

the medical profession was not fortunately chosen. To reach high-water mark as a physician it may be necessary, as he states, to master several sciences; but is the same level to be obtained at the Bar without the cultivation of many capacities? A lawyer's art has not, perhaps, shown the distinct step towards proficiency which all arts relying on the natural sciences have made with the unparalleled advances of these sciences, but success in it is not obtained by chance or without careful equipment. The system of legal education in vogue is much misunderstood by the public as well as by the evening newspapers, which have drawn from the Lord Chief Justice's address the inference that barristers and solicitors are an ignorant class of persons from whom the law has exacted no sufficient guarantee of qualification. It is not, however, ill-adapted for its purpose. The Final Examination of the Incorporated Law Society is said to be more searching than the Bar Examination; and it reasonably might be so, since it marks, as a rule, the end of a solicitor's reading, while the examination of a student for the Bar is now usually taken before his reading in chambers begins. For nearly every serious aspirant to forensic honours the real training ground is the chambers of a barrister in full work. He goes there to see how the work is done, just as a medical student goes to the operating theatre. He can profit but little by his attendance unless he has first mastered the elementary text-books of the principal divisions of law; but he may, in ordinary cases, have read all the law in the library, and have heard all the lectures delivered at a German university, without learning how to pick the points out of a brief or to discover the requisitions which he ought to frame upon an abstract of title. The fashion of our day is, as it was the fashion of that of Dr. Johnson, to believe that everything can be taught in lectures; and it is as true now as then that a clever man will learn all or nearly all that can be so taught from a book in half the time the lectures occupy, and will prefer to do so. This is the reason why lectures do not succeed in drawing large audiences of students; and having regard to it, to compel the attendance of men who are able to pass fair tests without the lecturer's aid would be grossly unfair.—*Law Journal (London.)*