

the matter of remuneration. The spread of education and the higher standard of education attained by the people of this country, keep, we are told, the market overstocked with the material out of which lawyers' clerks may be formed. The lad whose parents cannot afford to apprentice him when he leaves school, now competes with the class whose parents (foolishly, as Mr. Spray thinks) are too proud to put their sons to a trade. And so to-day it requires greater effort, and a higher intelligence than ever before, for a clerk to obtain a post in a lawyer's office.

CORONER'S INQUESTS.—A medical contemporary recently drew attention to the disagreeable and sometimes dangerous nature of the duty which the law imposes upon a coroner and his jury through the necessity of their viewing the body on which an inquest is held. This proceeding, which from time immemorial has formed part of every inquisition of death, is still obligatory under the Coroner's Act, 1887, except when the High Court orders an inquest to be held, either because the coroner has refused to hold one, or because, for some such reason as fraud, rejection of evidence, irregularity or insufficiency of inquiry, it is desirable in the interests of justice that another inquest should be held. In neither of these cases is it necessary, unless the Court should otherwise order, to view the body. The reason for the view in ancient times is obvious; it was to assist the jury in coming to a conclusion as to the cause of death. "On the view of the bodies," says the statute *De Officio Coronatoris* (4 Edw. I., ss. 1, 2), "it is to be seen whether they were drowned, or slain, or strangled, by the sign of a cord tied straight about their necks, or by marks on any of their limbs, or any other hurt found upon the bodies." In modern days the view is, for this purpose, nothing but a formality; for, when there is any doubt regarding the cause of death, modern juries rely, not on their own examination, but on medical evidence. At any rate, so far as a view may be requisite for the purpose of identification, there is no need for the jury to take part in the proceeding.—*Law Journal (London)*.

THE COST OF A WITNESS.—Mr. Justice Hawkins, whilst hearing a case in the Queen's Bench Division, remarked to a witness: 'You seem very fond of talking. Let me tell you that time here is very valuable, and while you are talking it costs about half-a-crown every minute. Someone will have to pay it.'