

too well known by his work within and without the Exchequer Court to require any commendation here. His work on the digests of cases of the Supreme and Exchequer Courts, and as reporter of his own court speak for themselves. We expect equal success in his more extended sphere.

THE SHYSTER LAWYER.

The shyster lawyer has existed so long, and has been so generally referred to as "shyster," that it is a matter of some surprise to learn that the word itself is of comparatively recent origin. The shyster has lived in all ages and countries, yet the word is of United States origin, and even classed by the lexicographers as slang. The word, while not found in the older dictionaries, now has its place in the English language in this country to such an extent that it can no longer be regarded as slang, but must be classed as a legitimate, expressive word.

The origin of the word "shyster" is obscure and doubtful. Some authorities state that it is made from the word "shy," meaning sly, sharp; but as that meaning of "shy" does not obtain in the United States, Webster's suggestion that the word is from the German word meaning excrement, is more likely correct, and certainly more aptly and fully describes the reptile that lives among us. The shyster is indeed the excrement, the filthiness, of the legal profession. Sportsmen are familiar with a long, lanky, crane-like bird, popularly known and named for its nasty habits as "shyspook." It doubtless occupies the same place among birds as the jackall among brutes, the shyster among lawyers.

The Century Dictionary rather awkwardly defines "shyster" as "one who does business without professional honour, used chiefly of lawyers."

The word appears in the late law dictionaries, and is defined in two reported cases, in both of which it was held to be libellous per se.

Bailey v. Kalamazoo Pub. Co., 40 Mich. 251, 256, was de-