

recorded. On the Bench and at the Bar he had enormous capacity for work. When he was Attorney-General, the Law Officers were allowed to take private practice; and even when his chambers were full of Treasury briefs, Webster did not neglect his numerous clients. To do so he had to break through certain time-honoured customs. Thus, the consultation before action is generally held at counsel's chambers in the Temple or "outside the Court" at 10 a.m. Sir Richard Webster was often so busy that he was compelled to choose his own time and place. "Consultation at Hornton Lodge, Kensington, at 6.30 a.m.," was often the message sent by his clerk to the city solicitor who had retained the Attorney-General as leader in a cause!

Webster had a marvellous power of availing himself of the work of others. He used to boast that he nearly always had "seven devils." Sometimes he had many more. These were the men who noted his briefs and drafted his opinion. When he attained the dignity of the Bench, he was necessarily deprived of this anonymous assistance; but he got through his work all the same with marvellous rapidity. He had a wonderful memory. It was he who tried the notorious Dr. Crippen. One who was present in Court told the writer that "the Chief" summed up that case for two hours and told the long and complex story to the jury without a single glance at his notes!

THE WAR AND THE ENGLISH BAR.

The Bar of England has been seriously affected by the war. Some 1,200 of its members have left to serve their King and country in one capacity or another; some, alas! never to return. The very junior Bar has practically disappeared. One sees but few "new wigs" in the Courts; the lectures for students are attended for the most part by coloured men from our colonies and dependencies. On the various circuits much of the gaiety has disappeared. Indeed, in some cases, all social functions at the Bar mess have been postponed *sine die*. Nor have the senior members of the profession failed to do their share. Many have joined the Anti-Air Craft Corps, as members of which they take part in the defence of London by night, and carry on their practice