

## CORRESPONDENCE.—BOOK REVIEW.

**CORRESPONDENCE.***Office Hours for Law Students.*

To the Editor of the LAW JOURNAL.

SIR,—In these days of stiff curricula and high passing standards, when students, to have any chance of a successful examination, require to spend their days and nights in close study and rigid application, when the “burning of the midnight oil” goes on simultaneously with the consumption, by the brain, of that strength and vigor which, at this period of their life, is so necessary for physical development and perfection, I propose to enter a plea on behalf of my fellow students for shorter hours of office confinement.

In the majority of Hamilton offices, students' hours are stated to be “from 8.30 a.m. to 6 p.m.” and not infrequently are these hours extended by pressure of work. Considering the amount of reading that has to be done “after hours,” and their sedentary occupation during the day (not to mention the heavy remuneration for their services), such hours are altogether too long. Exercise, and that in the sunshine and open-air, which is so imperatively needful to the student in order to maintain the vitality and energy of the brain, is consequently out of the question, and he goes home in the evening fatigued after a hard day's writing in a dingy office, ill prepared for a “five hours' wrestle” with Blackstone, Broom, Snell, or Smith.

The present hours of law-students (in Hamilton, at any rate) are little better than those of ordinary day labourers, and hardly as good as those of skilled mechanics. This ought not to be the case. Our offices should be at least a little more professional than blacksmith or moulding shops.

The profession in this country, what with “cutting” and “knuckling” is rapidly degenerating into a sort of huckster business, and correspondingly losing that professional *esprit de corps* which is so predominant in the English bar.

Let us then be more professional in our hours and thus dispel the opinion now prevalent with the public, that “a lawyer's office, like a pawnbroker's shop, is always open for business.”

While we can in this way materially enhance the dignity of this noble profession, we shall at the same time confer a boon on those young

gentlemen who are now striving to qualify themselves to become worthy members of it.

Truly yours,

LEX.

**BOOK REVIEW.**

A MANUAL OF PRACTICAL CONVEYANCING ;  
By D. A. O'Sullivan, LL.B. Toronto: Carswell & Co., 1882.

The author of this treatise has selected a subject hitherto untouched by Canadian writers. The object of the present volume is to set out in a concise form the outlines of the law of real and personal property, as applied to practical conveyancing, particularly with the view of assisting the student and young practitioner. The main portion of the work treats of the laws affecting the transfer of real and personal property, including agreements, sales of land, leases, mortgages, assignments, bills of sale, and chattel mortgages, wills, etc., and contains many useful rules and directions to be observed by conveyancers. The remainder of the work is devoted to forms and precedents together with one or two of the more important statutes.

The text is in the most concise form and a large amount of useful information has been compressed into a small space. The chapters on Sales of Land and Personal Property will prove very useful to those who wish to acquire a knowledge of the law particularly applicable to conveyancing, without the necessity of reading large works upon those subjects. The chapter on Wills contains an excellent set of directions for the drawing and executing of wills and a brief sketch of the law relating to wills in general.

The want of a Canadian treatise on the subject of Conveyancing has long been felt, and the English work at present upon the list of books prescribed for students by the Law Society is of little use in Ontario. It would be well for the Benchers to consider the merits of Mr. O'Sullivan's treatise, with a view to adopting it as a text book.

The plan of the work is highly original and is much to be commended for clearness and conciseness. As the author acknowledges, nearly every chapter has been revised by some leading member of the Bar, and this fact in itself is a sufficient guarantee of the general reliability of the work.