

crime, may be sentenced to not more than three years in any State inebriate reformatory, &c., this being in addition to, or in substitution of any other sentence. Should this become law, there can be little doubt that it will act as a powerful deterrent to incipient drunken habit, and, it may be hoped, prove a curative measure in a certain number of instances.

The Bill further provides for the establishment of State inebriate reformatories and of certified inebriate reformatories in which such treatment may be carried out.

Any habitual drunkard who has been four times convicted of drunkenness within twelve months shall also be liable to detention for a term not exceeding three years in an inebriate reformatory. This provision, if it ever becomes law, will most certainly arrest the development of those chronic "drunks," whose appearances before the magistrates are to be reckoned in hundreds.

The Bill, however, has little chance of becoming law, even in so quiet a session as the present, and we can only express the regret that while legislation affecting special interests, of railways, banks, &c., is comparatively easy, it is still so difficult to pass a Bill which affects only the general interest of the community.

Criminal Evidence Bill.

This Bill, marking a very wide departure in our law of evidence, is so far advanced that there is every probability of its becoming law in the present session, but probably its clauses will yet undergo such considerable modification as to render criticism of its existing form unnecessary.

The admission of the evidence of criminally accused persons and of the husband and wife will, without doubt, affect considerably the plea of insanity in such cases. Many speculations might be indulged in with regard to the manner in which it will act in this respect; but probably in the question of insanity, as well as in that of criminality, the extension of the scope of evidence will help to a greater approximation to the truth, and thereby to justice, than that attained when the evidence of the most important witnesses was inadmissible.

The exact conditions and limitations of such evidence must, however, be defined before any satisfactory opinion can be expressed on the manner in which it will affect the plea of insanity, but it is easy to foresee that many interesting questions will arise in this connection.