

after the killing. In such a case the usual course would be to try the capacity of the man to plead on arraignment, inasmuch as if insane he could not make a proper defence. The third case is where the man's insanity existed at the date of the killing and on arraignment. Here, too, a trial would be superfluous. All these matters are complicated by the long-standing dispute between doctors and lawyers on the criteria of insanity and the probabilities of its being continuous and not recurrent, and upon the desire of the doctors to have their expert views accepted without criticism wherever expressed.—*Ib.*

### THE NEW PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE.

A correspondent of the *Law Journal* sends the following interesting note on the subject of the extension of the Public Record Office, recently erected in Chancery Lane, London :—

Of the many noble and magnificent buildings which have been erected during the present reign, the Public Record Office is certainly one. In it are stored and preserved most of the invaluable records and papers relating to the events and history of this country past and present, and in it will be stored the public records of the future, so that when in due time the history of our times shall be written, abundant materials for the purpose will be found carefully stored away in the Public Record Office. A building for such a purpose as this must of necessity from time to time require enlarging and extending for the reception and preservation of the country's treasures. Such a time is the present. Thousands of persons, whose business or pleasure may have impelled them frequently to pass through Chancery Lane, must have been struck with admiration when, some time ago, they beheld the splendid foundations being laid, upon which they now see upreared the massive and imposing structure forming the new wing of the Public Record Office. The Lord Justice Sir William Balfour Brett, the present Master of the Rolls, is keeper of the Public Records, as his title 'Master of the Rolls' implies. This title is very ancient. The first Master of the Rolls was Adam de Osgodby, in the 23rd Edward I.

The site on which the Public Record Office stands is full of interest. The following extract is from a book entitled 'The History of the Chancery relating to the Judicial Power of that Court and the Rights of the Masters,' published in 1726 :—