

THE CORONER AND HIS DUTIES

INTRODUCTION

REASON AND PLAN OF THIS WORK

1.—IGNORANCE OF THE LAW.

2.—PLAN.

3.—DIVISIONS.

1. Such various and diametrically opposite ideas hold sway, more or less everywhere, and even in the centre of our Parliaments, upon the utility of Coroners' inquests and on the manner in which they should be held; so many contradictory views are expressed — even by judicial authorities — upon the law regulating the procedure of the Coroner's inquests and the circumstances under which they are to be held; so many laws, or projects of opposing laws have been proposed to right and left upon this subject; so great is, in a general sense, the discredit into which Coroners' inquests have fallen, that I have sought honestly to study the question.

It is the result of these studies which I would now publish; happy if the publication should prove of service to society.

2. As I soon saw in the course of my investigations that ignorance of the true principles which should guide in the