

leges had been held lost by the mode in which the communication, otherwise privileged, had been made, namely, on a postcard or in a telegram, and decided that the guardian had not lost his privilege through the presence of the reporters. The rest of the Court came to the same decision, though Lord Justice Fry suggested that it would be well for guardians to hold discussions of this kind in private.

The second case is that of *Speight v. Gosnay*, 60 Law J. Rep. Q.B. 231, where the defendant uttered defamatory words about the plaintiff which were not actionable unless special damage was proved. The plaintiff's mother repeated them to the plaintiff, and she told them to a man to whom she was engaged, and who, she alleged, broke off the engagement in consequence. She then sought to make the defendant liable in damages for the slander which he had uttered. The curious point to observe is, that the plaintiff herself was part of the chain by which the slander got to her lover, and "every repetition of a slander is a wilful publication of it, rendering the speaker liable to an action" (Odgers, p. 162). In *Parkins v. Scott*, 31 Law J. Rep. Exch. 331; 1 Hurl. & C. 153, Baron Bramwell said: "Where one man makes a statement to another, and that other thinks fit to repeat it to a third, I do not think it reasonable to hold the first speaker responsible for the ultimate consequences of his speech. If I make a statement to a man, I know the consequences of making it to him when I make it; but if I do not desire, and do not authorize the man to whom I make it to repeat it, but he does it, am I to be liable for the consequences of his so doing?" The learned baron might have added an *à fortiori*: Am I to be liable when the slandered person herself brings about the catastrophe by repeating the defamation, when she might have kept silence on the subject? In that case a wife repeated to her husband some vile abuse which another woman had uttered to her, with the result that he would no longer live with her. The Exchequer Division, holding that there was no moral obligation on the wife's part to repeat it, held that the original slanderer was not liable. The Court of Appeal in the recent case came to a similar conclusion. "Here the words," said Lord Justice Lopes, "were untrue, and the mother must have known that they were untrue, and there could not be any obligation either on the mother or the daughter to repeat them to Galloway" (the lover). His lordship also pointed out that there were four classes of cases where the original slanderer could be made liable for the repetition of the slander, viz.: (1) Where he authorized the repetition, (2) where he intended it, (3) where the repetition was the natural consequence of the uttering, and (4) where there was a moral obligation on the person to whom he uttered it to repeat it. This case fell within none of those classes.—*Law Journal*.