

grow stiffened in practice and less capable of adapting themselves to the judicial office, whilst purely political and other persons of occult qualities rush for the infrequent vacancy with results too deplorable to dwell upon."

The same journal further says that by the resignation of Sir Henry Hawkins the Bench loses one of the most careful and painstaking judges of his generation, and (notwithstanding a groundless reputation in favor of capital sentences) one of the fairest criminal lawyers who ever presided at the trial of a prisoner. He is described in another contemporary as a typical Englishman of the best sort, with the strong individuality, the bulldog courage, the essential fairness and indifference to the opinion of others characteristic of his race. Though he had attained the great age of eighty-one at his last assize, complaints were made that he had carried the administration of justice into the night watches, and thereby important interests were likely to suffer, on four occasions remaining on the Bench till 9 p.m. and on a fifth sitting till nearly midnight. Such exhibitions of vitality and capacity for work are certainly not to be commended. They are bad for all concerned, and in every way objectionable. Lord Hawkins is succeeded by Thomas Townshend Bucknill, Q.C. He was member for Mid-Surrey, and went to the Western Circuit.

LEGAL PROCEDURE.

A member of the profession, "of credit and renown," desires to express his views in reference to a suggestion made by a writer in a leading daily paper that the time has arrived for making a further change in the practice and procedure in the Courts of Ontario. He commences with the very sensible observation that the legal profession would rather prefer a rest after the constant and extensive changes which have from time to time been made in the practice of the Courts during the last few years. He then proceeds :—

The system advocated in the article referred to is the one in vogue in England for arriving at an issue. Under this plan, as