did not get what he wanted. On May 14 he wrote to his father's solicitor, saying "If you do not in a week do what I want you to do I will assassinate my father." At the end of the week he wrote: "The time is up; I must do what I said." He immediately made preparations, and without having made any preparation for his own escape he came down there and shot his father. What, to his Lordship's mind, was suggestive was that on the way to the police-station, instead of expressing sorrow such as they might expect from a man in such a situation, he was narrating his wrongs. The mere fact of the man killing his father was one they might take into consideration. Unless there were some hidden quarrel a sane man was hardly likely to follow his father and fire a bullet into his chest, and then follow him again and shoot another bullet into his back. This was hardly the action of a sane man. The examination of the doctors rather confirmed the view that he was not responsible for his actions. He, therefore, thought if they believed the evidence they might take a merciful view in this case, which was so very exceptional, and though it was not disputed that the prisoner did the act, he was irresponsible, being insane by reason of this particular delusion respecting his father's conduct. The jury, after a very short interval, found him guilty, but insane at the time he committed the act.

And thus ended the trial, and we think no more need be said than that it is satisfactory to get a judge who so fully recognizes that a man may understand the nature and quality of an act and yet be irresponsible in the eyes of the law.

Report on Hypnotism.

The Committee on Hypnotism appointed by the British Medical Association at the Birmingham Meeting, 1890, presented their Report after an interval of two years to the Nottingham Meeting, July 26th, 1892. The members of this Committee were Drs. Broadbent, Clouston, Gairdner, Needham (Chairman), Mr. Langley (Cambridge), Drs. Kingsbury, Conolly Norman, Hack Tuke, Outterson Wood (Hon. Sec.), and Yellowlees.*

The terms of reference are given at the heading of the Report.

* The late Dr. Ross was originally a member of the Committee. An interim Report was presented to the Annual Meeting at Bournemouth.

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.38.163.576 Published online by Cambridge University Press