

it was in spite of this that the practical sense of the race enabled us to muddle through. Mr. Wells' example and teaching notwithstanding, we are not good at "anticipations"; the discovery even of the immediate future is the least popular branch of research among us.

Once more we are about to be confronted with conditions different in every respect from those in England—the England we have known. Is it not time that we began at least to discuss the matter seriously—that is to say, as a purely practical question, putting aside the merely combative methods of argument with which writers on both sides have for the last twelve months delighted their respective backers; putting aside too, as anything but serious, the legislation at present dealing with speed—a mere compromise of the nature of an arbitrator's award, adding together the extreme claims on either side, and dividing by two? If ten miles an hour is too slow for a car of forty-mile power, so is twenty: if thirty miles an hour is too fast for public safety, so is twenty. The excuse for the present law is, that until now we have hardly realised what it is that is going to happen. It is time to recognise that this is no longer the case; if we do not know what are the coming conditions "so different in every respect," it is because we do not read the reports from the Assizes.

We have before us two such reports, both of cases tried during the third week of July. One was a criminal charge of manslaughter, the other a civil action for damages; taken together they give us practically all the data we need for full consideration of the subject. In the first case Emile Richard, a Frenchman who was a professional motor-car driver, holding a French but not an English licence, was charged with the manslaughter of a man named Job, at Banstead, on Easter Monday last.

The evidence for the prosecution was to the effect that on April 4 Job was riding a bicycle, accompanied by a friend, named Sayer, along the road across Banstead Downs at about 1.30 p.m. They were going in the direction of Banstead, and were crossing the railway bridge at Belmont, Sayer riding