

must be presumed in favour of its validity. It need scarcely be said, however, that "notice" is of immense importance in both cases as a matter of evidence and in connection with any allegations of fraud or circumvention. Finally, the responsibility of insane persons for both matrimonial offences and crimes now appears to be governed by the rule in Macnaghten's case (see judgment of Lord Esher in *Hanbury v. Hanbury*, 1892, "Times" L. R., 560) strictly or liberally applied according to the temperament and views of the judge.

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*Gamble's Case.*

It would have been interesting if Richard Gamble, the boy who committed the murderous outrage in Islington last autumn, and who was found unfit to plead at the Old Bailey January Sessions, had been able to take his trial. From all accounts he belonged to the class of instinctive juvenile criminals whom the law is gradually coming to recognise as proper objects not for punishment, but for treatment in asylums, and any fresh precedent which might have strengthened this growing judicial tendency would have been welcome. Its supremacy is already, however, in all probability assured. The truth is that lawyers began to be more reasonable on the subject when alienists began to reject as untenable the positive assertion of some French and American writers that there was in such cases an entire absence of any mental lesion. The result of the Plaistow case is a direct recognition of the existence of the only kind of *moral* insanity in which medical experts themselves now believe. *Apropos* of the Plaistow case, however, we view with considerable apprehension the ruling of Mr. Justice Kennedy that as Coombes was not convicted, the conviction of the man Fox as an accessory was not possible. Of course we offer no opinion as to Fox's guilt or innocence. But the learned judge's decision on this point appears to ignore the fact that lunatics *are* found guilty under the new Act, and that all that their insanity does for them is to excuse them from penal consequences. It will be a very unfortunate condition of things indeed if accessories to crimes committed by lunatics are to escape scot free. Mr. Justice Kennedy appears to have also overlooked the fact that the trial and conviction of the principal offender is not necessary

under the law as it has existed since 1861. His assumption that the conviction of the lunatic is necessary therefore rests on no better foundation than his assumption that a verdict of "guilty, but insane," is tantamount to a verdict of acquittal. It is to be hoped that there may be an early judicial revision of the Plaistow ruling.

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*The Attendants' Handbook.*

We have received a copy of the third edition of the *Handbook for Attendants on the Insane*, published by authority of the Association. Drs. Hayes Newington and Beveridge Spence, to whom the matter was remitted, decided not to attempt a revision of the work, as the demand was so urgent and the publishers had none left in stock. They have, however, numbered the paragraphs so as to facilitate the answering of the questions to be found at the end of each chapter, and completed the book by adding the Regulations referring to the nursing examinations. As various suggestions have been made for further improvements, arrangements have been made with Messrs. Baillièrè, Tindall, and Cox to give timely notice when this new edition is approaching exhaustion, so that ample opportunity may be afforded for thorough revision prior to the issue of the fourth edition. Judging by past experience this will not be an affair of the dim and distant future. Meanwhile, we congratulate all concerned on the prompt appearance of this new issue in a serviceable form.

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PART II.—REVIEWS.

*The New Privy Council Rules.*

According to the second section of the Act 30 and 31 Vic., c. 118, the Lord Lieutenant is empowered to make, by Order in Council, Rules and Regulations for the control and guidance of the officers and servants in the District Asylums of Ireland, as well as to determine the staff, appoint their salaries, and define their duties.

Accordingly from time to time a small blue-book has been issued containing the rules thus prepared, and commonly known as "the Privy Council Rules."