

established amongst us of the character and range, as to cause, of those in the United States.

In most Christian countries divorce is permitted for the one great matrimonial crime, and unfortunately, we think there is a tendency to expand the grounds upon which it may be granted, and to drive the machinery as rapidly as a small debt case moves in a Division Court. Under the constitution of this Dominion, divorce is fortunately reserved to Parliament, which in its discretion makes a law in a particular case severing the marriage bond. The trial and preliminary enquiry has always been before the Senate. The mode of procedure was ill defined and unsatisfactory, and until last session never received any particular consideration. But owing mainly to the exertions of Senator Gowan, the matter was taken up and the procedure entirely remodelled and systematized under a complete set of new rules. When these were established a free opening was given for a full examination, treating the subject as a whole. And this we find well and ably done by Mr. Gemmill, an experienced Parliamentary practitioner, in the book before us. He has produced a work of great practical value, and one showing much careful research and very able treatment of the material he collected.

The subject matter had not before been treated of by any Canadian writer; indeed only last session did it become ripe for full consideration. It is true that a number of cases have been before Parliament since Confederation, but they were little known and were never before collected and examined. Legislation would seem to have been without any very clear or very definite principle of action, and the procedure was certainly faultily and ill-defined. In truth there could be no full view of the subject as now; the ground was not before prepared for consideration of principles and exactness in procedure.

As already observed, this is changed to a great extent under the rules of last session. But much will depend upon careful and intelligent administration, and in this respect we are inclined to think Parliament has advantages over a Divorce Court. It will certainly have a larger grasp and will be capable of ever holding in chief regard the higher interests of morality, and ought to be able to dispose of individual cases in a manner consistent with justice and equity.

A carefully prepared work like the one before us must be an invaluable aid in securing safe and uniform administration, and as useful as such works have been found in the business of the ordinary courts.

In addition to full and comprehensive notes on the rules, and clear instructions as to procedure from the notice of application for divorce till the final passing of the bill, Mr. Gemmill's work gives an excellent epitome of the history of legislative divorce, and all the cases before Parliament for the last twenty-one years. A great many important general questions are considered and much useful information given in an appendix.

A better idea may be obtained of the comprehensive character of the work by referring to the chapters.

Chap. 1.—In some sixteen pages gives in outline the origin and history of divorce in England.