

PREFACE.

A PERIOD of nearly ten years has elapsed since the last Edition of this Work was published. During that period great developments have taken place in the supply and application of Electricity for lighting, motive power, and other purposes. The capital involved in electric supply and electric traction undertakings has now assumed enormous proportions. Local authorities in London and the provinces have been authorised to raise loans amounting in the aggregate to £45,704,059 for the purpose of electric supply undertakings, and to £45,903,038 for the purpose of electric traction, whilst the total capital of electric supply companies exceeds £52,532,000, and of electric traction companies £165,546,000.*

During the same period of ten years important developments have taken place in the law regulating the supply and use of electricity. The Electric Lighting Act, 1909, has been passed, giving effect to many of the recommendations made by the Joint Committee presided over by Viscount Cross in 1898, and enacting with regard to all electric supply undertakings provisions which had previously been frequently inserted in the Special Acts of particular undertakers.

* See Gareke's Manual of Electric Supply Undertakings, 1912-1913, p. 3.