

CAUSERIE.

Conversation is the work-shop and laboratory of the student.
EMERSON: "Society and Solitude."

Beyond a doubt the most important law-book published in England during the current year is Professor Dicey's work on the Conflict of Laws. ("A Digest of the Law of England with reference to the Conflict of Laws." By A. V. Dicey, Q.C., B.C.L. With Notes of American Cases, by John Bassett Moore. London: Stevens & Sons, Ltd.) Those who are acquainted with the merits of the learned author's earlier work on Domicil, will discover in his latest venture no reason to reconsider their good opinion of his ability as a maker of books. They will be, moreover, pleased to find that while the new book is something more, it is in relation to Domicil a revised edition of the former work. In traversing the whole territory of Private International Law (we beg Dr. Holland's pardon for using this objectionable phrase!), Professor Dicey follows the method adopted in his earlier work, and presents the principles of his subject in the form of systematically arranged Rules and Exceptions, elucidating them, when he deems it necessary, by comment and illustration. This is a feature of the work which, to our mind, makes it an invaluable one for the purposes of the student. Instead of being obliged to laboriously 'beat the bush' of case-law for himself in order to find the doctrine (if, peradventure, he may so find it at all!), here he has it picked out and crystallized for him in limine; and having the principle intelligently fixed in his mind, he may go forward with the aid of comment and illustration to a clear apprehension of its relation to particular cases. Parenthetically, we may here observe that the mere mention of the business of trying to evolve the cardinal principles of this branch of jurisprudence from the weltering mass of English decisions, conjures up such a nightmare of agonizing personal reminiscences, that we almost regret having touched upon the theme. What pains were ours in endeavoring to fix in our mind the principal criteria of the *animus manendi* as indicated in *Udny v. Udny*! How we were