

very instructive chapters on the conduct of a criminal prosecution and defence, on the various classes of untruthful witnesses, on tact and tactics, legal ethics, etc. The author deals throughout with fundamental principles and with rules based upon the practise and precept of the most eminent advocates. Thus the rules followed by the late Sir Charles Russell are given in his own words as follows: "If you ask me to reduce the common habit of my life to formula, I will tell you that I have only four rules to guide me in preparing my work—first, to do one thing at a time, whether it is reading or eating oysters, concentrating such faculties as I am endowed with upon what I am doing at the moment; second, when dealing with complicated facts, to arrange the narrative of events in the order of time. My third rule is never to trouble myself about authorities supposed to bear on a particular question until I have accurately and definitely ascertained the precise facts; and, lastly, I try to apply the judicial faculty to the case before me, in order to determine what are its strong and weak points, and to settle in my own mind on what the issue depends."

Success in advocacy, as in every other art that deals with men, depends upon a knowledge of human nature and upon tact, a sort of refined common sense, a certain delicacy of perception and feeling which the advocate brings to the complex problems with which he has ever to deal. An advocate may by practice alone and without instruction, learn the principles and rules of the art; but he will make many mistakes and waste a great deal of time which might have been avoided if he had the opportunity to read a work such as this of Mr. Robbins', which is indeed a condensed summary of the experience of the best advocates.

We can heartily commend this admirable work to the notice of students as well as to practitioners of wider experience. It cannot but have a good influence in upholding the best traditions of the profession; in avoiding prolixity and waste of time in the conduct of trials which are crying evils in our courts; and on the whole it will do much to make better advocates, and thus more thoroughly secure and safeguard the rights of those who invoke the intervention of the law.