

VETOES.

BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF 1929 AND VETOED BY GOVERNOR RITCHIE AND HIS REASONS IN EACH CASE FOR THE SAME.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BILLS VETOED IS 58.

(All of these bills were vetoed by the Governor after the adjournment of the Legislature, either having been presented to him after the adjournment of the Legislature or not in sufficient time to require executive action before adjournment.)

COMPULSORY MENTAL EXAMINATION OF PERSONS INDICTED FOR MURDER.

(Chapter 371, House Bill 496)

The principal purpose of this bill is to furnish a substitute for the battles between alienists which play so prominent a part in many modern trials for murder, and which have been the subject of so much just criticism. Certainly this is a desirable and praiseworthy object, and it is with considerable regret that I find certain features in the bill which I think require me to veto it.

The bill provides that every person indicted for the crime of murder in any degree shall be examined by the Psychiatric Committee of the State Board of Mental Hygiene in order to determine such person's mental condition and the existence of any mental disease or defect. The Psychiatric Committee is required to file with the Clerk of the Court a full report of its investigation, which shall be accessible to the Court, the State's Attorney and the attorney for the accused, and the members of the Committee are further required to testify at the trial of the case upon the matters contained in said report.

This would result in injecting the question of insanity into every trial for murder in Baltimore City or in any of the counties of the State, even though neither the State nor the defense desired to raise that issue. I am advised that in Balti-