

most uncertain. They had to leave the punishment, as they must leave it, to the discretion of the judge. There were some judges who would always flog, there were some judges who would never flog. Whether the punishment was inflicted or not depended, not on the gravity of the offence, but upon the particular judge who might chance to go that particular circuit. He knew it was the prevailing opinion that the punishment acted as a great deterrent in cases of crimes of violence—that it put down garrotting. He invited anyone who entertained that belief to be good enough to peruse a return which was laid on the table of the House at his instance, because by that return it was shewn very clearly that garrotting had been put down before the Flogging Act was passed. If hon. members would read the return to which he alluded they would find that if a judge went assize and flogged a number of men for a particular offence the number of such offences at the next assize did not diminish.”

We make these quotations, but it may be that there is evidence on the other side which has not come before us. The subject is an interesting and important one, as is everything connected with the administration of justice, and we should like to have some evidence as to the effect of the punishment where it has been applied in this country. We are far from having reached a method of dealing with criminals which commends itself to reason or humanity. How many criminals whom we punish have we made hardened criminals by our manner of dealing with first offenders? How many have we reformed, and how many have we given a chance of reforming themselves after the courts have done with them? These are questions which perhaps our legislators will deal with when they become weary of the interesting personal issues which now take up so much of their time and attention.

CRIMINAL APPEALS IN ENGLAND.

The Court of Criminal Appeal in England established under the Criminal Appeal Act, 1907, sat for the first time in the latter end of last month. As our readers will remember the