

## OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

besides being tolerably scandalous in itself, was marked by a peculiar but somewhat interesting incident. A gentleman by the name of Stanburg, a law-student with a strong *penchant* for the Divorce Court, attempted one day to force his way into the Court while this great case was proceeding, and afterwards, by dint of making a detour through the back ways of the Court, actually did succeed in forcing his way in through the Judge's entrance and in making a flying leap from the bench into the well of the court. All this occurred during the adjournment for luncheon, and the offender found himself at Bow Street almost before the Judge had taken his seat. Upon the next day Sir James Hannen, naturally enough, received a letter from the irate student, and took the desired opportunity of hauling the officials over the coals. "Never" he said, "did I have any difficulty of this kind until I came to this building;" in addition, he clearly expressed his opinion that although Mr. Stanburg's actions had been indecorous, those of the door keepers had been illegal. In fact, there is no doubt that ever since the new Courts were opened there has been an unendurable infringement upon the public rights; the publicity of Courts of Justice has been forgotten; yet it is one of their first attributes. But the Durham case has other points of interest than this. — Our public mind has been largely stirred by the argument and the judgment, and while the latter is confessed to be the only possible inference from the existing law, there is an universal consensus of opinion that the existing law is out of date. It is a monstrous thing that a man of large estate, naturally desirous of begetting an heir, should be tied up to a lunatic wife as long as Providence permits her to live; and there is doubtless much force in the suggestion that the law only permits this because in the eye of the law the prospect of the

procreation of lunatics is not intolerable.

The action against the editor of *The World* was brought by a person of the name of Legge who had at one time filled the honourable position of editor of the *Whitehall Review*. The case shows some features of special professional interest from the fact that certain curious facts of a highly unpleasant character were elicited by the cross-examination of the plaintiff. Society journalism deals largely with the Divorce Court, and it appears to have been the practice of Mr. Legge to bribe the solicitors' clerks with the view of obtaining the dates of citations, and of the hearing of petitions. Mr. Justice Hawkins spoke strongly upon this practice which has been unwontedly prominent of late. Long before the public ought to have known anything definite about the Garmoyle case the details of the pleadings had been published in almost every newspaper. It goes without saying that the betrayal and publication of matters of this kind is fatal to the confidence which men naturally feel that they are entitled to place in their professional advisers.

To proceed to more general topics, the Bar was undoubtedly disappointed at the unexpected stability of the Government; for now there appears to be every chance that there may be no change in the law-officers for another twelve-month. It appears also to be likely enough that no new Q.C.'s will be appointed in the interval. This is depressing, for the delay in promotion is causing a positive block at the outer Bar. On the other hand business is becoming more brisk, except in bankruptcy. At the Assizes, crimes are rare, except in the largest provincial towns, and this decrease of crime is traceable to something more than the extended jurisdiction of Sessions. In fact, education is bearing good fruit. But the tone of satisfaction adopted by Lord