condition, he must be detained as a criminal lunatic. With this position we think all our readers will agree.

A very detailed statement, made by the prisoner, was read, dealing with his movements on the day of the assault. This ended with the words, "I went quite silly, and lost my senses for quite half-an-hour. I went into a sort of fit, and when I came round I had hold of her hands." The prisoner gave evidence, and stated that he had no recollection of the serious parts of the child's story, but that he did remember what he said to her afterwards, how he gave her a penny, pinned up her clothes, and told her to go home.

Dr. M. Hamblin Smith, Medical Officer of Birmingham Prison, gave evidence. The prisoner had been under his charge, and was an epileptic. There were conditions connected with epilepsy in which a man might commit a crime of which he had no recollection afterwards. These conditions might precede, follow, or replace a fit. But no conditions of this kind had occurred while the prisoner had been under observation. And the witness considered that it was extremely improbable that the offence could be accounted for in this way. He considered that all the circumstances of the case were against such a supposition.

The judge summed up. The prisoner was found guilty, and was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment.

Rex *v.* Ernest Rhodes.

This case was tried at the Central Criminal Court on May 15, 1925, before Mr. Justice Greer. The prisoner was 19 years of age, and was accused of the murder of a girl named Blackaller, who was a pupil-teacher at a dancing academy. The facts in the case were not disputed, the prisoner having made a confession. And the interest gathered round a difference of opinion as to the prisoner's mental state at the time of the crime.

Evidence was given that the prisoner was always talking about Thorne and other murderers, and that he had expressed the opinion that Thorne was a hero. The prisoner was often depressed, and complained of his head, and his appetite was enormous. His sister stated that he had been regarded as "peculiar" since he was a baby.

Dr. Hyslop had examined the prisoner on May 4. He had degeneration of the nervous system, and some of the symptoms indicated that he had actual brain disease. Enormous appetite was a very common symptom in mental deficiency. Dr. Hyslop regarded the prisoner as being a mental defective within the meaning of the Mental Deficiency Act; and he was, further, of the opinion that the prisoner was insane at the time of the commission of the crime.

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Dr. John Carswell had also examined the prisoner, and gave evidence similar to that of Dr. Hyslop. Three medical officers from Brixton Prison were called by the prosecution to give evidence rebutting the suggestion of insanity. Dr. W. R. K. Watson considered the prisoner to be subnormal, but did not regard him as a certifiable mental defective. Dr. Rixon looked upon the prisoner's desire to wear his best suit at the trial and to have his hair cut as a sign of vanity. The outstanding characteristic of people received into prison on a capital charge was their vanity.

The Judge summed up. No report of this, unfortunately, is available. Faced with the conflict of expert testimony, the jury accepted the evidence given for the defence, and found the prisoner "guilty but insane." He was ordered to be detained "during His Majesty's pleasure."

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON LUNACY AND MENTAL DISORDER.

Memorandum of the Evidence given on May 4 and 5, 1925, on behalf of the Association to the Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Disorder (passed by the Association at the Quarterly Meeting, November 20, 1924). With Appendices.

INTRODUCTION.

THE Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland dates back to the year 1841, having for its objects the intercommunication on all matters calculated to improve the care, treatment and recovery of patients suffering from mental disorder, and the collaboration of research into the elucidation of the causes and prevention of insanity. In later years its activities have extended to the education and examination of medical men and women, and nurses engaged in the practice of psychiatry.

The Association consists of between 700 and 800 medical practitioners who are actively interested in the progress of psychiatry throughout the British Empire. The Ordinary or Subscribing Members are mostly medical superintendents or medical officers of mental hospitals, public and private, medical officers under the Prison Commission and county and borough education authorities, professors and lecturers in psychiatry attached to the universities and teaching schools of the Kingdom, and medical men and women in consulting or general practice. The Association has also 14 Corresponding Members living in foreign countries, and 30 Honorary Members. The Association comprises three Divisions for England and Wales, a Division for Scotland, and a Division for Ireland.

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