

bound volumes, of which about 12,000 are reports of cases, 2,000 statutes 800 legal text books, periodicals and works of reference, 3,000 are parliamentary publications, and 5,000 works of general literature, including many encyclopædias and other books of reference.

Kime's International Law Directory.—Edited and compiled by PHILIP GRABURN KIME. London: S. & J. Brawn, 13 Gate Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, Holborn, W. C. 1900.

This useful directory continues its good work. It contains a representation of selected legal practitioners in most of the principal towns throughout the civilised world, with telegraphic code and short appendix. This edition has undergone complete and careful revision. We need not refer particularly to the need of such a book; every lawyer knows it already. A very useful chapter is the epitome of British and Foreign Colonial Patent Laws, carefully prepared by a gentleman who is evidently familiar with the subject.

Flotsam and Jetsam.

The existing Great Seal being worn out, it has been stated in Parliament that a new Great Seal is to be designed and cut at a cost of about 400l. ; and inquiries are being made as to what will become of the present seal when the new one is approved and put into use. Since the time of Elizabeth, though theoretically there might be a Keeper of the Great Seal as distinct from the Chancellor, the two offices have never been full at the same time, and since 1760 no Lord Keeper has been appointed, and the custody of the Great Seal has always been with the Lord Chancellor of Great Britain. He is bound always to have it in his custody, and may not take it out of the realm. Wolsey was impeached for disobeying this rule. But it is said that Lord Brougham took it to Scotland with him, which was perfectly legal, and, when there, used it as a frying-pan to make an omelette.

The practice when a new seal is made is to approve its use by Order in Council; and then the old seal is broken (or in modern practice damasked—*i.e.* given a formal tap with a hammer), and is disposed of at the Sovereign's will—*i.e.* according to inveterate practice as the perquisite of the Lord Chancellor then in office. On this subject also Lord Brougham made the leading case; for he fell out with Lord Lyndhurst on a claim for possession of the seal of George IV. because when the seal was ordered Lyndhurst was in office, and when it was finished and approved Brougham had succeeded him. The King had to give the judgment of Solomon, and present one part of the seal to each of the contesting Chancellors. By the