

Medico-Legal Note.

REX *v.* FRANK AMOS ZEALLEY.

THIS case was tried at Worcester Assizes, on October 21, 1924, before Mr. Justice Lush. The offence charged was that of gross indecency with a male person on June 8. The prisoner pleaded "guilty."

Dr. Gilbert Scott, of Malvern, gave evidence on behalf of the defence. Having briefly outlined the Freudian theory of the development of the sex instinct, and of its possible "fixations," he stated that, since the offence, he had been treating the prisoner by psycho-analysis. There had already been improvement in the prisoner's mental condition, but Dr. Scott expected that the treatment would extend over two years. On this evidence the prisoner was "bound over," he undertaking to continue under Dr. Scott's treatment.

The case is of interest as indicating that courts are beginning to recognize that persons who commit offences of this kind are proper subjects for psychological treatment rather than legal punishment. Further, it is one of the first cases in which treatment by psycho-analysis has been definitely mentioned in, and accepted by, a British court.

Occasional Note.

The Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Disorders (England and Wales).

THE subject which occupied most attention at the Quarterly General Meeting held on November 20, 1924, was the terms of the evidence to be tendered to the Royal Commission now sitting at 5, Old Palace Yard, Westminster, under the Chairmanship of the Rt. Hon. Hugh Macmillan, *K.C.*

The Committee of the Association appointed at the Annual Meeting in July, 1924, to prepare a *précis* of evidence which would embody the views of the Association as a whole and not of any

particular section, had a difficult task to perform for reasons which are readily stated. It is the ambition of the Association to gather and retain within its fold all the psychiatrists in Great Britain, Ireland and the Empire beyond the Seas irrespective of the particular field of psychological medicine and education they are most interested in. Thus its ordinary membership includes psychiatrists practising in mental hospitals of all kinds and mental defective institutions, psychiatrists in consulting and in general practice, professors and lecturers in universities and medical schools, medical officers in education and prison services, in the service of the Ministry of Pensions, the Board of Control, etc.

It is therefore to be expected that the viewpoint of these diverse groups on many matters the Association has at heart might be from widely different angles as regards details and practical measures, although there might be general agreement on the principles involved.

Thus the Committee would experience no great difficulty in defining the principles and ideals the Association has always stood for in regard to the matters at issue, but to find formulæ which would be generally acceptable to members as to how best these principles and ideals might achieve fruition in practice—formulæ which, of necessity, had to be at once logical, concise, and lucid—was another matter.

The Committee have met on many occasions, and their deliberations have involved conferences with allied bodies and much correspondence. They have taken their responsibility most seriously, and earnestly devoted much time, both individually and collectively, to the task set them, and in this respect Dr. R. H. Cole, the Chairman, and Dr. Brooks Keith, the Hon. Secretary, are worthy of special commendation.

It must have been gratifying to the Committee to feel that, on the whole, their labours won the approval of the members present at the recent Quarterly General Meeting, who expressed this by adopting the draft memorandum which was submitted by the Committee, with a few emendations, especially in the direction of a more particularized attention being given to the second part of the Royal Commission's reference. This draft memorandum, prior to its submission, had been revised on some points by the Parliamentary Committee and approved of by the Council.

Since then the Committee has continued its labours, and appointed witnesses who will in due course appear before the Royal Commission. Sir Frederick Mott and Lt.-Col. Edwin Goodall have consented to present the Association's case on early treatment and psychiatric education and research, the latter witness dealing

especially with the establishment of clinics. Lt.-Col. J. R. Lord will give special evidence in regard to psychiatry, legal and administrative, as practised in some European countries and in the United States of America. Other witnesses are Dr. R. H. Cole (registered hospitals, licensed houses, private patients of all kinds, and allied matters), Dr. W. F. Menzies (central and local authorities), Dr. M. A. Collins (public mental hospitals, voluntary patient and legal formalities), and Dr. R. Worth (after care, etc.).

The Final Memorandum conveying the *précis* of evidence has been completed, and forms one document with three appendices which give the evidence to be presented by Sir F. W. Mott, Lt.-Col. Edwin Goodall and Lt.-Col. J. R. Lord. It embodies the draft memorandum prepared by the Committee and adopted by the Association, and also the Report of the English Lunacy Legislation Sub-Committee as amended by later proceedings.

Out of courtesy to the Royal Commission we refrain from publishing the completed *précis* of evidence until it has been submitted, but our report of the discussion which occurred on this subject (*vide* p. 155) would be unintelligible if no reference were made to some of the guiding principles and ideals upon which the Association's recommendations are based. These may be thus stated :

Clinics for the investigation and treatment of mental disorders should be established, preferably in connection with the universities, medical schools and general hospitals.

The reception into mental institutions of patients, whether of the paying or of the rate-aided patients class, should follow a similar procedure.

A considerable proportion of admissions to mental institutions should be dealt with on a voluntary basis, and that such voluntary treatment should be extended to the rate-aided class, for which legislative sanction has already established precedents at the Maudsley Hospital and at the City of London Mental Hospital. Special legal machinery should be devised for treating early non-volitional cases.

A "provisional order" should be instituted as an intermediary measure before the usual "judicial order" for detention is enforced. When such detention is necessary medical certification should take place as constituting evidence, but that the authority for detention, discharge and continuation (*i.e.*, renewal) of orders should entail the responsibility of some authorized person not acting in a medical capacity.

A broader conception should be taken of the functions of both the central and local authorities for "lunacy" or mental health administration.

The Poor Law authorities should be superseded by the local authorities in regard to the care, treatment, and maintenance of necessitous patients suffering from mental disorders.

We welcome the appointment of this Royal Commission, and trust that the outcome of its findings will be a Government Mental Treatment Bill which will be, in a great measure, in harmony with the aspirations of the Association.

Part II.—Reviews.

The Human Testis: Its Gross Anatomy, Histology, Physiology, Pathology, with Particular Reference to its Endocrinology, Aberrations of Function and Correlation to other Endocrines, as well as the Treatment of Diseases of the Testis, and Studies in Testicular Transplantation, and the Effects of the Testicular Secretion on the Organism. By MAX THOREK, M.D. London and Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1924. Med. 8vo, pp. x + 547; 308 figures. Price \$5 or 38s. net.

It is with special pleasure that one desires to review at length an important monograph by Dr. Max Thorek on *The Human Testis in Health and Disease*. For the author, not satisfied with a wide surgical experience, has also devoted his time and attention to experimental and laboratory investigations, and, in my judgment, it is this conscientious and painstaking endeavour to familiarize himself practically with all the facts appertaining to the subject, which has enabled him to sift and correlate the facts relating not only to his own work, but to that contained in the very numerous publications of other investigators. Many of the chapters will be of especial interest to psychiatrists, and especially to those who seek a physiogenic relationship of disorders and dystrophies of the reproductive-endocrine system of glands and mental diseases. There is no doubt in the mind of the author that continued research will soon establish definitely the identity of the internal secretion of the testis and its chemical composition, and he supports this by reference to the works of Winiwarter, who claims to have followed the transition of mitochondria to crystalloids. He refers also to the work of Duesburg, Iscovesco and Mulon on the same lines. Max Thorek does not agree with the view that the Leydig cells are controlled by centres situated in the hypothalamic region or elsewhere, for they continue to live after transplantation of the testis.

The physiology and function of the internal secretions is fully considered, and the history of our knowledge of the rôle of the Leydig, seminiferous and Sertoli cells from the earliest times until now is narrated: "From the time of Hippocrates and Aristotle it has been believed that there was a correlation between the testicular fluids