

REVIEWS.

can well believe, also, that "the experience gained by the author while acting as referee under the Act for Quieting Titles has also enabled him to make a number of practical suggestions, and to add many important, but unreported decisions and rulings on cases arising under that Act, which it is exceedingly desirable the profession should be acquainted with, and over one hundred new decisions have been added to those commented on in the former edition.

Mr. Taylor adheres to the arrangement of contents then observed, nor could he have done better within the limits he has prescribed to himself; but our readers are so familiar with the book that it would be simply a waste of time to refer to it at length—indeed it is almost unnecessary for the publishers to do more than announce that a second edition is printed to cause a large and rapid sale of one of the handiest and most useful little books ever offered to the profession in this country.

It does not pretend to "supersede or even rival the more extended treatises of English writers," but it does in fact give safe, accurate, and, for most practical purposes, complete information upon the various subjects embraced in it. It is now an essential part of the library of every lawyer in Ontario, and it will probably also command a large sale in the English speaking Provinces of the Dominion.

The book is a credit to the publishers in all that pertains to their department, and it would be difficult to distinguish the mechanical part of it from a law book published by any first-class English publishing house.

THE LAW OF CRIMINAL CONSPIRACIES AND AGREEMENTS. By R. S. Wright, of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-Law, Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford. London: Butterworths, 7 Fleet St., 1873. Price, 4s. sterling.

This is a new book on an old subject. The author has not deemed it necessary, in making his bow to the public, to say why he has written on the law of Criminal Conspiracies. We have, however, a right to assume that his aim is to instruct in the branch of the law which he has chosen, and to do so to more advantage than any of his predecessors. If we are to judge of his purpose by the phrase taken from Lord Bacon's Elements, and

published on the title page of the book, it is "to reconcile contrarieties."

The work opens with a general history of the law of Criminal Combinations. This the author divides into three periods, of which the first ends with the sixteenth century, and the second with the eighteenth century. He shows that during the first of these periods no conspiracy, confederation or combination was criminal except the crime of conspiracy as defined by the Ordinance of Conspirators, 33 Ed. I, as consisting in confederacy or alliance for the false and malicious promotion of indictments and pleas, or for embracing or maintenance of various kinds. He shows that during the second period the strides made were considerable, till it was finally settled by the Star Chamber in 1611 in Poulterer's case, that although the crime of conspiracy, properly so called, was not complete, unless in a case of conspiracy for maintenance, some suit had been actually maintained, or in case of conspiracy for false and malicious indictment, one party, the party against whom the conspiracy was directed, had been actually indicted and acquitted. Yet the agreement for such a conspiracy was indictable as a substantive offence, since there was a criminal intent manifested by an act done in furtherance of it, viz., the agreement. He then shows that by an easy transition the agreement or confederacy itself came to be regarded as the offence itself, although the traces of the original distinction between a completed conspiracy and the mere agreement to commit it, long continued to be found. He then shows that during the third period, from 1800 to 1872, the most prominent characteristic of the law of conspiracy is its extended application to combinations of workmen. He refers to the 39 Geo. III, cap. 81; 39 and 40 Geo. III, cap. 106, and the 5 Geo. IV, cap. 95, the latter of which continued in force till 1871. He also adverts to the 22 Vict., cap. 34, on the course of the review. He points to the fact that in the discussions which took place under these statutes, the question was raised, and became the subject of doubt, whether in any and in what cases, combinations for purposes dealt with by the acts, or for other analogous purposes, are criminal at common law. He concludes this portion of the work by saying that "the effect