

*NOTES FROM THE ENGLISH INNS OF COURT.**THE DUBLIN FOUR COURTS.*

Lawyers in English-speaking countries the world over will have been concerned to hear that the Dublin "Four Courts" on the bank of the Liffey were made one of the rebel strongholds in the Dublin riots. It appears that the Bar Library was occupied as a hospital for wounded rebels, while the books were used to barricade the windows. It is gratifying to hear, however, that little harm was done to them, and at date of writing it is said that the Courts will soon be reopened. Members of the Irish Bar use the library to a greater extent than their English brethren. In the Inns of Court we have six libraries of reference namely, those of the Four Inns, the Bar Library at the northern end of the Royal Courts of Justice, and the Probate Library; but most members of the Bar are in Chambers which are fairly well equipped with law reports and books. The library of the Inn, however, is always available if some obscure authority has to be found. The Irish barrister has no "Chambers." He sees his clients either in one of the various consulting rooms near the Library, or at his own house.

Every evening a cart draws up at the Four Courts to collect the bags of various members of the Bar who have evening work to do. These are distributed round the town at various private houses to be called for again in the morning.

A CAPEL ST. OPINION.

In the olden days members of the Irish Bar used to reside on what is called the "North side" which was then the fashionable quarter of Dublin. On their way to the Four Courts they would walk along Capel St. The would-be litigant, unable through lack of means, to approach the counsellor in the orthodox manner, would lurk somewhere in the vicinity of Capel St. and endeavour to obtain a walking opinion from some member of the Bar on his way to or from the Courts. Hence the phrase "a Capel St. Opinion" the leading characteristic of which was that it was worth about as much as was paid for it!