EXAMINATION IN PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE.

The next examination in Ireland for the Certificate of Efficiency in Psychological Medicine will be held at the Richmond Asylum, Dublin, Thursday, February 16, 1888.

Correspondence.

MEDICAL AND CHEMICAL ASSESSORS.

To the Editors of "THE JOURNAL OF MENTAL SCIENCE."

SIRS,—I respectfully submit the annexed measure to the consideration of your readers. I shall not trespass upon your valuable space by sketching, or commenting upon, the history of the decline and fall of medical expertism in England. The fact remains. The instant reverence with which medieval tribunals bowed to its verdict; the tolerance shown, for example, by our own House of Lords to the usurpation of their judicial functions by the seven noble kinswomen to the Countess of Essex, who were all "sticklers for the nullity," has ceased, and very few and very feeble have been the voices raised to condemn the dictum of Bonnies—*l'expertise n'est qu'un verre qui grossit les objets.* The discreditable feud between legal and medical expertism is not to be terminated by concealing it under a thin veneer of superficial courtesy or a false analogy to the duties of counsel. It is the logical issue of the historical accident which, as civil procedure in England gradually became inquisitorial, substituted the medical advocate for the scientific assessor.

In drafting this measure, which is borrowed partly from the resolutions of an American medico-legal society, and partly from the Admiralty Jurisdiction Acts, I have had the benefit of the invaluable advice of Dr. Maudsley, and of my friend Dr. Henry D. Littlejohn, of Edinburgh.

I am, &c.,
A. WOOD RENTON.

3, Middle Temple Lane,
17th October, 1887.

MEDICAL AND CHEMICAL ASSESSORS ACT, 1888.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as the Medical and Chemical Assessors Act, 1888.

2. In the interpretation, and for the purposes of this Act, the following terms shall have the respective meanings hereinafter assigned to them, that is to say:

"Medico-legal" issue shall mean any issue arising upon the trial of any civil cause or criminal prosecution for the determination of which the opinion of medical or chemical experts may be deemed necessary.

"Judge" shall mean any person or persons invested by law with judicial authority, before whom, in the lawful exercise of such authority, any medico-legal issue may arise.

"Registrar" shall include any person who acts in the capacity of a registrar to any judge, as hereinbefore defined.

3. The provisions of this Act shall apply to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

4. Upon the commencement of this Act duly qualified persons shall forthwith be appointed as follows to act in the manner hereinafter provided as medical and chemical assessors in England, Scotland, and Ireland respectively: The Lord Chancellor of England shall appoint twenty-four medical and twenty-four chemical assessors; the Lord President of Scotland

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