Rex *v.* William Jones.

This case provides an example of an uncommon procedure.

The accused, æt. 53, was formerly Deputy Chief Constable of Glamorganshire. He was charged with a series of fraudulent conversions of money. The case originally came on at the Glamorgan Assizes in November, 1933. When the first count in the indictment was put to the accused, he " did not appear to understand ". Two doctors gave evidence as to his state of mind, and the jury found him " unfit to plead ". The usual order for detention during His Majesty's pleasure was made, and he was removed to Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum. On January 10, 1934, a medical report was made to the Home Secretary, who ordered the accused to be tried at the ensuing Cardiff Assizes. The case came on for trial on February 14, 1934, before Mr. Justice Lawrence. The accused pleaded " Guilty ". Dr. H. P. Foulerton, medical superintendent of Broadmoor Asylum, stated that the accused was admitted to that institution on November 23. He appeared to be suffering from loss of memory, and he said there was a man in his cell trying to rob him. This delusion disappeared within three days, and in a week he appeared to be quite rational. The witness regarded the insanity as having been feigned. The judge passed a sentence of three years' penal servitude.

Cases of feigned insanity of this kind are not common. It is to be noted that the procedure adopted was possible only because the accused had not been tried. When a trial has taken place, and has resulted in a verdict of " guilty but insane ", the case is finally disposed of, the verdict amounting in law to an acquittal. Even if it was definitely established that the alleged insanity had been feigned, no re-trial would be possible.

Rex *v.* William Hubert Allen.

This case was tried at Leicester Assizes on February 1, 1934. The accused, æt. 22, who was charged with the murder of a boy, æt. 3 years, was stated to have the intelligence of a child of 6 years of age, and to be unable to spell simple words, such as " cat " and " at ".

Dr. H. A. Grierson, senior medical officer of H.M. Prison, Brixton, gave evidence to the effect that the accused was unable to read and write, and that his vocabulary was nil ; he had no knowledge of the alphabet, and was quite unable to count simple money. The witness considered him to be an imbecile.

The accused was found " unfit to plead ", and the usual order for detention was made.

There is no history of the accused having committed any previous criminal actions ; and the case illustrates the danger of an imbecile being capable of sudden acts of violence.

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