

CHAPTER XXVII.

OF LUNATICS.

388. When any person who is charged with an offence shall appear to the Magistrate having jurisdiction to be of unsound mind and incapable, in consequence, of making a defence, the Magistrate shall institute an inquiry to ascertain the fact of such unsoundness of mind, and shall cause the accused person to be examined by the Civil Surgeon of the District or some other Medical Officer, and thereupon shall examine such Civil Surgeon or other Medical Officer, and shall reduce the examination into writing ; and if the Magistrate shall be of opinion that the accused person is of unsound mind, he shall stay further proceedings in the case.

Procedure in case of accused person being lunatic.

389. If any person who shall be committed for trial before a Court of Session, shall at his trial appear to the Court to be of unsound mind and incapable of making his defence, the Court shall in the first instance try the fact of such unsoundness of mind, and if satisfied of the fact, shall give a special judgment that the accused person is of unsound mind and incapable of making his defence, and thereupon the trial shall be postponed.

Procedure in case of person committed before a Court of Session being lunatic.

390. In any case in which an accused person is found to be of unsound mind and incapable of making his defence, the Magistrate or Court of Session, as the case may be, if the

Release of lunatic pending investigation or trial.

offence be bailable, may release such person on sufficient security being given that he shall be properly taken care of, and shall be prevented from doing injury to himself or to any other person, and for his appearance when required. If the offence be not bailable, or if the required bail be not given, the accused person shall be kept in safe custody in such place as the local Government to which the case shall be reported shall direct.

Resumption of investigation of case.

391. Whenever any investigation or trial of a case shall be postponed under Section 388 or Section 389 of this Act, the Magistrate or Court of Session, as the case may be, may at any time resume the investigation or trial, and require the accused person, if detained in custody, to be brought before such Magistrate or Court, or if the accused person has been released on security, may require his appearance. Until such investigation or trial is completed, the case shall be considered as pending before the Magistrate or Court of Session, and shall be included in any register of pending cases kept by such Magistrate or Court. The surety of such person shall be bound at any time to produce him to any Officer whom the Magistrate or Court of Session may appoint to inspect him, and the certificate of such Officer shall have the same effect as the certificate of an Inspector of Jails or the Visitors of Lunatic Asylums granted under Section 395 of this Act.

Procedure on accused appearing or being brought before Magistrate or Court of Session.

392. If, when the accused person appears or is again brought before the Magistrate or the Court of Session, as the case may be, it shall appear to such Magistrate or Court that the accused person is in a fit state of mind to make his defence, the investigation shall proceed, or the accused person shall be put on his trial as the case may require. If it shall appear that the accused person is still of unsound mind and incapable of making his defence, the Magistrate or Court of Session shall again act according to the provisions of Section 388 or Section 389 of this Act.

Procedure in case of acquittal accused person on the ground of being lunatic.

393. Whenever any person is acquitted, upon the ground that at the time at which he is charged to have

committed an offence he was by reason of unsoundness of mind incapable of knowing the nature of the act charged or that he was doing what was wrong or contrary to law, the finding shall state specially whether he committed the act or not.

394. Whenever such finding shall state that the accused person committed the act charged, the Magistrate or Court of Session before whom the trial was held, shall, if the act charged would, but for the incapacity found, have amounted to an offence, order such person to be kept in safe custody, in such place and manner as to the Magistrate or Court of Session shall seem fit, and shall report the case for the order of the local Government. The local Government may order such person to be kept in safe custody in a Lunatic Asylum or other suitable place of safe custody.

395. *Clause 1.* When any person is confined under the provisions of Section 390 or Section 394 of this Act, it shall be lawful for the Inspector of Jails if such person is confined in a Jail, or for the Visitors of Lunatic Asylums or any two of them if such person is confined in a Lunatic Asylum, to visit such person in order to ascertain his state of mind; and such person shall be visited once at least in every twelve months by such Inspector of Jails or by two of such Visitors as aforesaid, who shall make a special report as to the state of mind of such person.

Clause 2. If such person is confined under Section 390 of this Act, and such Inspector of Jails or such Visitors of Lunatic Asylums as aforesaid shall report that in his or their opinion such person is capable of making his defence, such person shall be taken before the Magistrate or Court of Session, as the case may be, at such time as such Magistrate or Court of Session shall appoint; and such Magistrate or Court shall deal with such person under the provisions of Section 392, and may receive as evidence the certificate of such Inspector of Jails or such Visitors of Lunatic Asylums as aforesaid.

Person so acquitted to be disposed of by Magistrate or Court of Session for safe custody, &c.

Lunatics to be visited and reported on by Inspector of Jails, &c.

Clause 3. If such person shall be confined under the provisions of Section 394 of this Act, and such Inspector of Jails or such Visitors of Lunatic Asylums as aforesaid shall certify that in his or their judgment such person may be discharged without danger of his doing injury to himself or to any other person, the local Government shall thereupon either order his discharge or order such person to be transferred to a public Lunatic Asylum if he has not been already sent to such an Asylum, and shall within six months appoint a commission consisting of a Judicial Officer not below the grade of a Sessions Judge, and two Medical Officers whereof the Chief Medical Officer attached to the Lunatic Asylum shall be one. The said Commission shall make formal enquiry into the state of mind of such person, taking such evidence as shall be necessary; and if they consider that he can be set at liberty without danger to himself or to any other person, he shall be discharged.

Person under sentence of imprisonment appearing to be of unsound mind, may be removed to Lunatic Asylum, and kept till he shall again become of sound mind, &c.

396. Whenever it shall appear to the local Government that any person, imprisoned by the sentence of any Court or Magistrate, is of unsound mind, the local Government, by an order which shall set forth the grounds of belief that such prisoner is of unsound mind, may order the removal of such prisoner to a Lunatic Asylum, there to be kept and treated as the local Government shall direct during the remainder of the term of imprisonment ordered by the sentence, or if it shall be certified by a Medical Officer that it is necessary for the safety of the prisoner or others that he should be detained under care and treatment, then until he shall be discharged according to law; and when it shall appear to the local Government that such person has become of sound mind, the local Government, by an order directed to the person having charge of him, shall remand such person to the custody from which he was removed, if then still liable to be kept in custody, or, if not, shall order him to be discharged out of custody. The provisions of Section IX of Act XXXVI of 1858 (*relating to Lunatic Asylums*) shall apply to persons confined in a Lunatic Asylum under.

this Section after the expiration of the imprisonment ordered by the sentence. The period during which a person shall be confined in a Lunatic Asylum shall be reckoned as part of the period of imprisonment ordered by the sentence.

397. Whenever any relative or friend of any person detained under the provisions of Section 394 of this Act is desirous that such person shall be delivered over to his care and custody, the local Government, upon the application of such relative or friend and on his giving security to the satisfaction of such Government that the person detained shall be properly taken care of and shall be prevented from doing injury to himself or to any other person, may make an order that the person so detained may be delivered to such relative or friend. Whenever such person shall be so delivered over, it shall be upon condition that he shall be subject to the inspection of such Officer as the local Government shall think necessary to appoint, and at such times as such Government shall direct. The provisions of Section 395 shall apply to persons detained under the provisions of this Section, and the certificate of the Inspecting Officer appointed under this Section shall have the same effect as a certificate of an Inspector of Jails or the Visitors of Lunatic Asylums under the said Section.

When lunatic
may be delivered
over to the care
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