The defence was that of insanity. Dr. F. R. P. Taylor, medical superintendent of Hellingly Mental Hospital, stated that he considered the prisoner to be a high-grade mental defective; he had an inferiority complex; and he had "definite symptoms of delusion and persecution." The witness considered that the prisoner probably knew that he was doing wrong legally, but had thought he was doing right morally. In answer to the judge, the witness said that he thought the prisoner knew that he was taking the woman's life. The report does not state whether the evidence of the prison medical officer was given. The jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to death.

Rex *v.* Fred Fielding.

This case was tried at Manchester Assizes, on November 5, before Mr. Justice Finlay. The prisoner was charged with the murder of a young woman named Eleanor Pilkington. They had been "walking out" for three years. There was a quarrel between them. Shortly after this the accused went to an ironmonger's shop, and said to another customer, "I am drunk. I have got a murder to do, and have come to buy a knife." On the following night he broke the window of the girl's bedroom. Her father came down, and the accused then said, "If I do not see Eleanor, you will be without a daughter in about a week." Soon after this the accused cut the girl's throat, while they were walking together. He than gave himself up to the police. The defence took the line that the crime should be reduced to manslaughter, on account of the accused's condition as to drink. He was found "guilty," and was sentenced to death. The case came before the Court of Criminal Appeal on December 19. The Lord Chief Justice, in dismissing the appeal, stated that there was evidence that the man had something to drink before committing the act; but it was no excuse for crime that a man was under the influence of drink; it was a different matter if the man was so completely under the influence of drink as to be incapable of forming a criminal intent.

Rex *v.* Enoch George Wilfred Dix.

This case was originally tried at Bristol Assizes, before Mr. Justice Shearman. The accused was charged with the murder of a game-keeper, it being suggested that he shot the game-keeper deliberately, in order to avoid being arrested for poaching. The defence was that the shooting occurred accidentally. The accused was found guilty of manslaughter, and was sentenced to 15 years'

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penal servitude. The accused appealed, and the case came before the Court of Criminal Appeal on December 19. A somewhat interesting point arose in the judgment. The Lord Chief Justice said that certain passages in the summing-up had seemed to imply that it was not murder unless Dix fired with intent to kill; but, of course, if the shot was fired with intent to commit any felony, that would be murder. In reply to a question, the jury said that they found Dix to have fired intentionally, but that he did not reasonably anticipate the consequences; had they been asked whether Dix had intended to inflict grievous bodily harm, they might have said "Yes," and that would have amounted to a verdict of wilful murder. The Court declined to interfere with the sentence.

Occasional Notes.

The Retirement of Sir Frederick Willis, K.B.E., C.B., from the Chairmanship of the Board of Control (England and Wales).

We were glad to hear that the opportunity had been taken at the recent Quarterly Meeting at Bristol of referring to the retirement, on March 31, of Sir Frederick Willis from the Board of Control, over which he had presided with such distinction since 1921.

The occasion was singularly appropriate, because it was at Bristol that he received his education, first at the Merchant Venturers' School, and later at the University College of that City.

The tributes paid to him by Dr. J. Greig Soutar and Lt.-Col. J. R. Lord were no mere encomium, but expressions of the sincere regret which was felt by all administratively or medically associated with mental institutions or services in this country, at the great loss they were about to sustain. Particular reference was made to the value of his services to the Association, of which he has been an Honorary Member since 1923. The meeting by a unanimous vote endorsed all that was said of him, but time was short, and only a meagre description could be given of the debt really owing to this distinguished civil servant for his services to the State and to the public.

That omission it will now be our duty briefly to amend.

Sir Frederick Willis found little difficulty in passing the competitive examination for entrance into the Civil Service in 1886 as an Examiner in the Patent Office. His education had been mainly mathematical and scientific, and in the open competition he took a first place.

In 1890 he was transferred to the Local Government Board.

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