

Its powers are limited in that although it declares and interprets the rules of professional etiquette, it has no power to enforce them. Its powers are unlimited in the sense that it is always ready to advise any member of any Bar in the Empire as to what is or not "the thing to do" in a particular case. The report just issued, however, shews that the functions of the Council are not purely consultative. During the last year they have received reports of committees appointed to consider the following (amongst other questions) :—

(1) Who owns the statue of Erskine which stands in Lincoln's Inn Library?

(2) The jurisdiction of the County Courts.

A large number of public bills of Parliament are considered by a committee of the Council while before the House of Commons.

#### THE LIMITS OF CROSS-EXAMINATION.

Although many of the points of professional etiquette submitted to the Bar Council are of interest to English lawyers alone, there are some which must appeal to the advocate all the world over. What, for instance, are the rules to guide an advocate whose duty it is to cross-examine to credit? This is a matter upon which an English County Court Judge has recently asked the Bar Council to express its opinion. Adopting in the main certain principles formulated by Sir James Stephen, the Council have issued the following rules:—

1. Questions which affect the credibility of a witness by attacking his character but are not otherwise relevant to the actual inquiry, ought not to be asked unless the cross-examiner has reasonable grounds for thinking that the imputation conveyed by the question is well-founded or true.

2. A barrister who is instructed by a solicitor that in his opinion the imputation is well-founded or true, and is not merely instructed to put the questions, is entitled *prima facie* to regard such instructions as reasonable grounds for so thinking, and to put the questions accordingly.

3. A barrister should not accept as conclusive the statement of any person other than the solicitor instructing him that the