

his department as complete as possible. Such a photomicrographic apparatus would cost about \$250.00. It would be invaluable to the Departments of Justice, the Interior, the Geological survey, the Customs, Inland Revenue, and Secretary of State. Sir John Thompson appeared deeply interested in the subject, and authorized the purchase of the apparatus.

Reviews and Notices of Books

The Bills of Exchange Act, 1890, being a Codification of the Law-Merchant Respecting Bills of Exchange, Cheques, and Promissory Notes, with Explanatory Notes and Illustrations from Canadian, English, and American Decisions. By Thomas Hodgins, M.A., one of Her Majesty's Counsel. Toronto: Row-sell & Hutchison, 1890.

Mr. Hodgins has deserved well of the profession by the promptitude with which he has brought out his work on the Bills of Exchange Act passed in the last session of the Dominion Parliament. The passing of this Act marks a new point of departure in the law of Bills and Notes which had, heretofore, rested mainly, though of course not exclusively, on the mercantile usage as interpreted by judicial decisions. The new Act, while making some important changes, as, for instance, the introduction of the system of crossed cheques, is chiefly remarkable as being practically a codification of the existing law on its subject. It is, of course, too much to hope that the tangled and thorny wilderness of "case-law" has been entirely levelled and cleared by this one trenchant stroke of the legislative axe, but there is no room for doubt that it has done considerable execution in this way, and that a decided step had been taken towards the goal indicated in our author's happily chosen Ciceronian motto, and the happy era when "one and the same law will prevail amongst all nations and at all times."

Mr. Hodgins' book begins by an interesting and instructive introduction, in which he traces the origin and history of the various kinds of negotiable securities, and indicates their leading characteristics, and the principal variations which are incident to their use in different countries. Then follows the Act itself, accompanied by an ample apparatus of notes and illustrations, designed to bring out with all necessary fullness the meaning of the text, and to explain its bearing and application by a copious citation of English and American authorities, as well as the decisions of our own courts. Great labor has evidently been bestowed upon the work, which, we are satisfied, will be found of the greatest assistance to the profession when called on to deal with the constantly recurring questions coming up in practice under the Act.

It could scarcely be expected that a work so extensive, involving so much patient labor, and produced with such rapidity, should be free from errors, and we feel it incumbent upon us to refer to a few points in which the author's views seem open to question. We had intended to call attention to what we consider an error on p. 57 (fourth line from the top), where the book, as we had it, stated