill comes into operation on the 1st of January next. The number of habitual inebriates coming periodically before the courts is very considerable, and if these are at once dealt with under the Act the existing accommodation would be utterly inadequate.

The application of the powers given by the Act, although very full and extensive, will no doubt give rise to many questions of difficulty, and we shall watch the progress of its use with interest. The Act promises to prevent a very large amount of suffering at present inflicted by the habitual drunkards on their families without check or hope of redress, and there can be little doubt that beyond this there may follow a considerable reduction of casual inebriates. The popular mind will soon recognise that the law regards drunkenness as criminal, and this, it may be confidently predicted, will result in drunkenness being considered, not as a harmless indulgence, but as a moral offence against law and order—a result greatly to be desired.

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*The Lunacy Bill.*

The Lunacy Bill of the past session, after passing the Lords, was withdrawn in the House of Commons, owing to the lateness of the session.

Time, therefore, still remains to this Association to exert itself in influencing the coming legislation. The late bill, owing to our action and influence, was undoubtedly modified and improved, but much remains to be done, especially in ensuring a favourable reception of the pension clauses, in the House of Commons. In this direction individual members can do much in putting the special claims of the specialty in this respect before those members of Parliament with whom they are associated in any way. The bill will almost certainly pass next session, and if this opportunity is missed, many years will probably elapse before another is offered.

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*The Law of Settlement.*

*(The Plymouth v. Axminster Guardians.)*

This case before the House of Lords was an appeal from an order of the Court of Appeal affirming an order of the