

The first edition of Mr. Greenleaf's work was published in 1842, the treatises on evidence most in favour at that time being those by Mr. Starkie and Mr. Phillipps, and the thought of the learned writer was rather to prepare a text book for the use of students under his instruction, than to compete with the above works. So admirable was Mr. Greenleaf's first effort that it was taken by Judge Taylor as the model for his work on evidence. How greatly both these standard works have grown in size and value is known to every student of the law; and what Taylor on Evidence is in England such is Greenleaf on Evidence in the United States. There is of course much in both works not directly appropriate to the use of the Canadian lawyer. But it may be remarked that the circumstances of this Dominion in many respects are very similar to those of the United States, and so there will be found much of value in the work before us which cannot be found elsewhere.

This work is now so modern, so practical and so helpful that it is a necessity to every law library, for therein may be found not only the great fundamental principles of evidence, but their application to every form of action. Volume one being a general treatise can be purchased separately; volumes two and three, covering the law of evidence as appropriate to various special forms of action and prosecutions for crime, are practically *nisi prius* treatises.

*The Law Relating to Electric Lighting and Energy*,—Second Edition, by John Shiress Will, Q.C. London: Butterworth & Co. 1900.

This is a collection of the Acts applicable to electric concerns in England, with explanatory notes and references to the comparatively few cases in which this legislation has been discussed. It is doubtless a very useful book to the English practitioner, and to us in this country is interesting as showing the scope of legislation on the subject of electrical energy in England.

There has been a good deal of legislation in this Province lately in reference to electrical light and power, and it will not be out of place to call attention to a section in the English Electric Light Act, of 1888, which makes a very proper provision to prevent the attempted spoliation of capital which unfortunately is rather too pronounced in the large centres of population in these days. By the section referred to it is enacted that any undertaking authorized under the Act to supply electricity may within six months after the expiration of a period of forty-two years be purchased by the municipal authorities upon the terms of paying the then value of the land, machinery and plant at their fair market value, without any addition for goodwill or profits. The Ontario Acts of 1899 and 1900 in reference to these matters is not nearly so conservative and pays much less regard to the interests of capital.