

The Liability of Municipal Corporations for Torts. By Waterman L. Williams, A. B., I. L. B. Boston: Little, Brown & Co 1901. 345 pp.; \$3.50.

This is one of the most useful books in connection with municipal law that has been issued for some time. The author has made the subject of torts a special study, having already published a work on statutory torts in Massachusetts. The law of negligence, in these days of rapid transit and labor-saving appliances, comprises a very large portion of the litigation in this country, and makes an ever-increasing item in a lawyer's business. The subject of municipal liability for negligence and other torts keep pace with this increase.

The scope of the present work is set forth in the headings of the chapters into which it is divided, and which are as follows:—General principles of the liability—Liability for ultra vires torts—For the acts of officers and agents—As owners of property—Relative to bridges—Relative to streets and highways—Relative to drains and sewers—Relative to waters and water courses—For property destroyed—Relative to nuisances—Relative to public health, charities and schools, and to ordinances.

Although the consideration of municipal law in the United States depends somewhat upon the statutes of the various States of the Union, there is so much similarity between social and governmental conditions and business matters in all parts of the North American Continent that a treatise upon the principles underlying the decisions in one country is necessarily very helpful in the other. The author has not merely made a very useful collection of leading cases on the subjects discussed, but has done much more, inasmuch as he discusses the cases intelligently and fearlessly and states his conclusions concisely and clearly. The book before us is one that we can safely recommend to our readers.

Flotsam and Jetsam.

The English legal periodicals speak very highly of the appointment to the English Bench of Mr. Swinfen-Eady, K.C. Although judicial emoluments are much greater in England than in this country, he loses a great deal by the change, as his fees are said to have mounted to a very large sum annually. We note, by the way, that our esteemed fellow-citizen, Mr. Walter S. Lee, well known and highly respected in financial circles in this country, is a near connection of the new judge.

The *Law Times* records some amusing "breaks" on the part of newspaper reporters. Mr. Hussey Burgh, the acknowledged leader of the Irish Bar, and at the time Prime Serjeant, with precedence of the Irish Attorney-General, in a debate in the House of Commons, said he "founded himself on the authority of the eminent Serjeant Maynard." The next day all the