

Flotsam and Jetsam.

DRAFTING STATUTES.—Those who pass criticisms upon the form in which statutes of modern times are drafted in their final shape will find much to interest and support them in the remarks of the Court of Appeal recently in the case of *Rex v. Templer*. The Act in question was the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897—an enactment designed by its promoters to avoid litigation. Lord Justice Vaughan Williams expressed the opinion that the words of the statute were so ambiguous, or, rather, so equivocal, as to be equally consistent with both of the rival constructions which had been put forward. Lord Justice Farwell said that he could see no reason for preferring either the one or the other of the two rival constructions, and that he was only too glad to acquiesce in the decision of the Divisional Court. No blame can be laid at the door of the Parliamentary draftsman for many of the sections of Acts which it is impossible to elucidate with any certainty. Bills are so altered and amended in their course through Parliament that they bear but a small resemblance to the original draft, while in other cases legislation by reference assists to bring about difficulties. It seems a pity that some form of final revision cannot be adopted before the measures are placed on the statute book.—*Law Times*.

On the 2nd inst. there was received in the Middle Temple the ancient practice of holding moots in the Hall after dinner during term time. More than 200 years ago the practice was common, and formed part of the regular course of the training of a young barrister; but at the beginning of the eighteenth century it fell into disuse. This revival of the moot is due to the energy and enterprise of Dr. Blake Odgers, K.C., the Director of Legal Education, who is Lent Reader at the Middle Temple. He arranged the moot with a committee of students and barristers, and all the ancient ceremonial was observed. After the evening meal, attended by members of the society in Hall, the moot began. The Masters of the Bench who took part in the moot were Dr. Blake Odgers, K.C., in the chair, Mr. English Harrison, K.C. (Chairman of the General Council of the Bar), and Mr. Muir Mackenzie (Official Referee). There were also present Mr. H. D. Greene, K.C., (ex-Treasurer), Mr. Scott Fox, K.C. (Chancellor of the County Palatine of Durham), and other