

reasons of a general nature why all cases of a sexual character should be tried in open court. Owing to the fact that when the black list is called the newspaper reporters invariably put down their pens, the public knows very little about these crimes and their commission—or what is more important—their punishment. With regard to incest in particular there is certainly a large section of the community which does not know it is a crime. Finally, if all cases of incest are tried with shut doors no law reporters, or legal practitioners other than those concerned in the case, are allowed to be present. Consequently the principles applied in trying such cases remain unknown and unrecorded.

LAW REFORM.

In some recent notes allusion was made to a speech delivered by the President of the Incorporated Law Society, in which he advocated certain legal reforms. He alleged, in particular, that the profession of the law was losing the confidence of commercial men, assigning as principal reasons, that the laws delays and the gradually increasing cost of litigation were driving the city man to courts of arbitration. He went on to say that, in order to meet the needs of the public, lawyers must expedite their proceedings and lower their charges. He then pleaded for the establishment of a school of law—as who should say that legal education in England was in need of reform. Finally, he contended that a Ministry of Justice should be established as a means of promoting reforms, the main object being to get rid of the political element in the exercise of patronage. It is to be observed that these suggestions were made by a solicitor to a society which consists of solicitors. No member of the Bar had any right to be heard upon it.

IS REFORM NECESSARY OR URGENT?

The views of a President of the Law Society are entitled to the greatest respect; but the "other branch" or, as the solicitors sometimes call it with a tinge of irony, the "higher branch," is entitled to be heard. To the complaint that the legal profession is losing the confidence of commercial men I would reply in the