

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE *cause celebre* of *Angus v. Dalton* has finally been decided by the House of Lords in the plaintiff's favour. It was, as our readers will remember, an action to recover damages for the fall of a house caused by excavations made by a neighbouring owner. A verdict was given for the plaintiff at the trial, under the direction of Mr. Justice Lush, but the Queen's Bench on motion directed a verdict for the defendant. This decision being reversed by the Court of Appeal, the defendant went to the House of Lords, where the appeal was dismissed with costs.

AN esteemed cotemporary concludes its remarks upon a recent statute in these words:—"Though the Legislature and the Law Society may by their combined efforts make a man a barrister, nature alone can make him a lawyer." The temptation to construct an epigrammatic sentence has, we fear, led its author a little astray. We know on good authority that "the poet is born, not made," but we strongly question the applicability of the Ciceronian maxim to the lawyer, who must seek for distinction by the arduous path of unremitting toil, and will soon find himself distanced in the race for fame and fortune, if he draws his law from the fountains of "nature alone."

ATTORNEYS and solicitors, and especially those in country places, have occasionally complained, and not without reason, that their position is often unfortunate, in that whilst they have to get money as best they can from clients, and have to wait for it, and sometimes lose it, counsel whom they employ expect their fees to be paid in cash, or at a short date. These expectations, however, are not always realized. The boot is sometimes on the other leg, and we happen to know of cases where money intended for

counsel has never got beyond the pocket of the lawyer who engaged him. The proper mode of treatment in such cases has recently been prescribed by the Queen's Bench Division in England. A solicitor there received £27 to pay counsel who had conducted proceedings for his client. He did not pay the money. The matter was eventually brought to the notice of the Incorporated Law Society, who, after writing the delinquent without result [Benchers will kindly note this fact], applied to have him struck off the rolls. The money was then paid, and a lame excuse made to the Court. But Lord Coleridge said that the solicitor's conduct was fraudulent, and he felt (as he had often said) that, as solicitors were invested with a position and claim to confidence as officers of the Court, the Court was bound to exercise a control over their conduct. The solicitor must be suspended for six months, and pay all the costs. Baron Pollock concurred.

AN industrious correspondent has flooded us with the cards and newspaper advertisements of a barrister, who resides less than a hundred miles from the county town of Northumberland, and asks us to notice his unprofessional mode of bringing the many advantages enjoyed by those who employ him to the notice of the public. As this journal does not circulate amongst those who would be benefited by his services, it seems useless for us to re-state his announcement that he "will continue his law, loan, and insurance practice with good assistants." It strikes one as strange, however, that such a "smart" man (as our Yankee friends would call him) can require any assistance. But this may be accounted for, perhaps, by the following: "He thanks his friends for their confidence and good-will during his recent illness." No wonder he was ill with all these different "lines" to attend to. Whilst we