

occur, as they do from time to time, some of these whose names have been left off, but who have been in the past hardworking, useful benchers, will be nominated to fill vacancies. Some names not on the list we should have been glad to see there, but there is no name on the list to which exception could be taken, or who is not more or less entitled to the distinction conferred.

The names are as follows: W. R. Meredith, Q.C., Toronto; Chas. Moss, Q.C., Toronto; A. J. Christie, Q.C., Ottawa; Colin McDougall, Q.C., St. Thomas; James Magee, Q.C., London; Donald Guthrie, Q.C., Guelph; B. B. Osler, Q.C., Toronto; Edward Martin, Q.C., Hamilton; Christopher Robinson, Q.C., Toronto; B. M. Britton, Q.C., Kingston; the Hon. A. S. Hardy, Q.C., Brantford; John Hoskin, Q.C., Toronto; the Hon. C. F. Fraser, Q.C., Brockville; H. H. Strathy, Q.C., Barrie; Francis Mackelcan, Q.C., Hamilton; Dalton McCarthy, Q.C., Toronto; John Bell, Q.C., Belleville; G. F. Shepley, Q.C., Toronto; Alexander Bruce, Q.C., Hamilton; J. V. Teetzel, Q.C., Hamilton; A. B. Aylesworth, Q.C., Toronto; G. H. Watson, Q.C., Toronto; Z. A. Lash, Q.C., Toronto; J. K. Kerr, Q.C., Toronto; Walter Barwick, Toronto; Æmilius Irving, Q.C., Toronto; C. H. Ritchie, Q.C., Toronto; Wm. Douglas, Q.C., Chatham; W. R. Riddell, Cobourg; John Idington, Q.C., Stratford.

A CHANGE radical and of importance in regard to the punishment of first offences is about to be introduced into French law. It is in effect the oft-discussed theory of conditional punishment put into practice. When the prisoner is brought up for the first time and convicted, he will be sentenced in the usual way, but the sentence will not necessarily be carried out. If the court should so decide, the execution of the sentence will be delayed, and if the offender keeps a clear record for five years the sentence will lapse. If, however, he should again offend during this period, the old sentence will be revived and a double punishment inflicted. The *Times*, in commenting on it, remarks: "A first offence does not necessarily prove that the offender belongs to what is known as the criminal class. He may have been betrayed into crime under the pressure of special circumstances, or may have given way to sudden temptation by no deliberate choice of his own. To send such a man to gaol may have just the effect which a wise legislature would be most careful to guard against. It may introduce him to a life of crime by the stigma which it puts upon him as a gaol-bird, and by thus making it very difficult for him to earn an honest livelihood at any time afterwards. The new law will work in a direction exactly the opposite. The man who has been let off unpunished, but not unsentenced, will have the strongest possible inducement to keep straight for the future. He will have received a grave warning, and he will know that it will depend upon himself whether the consequences are to end with this. If he has become a criminal, so to say, by accident, the probability is that he will stop short at the first offence." The principle of the intended French system would seem to be the reform of the criminal by preventing his becoming one. Such a method of treatment could not, however, we think, be meted out successfully to certain offences which bear on their face the evidence of a depraved nature, which it would be folly to