

and reduced to writing signed by the magistrate. The Court of Criminal Appeal appears to have decided that if such statement is put in at the trial and it discloses an attack upon the witnesses for the prosecution, it does not of itself justify the judge in allowing the cross-examination of the prisoner as to his character.

—*Law Times*.

THE MEANING OF "ADJOINING."

A word which, according to dictionaries of authority, is susceptible of a double meaning is scarcely one to be selected by the careful draftsman. But "adjoining" so commonly appears in legal instruments that one is almost prompted to believe that its ambiguity is frequently overlooked. It may mean lying next—that is to say, actually "contiguous"; or it may merely be synonymous with "adjacent" or neighbouring. In an article which appeared a few years ago in these columns, bearing the same title as the above (see 126 L.T. Jour. 299), we reviewed the numerous modern authorities which up to that time had dealt with this delusive word. The right conclusion, therefrom, seems to be, as we then observed, that while "adjoining" generally relates to objects lying so as to touch in some part, "adjacent" is applicable to objects lying near to, but not necessarily in actual contact with each other. The decision of Mr. Justice Phillimore in the recent case of *Cave v. Horsell* (106 L.T. Rep. 147) adds yet another to an already long list, rendering it even more abundantly apparent that the use of the word should forever be abandoned in favour of "contiguous"—if that is in contemplation, as is probably most generally the case—or of "adjacent," if a broader meaning is desired. For, as was said in the judgment of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the case of *City of Wellington v. Borough of Lower Hutt* (91 L.T. Rep. 539; (1904) A.C. 773), "adjacent" is "not confined to places adjoining, and it includes places close to or near." But, quoting what we remarked in the article to which we have just referred, it is, having regard to the two decisions of the Court of Appeal in *Ind, Coope, and Co. Limited v. Hamblin* (84 L.T. Rep. 168) and *White v. Harrow; Harrow v. Marylebone*