

## Flotsam and Jetsam.

### THE LEIPSIK TRIALS.

We do not suppose that any lawyer will feel surprised at the outcome of the trials of Germans accused of crimes against British nationals which have now concluded. So far as the court itself is concerned, it seems to have acted with impartiality, although the actual results seem counter to all British ideas of punishment. But the court was administering German law, and the municipal law of that country, in its view of the law and customs of civilised warfare, is pernicious enough. Under the Treaty of Peace signed more than seven months after the armistice, and after innumerable reports and deliberations of commissions and committees, military tribunals were to be set up by the Allies to try persons accused of acts of violation of the laws and customs of war, and the German Government was to hand over all persons so accused. Had this been done, we might have been spared the legal application of the law of "frightfulness." But the interminable delay made it impossible to give effect to the clauses relating to the trial of war criminals, and, although their suspension until after the trials at Leipsic has been "without prejudice," lawyers will have little doubt that the enforcement of the laws and customs of civilised warfare against the German war criminals will be incapable of attainment. The time for the imposition of the original demands and for their execution was 1918. —The Law Times (Eng.).

The story told by Lord Herschell, who, while at the Bar, belonged to the Northern Circuit, turned on the parsimony of a former Bishop of Carlisle. His Grace was, it seems, famous for his bad and scanty dinners, food and drink. One day, while entertaining the Bar, the junior members, disguested with their scanty food and wine, became rather noisy at their end of the table. The bishop remarked on this to Mr. Justice Maule, who quietly said: "Yes, my lord, it is apt to happen when men take a little wine on an empty stomach."