

### Book Reviews.

---

*Commissioner Kerr.* An individuality, by G. PITT-LEWIS, K.C., London: T. Fisher Unwin, Paternoster Square. Canada Law Book Co., Toronto, 1904.

A very interesting biography of a man well known in the city of London from the time of his appointment as Judge of the City Sheriff's Court in 1859. The Commissioner commenced by cleansing the Augean stable of his Court and then administered "rough and ready" justice in his own quaint way. Amongst other reforms he earned the gratitude of the profession by clearing his Court of touts and agents and making it attractive to solicitor advocates, insisting, however, that they should be duly robed. A special detestation of his was verbose and irrelevant talking, and this offence occasionally provoked such an observation as the following: "Don't talk, sir; hold your tongue; get into Parliament or the County Council or some other talking shop, if you want to talk, but you must not do it here." While sometimes caustic as well as jocular at the expense of others he could appreciate a good repartee. Thus—to an advocate with a beard and moustache (which he hated), who appeared before him—"How can I hear you, sir, if you cover up your muzzle like a terrier dog," "Well I had rather be an English terrier than a Scotch cur," was the reply. The Commissioner chuckled, and merely remarked "Get on." We cannot quote further. Those who desire some light legal literature had better get a copy of the book and read some of the many wise and witty sayings of this eccentric, but thoroughly just and humane Judge.

---

*Pratt's Income Tax.* 7th ed. London: Butterworth & Co., 12 Bell Yard, and Shaw & Son, 7 and 8 Fetter Lane, 1904.

Our assessment law differs so materially from that of England that this manual does not give much information that is useful in this country. All complete law libraries, however, should be provided with it.

---

*Seaborne's Vendors and Purchasers,* by W. ARNOLD JOLLY, M.A., Barrister-at-Law. 6th edition. London: Butterworth & Co., 12 Bell Yard, Temple Bar. 439 pages.

The original treatise on which this book was founded was published in 1871, but little of the original writing is left. Few elementary books on this subject are better known or more appreciated than this concise manual of the law, relating to vendors and purchasers of real property. It should find a ready sale in this country.