

CORRESPONDENCE—BOOKS RECEIVED.

pose. But what clerk would think of making a practice of asking his barrister to explain "knotty points" in his reading, even though the latter had the time to devote to his student for that purpose? Or what barrister ever thinks of giving any instruction (beyond what is barely necessary to ensure the satisfactory—for his own purposes—execution of the work entrusted to the clerk) in the strict acceptance of the term, to his clerk upon legal practice, &c.? and the student gets no complete insight into this until four or five years of his own practice as a solicitor.

With these facts, and they are palpably solid facts, before us, would it not be better to have a more "instructive" course, a course more (than it is at present) for the educational benefits of the student, and, consequently, the ultimate improvement of the profession in general.

A student is not supposed to receive any pecuniary remuneration for his services in an office, but his solicitor in his articles of clerkship, covenants with him "that he will, by the best ways and means he may or can, and to the utmost of his skill or knowledge, teach and instruct or cause to be taught and instructed the said student in the said practice or profession of an Attorney-at Law and Solicitor in Chancery, which he, the said barrister, now doth or shall at any time hereafter during the said term use or practice." How many barristers are there who know that they ever made such an agreement? How few who ever dream of the performance of it! This proviso, therefore, for the benefit of the student, is a dead-letter. So the clerk now-a-days gets little or no instruction, but is left entirely to himself to acquire as best he can practice and knowledge of the most difficult and complex of all the learned professions.

The following course would, I think, meet every want:

Let there be a Law College; let the matriculation be the same as that of the University of Toronto; and let the collegiate course be two years, divided into the usual college terms. Let the college be situated in Toronto, which is the legal centre of the country, and in which is concentrated the best talent of the profession which might be available from time to time for lectures, &c. Let the instructions be purely legal and thoroughly practical as far as possible, and be dispensed by a paid staff of competent

practitioners. Let the professional practice of the Law College correspond to the commercial training of a modern Business College, and comprise the practice of Courts, conveyancing, &c. Let there be two examinations in the college course; the First Intermediate in Michaelmas Term of the first year, and the Second Intermediate in the corresponding term of the second year, after which the student would enter an office to complete, in actual practice, the remaining two years of his course.

Such a course as this would give the student a thorough legal foundation for the higher studies of his profession; would give him, in a solicitor's office, all the practical work now obtainable in the present course, and would supply barristers with a class of clerks who would be "up" in the practice, and, consequently, much more useful to them; while, at the same time, the profession on the whole would be much more worthily represented.

Yours truly,

Hamilton, Sept. 9th, 1882. PROFESSIONAL.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

LAW LECTURES. Subjects: Torts and Negligence, delivered before the law students of Toronto, at Osgoode Hall, by Joseph E. McDougall, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, Examiner of the Law Society on Criminal Law and Torts. Reported and published by J. P. Mabee, Esq., Student-at-law. Toronto: Rowsell & Hutchison, 1882.

THE ONTARIO LAW LIST and Solicitors' Agency Book (including also the Province of Manitoba) for 1882-83. 9th Ed. Toronto: J. Rordans & Co.

A MANUAL OF THE LAW applicable to Corporations generally; including, also, general rules of law peculiar to banks, railroads, religious societies, municipal bodies and voluntary associations, as determined by the leading courts of England and the United States. By Charles T. Boone, LL.B. San Francisco: Sumner, Whitney & Co., 1882.

A PRACTICAL EXPOSITION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF EQUITY, illustrated by the leading decisions thereon. For students and practitioners. By H. Arthur Smith (Lond.) London: Stevens & Sons, 119 Chancery Lane, Law Publishers and Booksellers, 1882.

BLACKSTONE'S COMMENTARIES. For the use of students-at-law and the general reader; obsolete and unimportant matter being eliminated. By Marshall D. Ewell, LL.D., Professor of the Union College of Law, Chicago, etc. Boston: Soule & Bagbee, 1882.