

WORK OF THE CIVIL COURTS.

“Barrister” writes to the *Gazette* as follows:—

In a few weeks our civil courts will resume their work and, in all probability, unless some reforms are instituted, we shall have a renewal of the complaints that these labors are inefficiently and carelessly performed, and a repetition of the efforts of Bench and Bar each to saddle the other with the blame for the wretched and slipshod way in which business is carried on.

It seems to me that, with a little give and take, with a disposition on both sides to accommodate, much might be done to expedite litigation.

The institution of the Summary court was an excellent move, and with judges sitting in it who understand that its main idea should be celerity, not only in trying, but in adjudging, cases on its calendar, it does its work well.

Suggestion first—Let only such judges as are in the habit of rendering speedy decisions be assigned to this court by the Chief Justice. Judges who have to deliberate can sit in the Merits division, the cases in which may fairly be presumed, by the mere fact of being on that list, not to be so urgent as those on the Summary roll.

Suggestion second—The Practice Court is a useful waster of the lawyer's time. Let this court sit every day—two judges being assigned to it; the chamber judge to relieve either practice judge, should he find himself burdened with more cases than he can expeditiously dispose of.

Suggestion third—In the Enquête and Merits court, both Bench and Bar should be more punctual. The court should sit from 10.30 till 1, and from 2 till 4. The time of the court should not, on trial days, be taken up by judgments. When a judge finds that he has more cases under advisement than he can conveniently consider and adjudge, let him apply to the Chief Justice for relief. We have lots of judges, and if their work is properly distributed and each labors to clear the calendar, much can be accomplished.

Suggestion four—This one to the Bar. When a case is inscribed, the assumption should be that it is intended to be tried and concluded. If not, then remove it at once or notify the clerk well in advance so that some other case may be put on the list in its place.

Suggestion five—To the Prothonotary. Have the lists prepared at the earliest possible moment; have the records ready, say two days in advance.

I believe, after an experience of some years, here and elsewhere, that if attention is paid to the above simple hints, the reproach from which we now suffer may be easily effaced.