Medico-Legal Notes.

Rex *v.* Daniel Kenneally.

This case was originally tried at the Central Criminal Court. The accused was charged with the attempted murder of a fellow-workman named Broomfield. At the time of the offence, Kenneally is reported to have said "That man killed my father, and I have killed him. Am I right in doing so?" The father was not dead, and had had no quarrel with Broomfield. At the trial, Kenneally pleaded "Guilty" on the advice of his counsel, who appears to have thought that the facts were not strong enough to bring the case within the McNaghten criteria, or was, perhaps, unwilling to run the risk of the indefinite detention which follows a verdict of "Guilty but Insane." Under these circumstances, the Court had no option but to pass sentence, and this sentence was one of ten years' penal servitude. Against this sentence Kenneally appealed. Meanwhile, he had been certified insane in prison, and he has been, or is about to be transferred to a mental hospital.

The case came before the Court of Criminal Appeal on June 2. The sentence was reduced from ten to three years' penal servitude. The judges appear to have disliked the possibility that Kenneally might recover, and would then be liable to serve the remainder of his original sentence.

The case provides another example of the present peculiar state of the law relating to insane persons who are accused of criminal acts.

Rex. *v.* Edward Marjarem.

This case was tried at the Central Criminal Court, on May 22, before Mr. Justice Humphreys.

The accused, a labourer, aged 23 years, was charged with the murder of Edith May Parker, at Dartford Heath, on April 11, by stabbing her in the back. When arrested, he made the following statement, "I bought a butcher's knife for two shillings. I never

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.76.314.541 Published online by Cambridge University Press