REX *v.* SUSAN ELIZA TURNER.

This woman, æt. 60, was tried at the Central Criminal Court before Mr. Justice Talbot on December 12 for the manslaughter of her daughter. The deceased woman had died as a result of septic poisoning, consequent upon an ulcer on the hip, and of general neglect. The prisoner had neglected to obtain any medical or other assistance.

Dr. Hall Morton, governor and medical officer of Holloway Prison, stated that the accused had a mentality of a child of 6½ years of age. He thought that she was unable to take an intelligent interest in her trial. This view was contested, on behalf of the accused. The jury found that she was fit to plead, and the trial was proceeded with in the usual way. It was urged that the alleged offence was merely one of ignorance of hygiene and neglect of cleanliness, and that this could not be considered as a crime. the jury, however, found the prisoner guilty. A sentence of ten years' penal servitude was passed, the judge remarking that this was the best course to take in the prisoner's own interests, and that she would be well cared for, physically and mentally. He added that, in all probability, she would ultimately be treated as a criminal lunatic.

Occasional Notes.

Reflections on Old Age: Sir James Crichton-Browne's 87th Birthday.

NOTWITHSTANDING Sir James Crichton-Browne's lack of enthusiasm on attaining the age of 87 years, which is recorded of him in a report of an interview he gave on the recent anniversary of his birthday to a member of the Press, we venture to offer him our cordial congratulations and wish him many happy returns of that day.

Merely to live to that age may perhaps be considered as no great achievement, but to be able, in addition, to look back upon sixty-five years devoted to the welfare of those described by Lord Shaftesbury as being "the most helpless, if not the most afflicted portion of the human race" must be a source of satisfaction, and assist towards keeping at bay that senescence of mind and body which is dreaded by all men. A life so spent is a continual stimulus to the "will to live" and thus has its own reward, for the "will to

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