

workable. The Masters express themselves as in accord with the main object and purposes of the bill.

However, this Bar Association Committee, composed of the Masters of Chancery, recommend its disapproval for the reason that the bill only requires that "sworn statements" of two physicians be produced that the spouse is insane.

The committee is alarmed at the prospect that "sworn statements" would make possible the granting of divorces without the witnesses appearing and being subject to cross-examination.

I quote the following excerpt from the opinion rendered to me by the Masters of Chancery:

"We take 'sworn statements' to mean affidavits. This means that under this law a person may be decreed to be permanently and incurably insane and a divorce granted without the personal appearance of a physician either before the Examiner or before the Court; and although the bill provides specifically for the appearance and answer on behalf of the defendant by a Guardian ad Litem or a Committee, and for the appointment of counsel to appear for and represent the defendant, yet, if affidavits are filed, such counsel would be afforded no opportunity whatever to see and hear the two medical witnesses or to cross-examine them either as to their qualifications or as to the subject matter of their testimony. In addition to this, in the case of a non-resident defendant, the affidavits of non-resident physicians could be filed in the case and thereby the opportunities for fraud would be greatly increased. We therefore recommend that this bill be disapproved for the reasons stated."

In view of this recommendation, I intend to veto these two last named measures, having already approved the first.

DUPLICATE BILLS.

The following are duplicate bills and are being vetoed because identical or similar bills were passed by the General Assembly and have been approved:

Chapter 71 (Senate Bill 31). Court of Appeals. Authorizing the Court of Appeals to prescribe by general rules the practice and procedure in all civil actions throughout the State and conferring rule-making power upon the respective courts of record in the State, and enlarging the jurisdiction of the courts of Baltimore City under certain conditions. Same as Chapter 719.

Chapter 246 (House Bill 47). Armory. Authorizing the use of (\$100,000.00) of the balance of the million dollar State Office Building loan for the erection of a new Armory in An-