stated that he had seen Bousquet's last fight, and considered that he should not have been allowed in the ring.

The expression " punch drunk " appears to be in ordinary use in boxing circles, and implies that the fighter takes unnecessary punishment, and has not the spirit to put up a good defence. When a man reaches this condition he is useless for anything more serious than sparring exhibitions. With regard to the alleged suddenness of the attack on the girl, the prisoner's letters and his possession of the loaded revolver must be duly considered. Bousquet did not give evidence on his own behalf.

Dr. H. A. Grierson, senior medical officer of Brixton Prison, stated that he had been unable to find any evidence of insanity in Bousquet, whom he had kept under observation for about two months. Asked whether the blows on the head had any effect upon Bousquet's brain, the witness replied that no definite statement could be made in either direction.

The jury, after a short absence from court, found Bousquet " Guilty ", and sentence of death was passed.

The case came before the Court of Criminal Appeal on October 14. No new evidence appears to have been produced, and little more was done than to urge again the plea put forward at the original trial. The appeal was dismissed. The Lord Chief Justice, who presided, gave judgment on the strict terms of the McNaghton criteria, laying stress upon the fact that the primary necessity was for the defence to establish that the accused suffered from a disease of the mind, and that, in consequence of such disease, he suffered from a defect of reason. Only when those conditions had been satisfied could the accused's absence of knowledge of the " nature and quality " or the " wrongness " of the act be considered. He referred to the defence of insanity as " the almost invariable makeweight in capital cases ", and to the absence of such a defence in other criminal cases. The latter, undoubted fact gives occasion for considerations on capital punishment, but these would be out of place in this particular connection.

The death sentence was carried out on October 29.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

A CASE OF EUTHANASIA AND SUICIDE.

AN inquest was held at East Ham on November 1, 1935, upon the bodies of Michael Stern, æt. 26, an analytical chemist, and his wife, Bertha Stern, æt. 23. They had been married for two years. The husband was a patient in East Ham Memorial Hospital, suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. His condition was regarded by the hospital medical staff as being hopeless, and of this fact his wife was aware. The evidence was that the wife administered a solution of sodium arsenate, in milk, to the husband, and then drank some of this poison herself. As a result, they both died. The newspaper report does

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not make it quite clear whether there had been an agreement between the couple to die in this way, or whether the initiative was taken by the wife. The jury returned a verdict of murder against the wife in respect of the death of her husband, and of suicide while of unsound mind in respect of her own death.

The main interest of the case lies in the comments which were made at the inquest. The foreman of the jury is reported as saying, " To brand her " (the wife) " as a murderess, when that young woman has acted so wonderfully bravely, and in such a self-sacrificing manner, makes it really difficult for us. It is only that the laws of the land insist on the form of verdict. Otherwise, the word murder is horrible, and none of the jury would use such a word in such circumstances ". The coroner is reported as having spoken of the wife's " wonderful act ".

Recent cases appear to indicate that interest is being focused upon the subject of euthanasia. It is said that influential support is promised for a Bill dealing with this matter, which is to be introduced into Parliament. It is not unlikely that some form of inquiry will be instituted. We can but hope that the reference of such an inquiry will be wide enough to include the whole question of homicide and suicide, for the law and practice on these matters is in a condition which can only be described as chaotic.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

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