

EDITORIAL NOTES—MR. JUSTICE OSLER.

Courts Act." Having been favoured some little time since with some of the "copy," the writer of this note is in a position to speak of the exhaustive manner in which the subjects have been treated. The notes to most of the subjects have evidently been to a great extent re-written. It is in general a strong point in favour of a second edition of a book that the author is enabled, by a careful annotation during a course of years, to make each matter discussed more complete, both by correcting mistakes and supplying omissions. This, we learn, has been systematically done, and we have reason to think that the edition of Mr. O'Brien's book about to be issued, will be as much superior to the previous one as the later editions of Mr. Harrison's works were to his earlier ones. It will add largely to the value of the book that several of the most experienced County Judges have given valuable assistance in looking over the notes, and in giving suggestions as to a number of doubtful points.

The atmosphere of Maritime Courts in the United States, appears to have a very inspiriting effect upon the members of the profession who practise there. The following rather discursive eulogy we clip from an address of the Hon. Eli K. Price, welcoming the Hon. William Butler to a seat upon the Federal Bench and "to a jurisdiction extending around the globe."

"There is a history, a stir, and a life in the Maritime Law and Practice that exceed in interest those of all other branches of jurisprudence. Seamen and ships move ever on the unstable waters, and are moved by the forces of Nature. Skilfully the navigator must spread his sails to the winds, and watchfully guard the fires and steam that drive him onwards. The strife is with the elements; is with wind, water, fire, steam, and to strike the earth is its greatest

danger. Sailors rejoice in the contest, and with all their faults they are to be kindly regarded; for without them Commerce cannot live, nor the nation have a navy for her defence; yet the master must be upheld in holding them to a stern discipline for the safety of ship, cargo, and all lives on board. In the memorable shipwreck on Melita, St. Paul had to say, 'Except these abide in the ship ye cannot be saved;' and every age has had the like experience."

MR. JUSTICE OSLER.

Many and rapid have been the changes lately in the *personnel* of the two Superior Courts of Common Law of the Province of Ontario, occasioned by the lamented death of Chief Justice Harrison, and by the removal of Mr. Justice Gwynne to Ottawa. The Common Pleas seems a different place altogether without the familiar face of its so long Chief, whilst the casual sightseer of a few years ago, going now to the Court of Queen's Bench, would see there faces, until lately, strangers in that room. Next term, the junior Court will witness another change, Mr. Featherston Osler taking the seat long filled by Mr. Galt, who now goes to the right of Chief Justice Wilson.

There were many rumours as to who the new judge would be, and many names were suggested; but it was only very shortly before his appointment that the name of the gentleman who now fills the office became prominent. Many who had not heard this suggestion, at first thought probably that some one more advanced in years, some older member of the Bar, some one better known to the public in political circles or on circuit, would receive the appointment; moreover Mr. Osler was not a Queen's Counsel—a strange omission, certainly, which has already been spoken of in this journal.

But though in these immaterial matters,