

The book before us is admirable in many respects and one of the best and most readable of modern text-books, and its defects—of course, it has some—are more in connection with what is unnecessarily inserted and out of place than what is omitted. What we allude to here is that Mr. Beven has a weakness for taking up the discussion of subjects which do not properly come within the scope of a work on negligence, though they might be appropriate in treatises on other branches of the law. He also introduces occasional little "side-shows," which are very pleasant reading, but are out of place in a book intended for the use of hard-headed and hard-worked practitioners in this end of the nineteenth century. For example, on p. 29, he takes space to speak of Cæsar's intense sensibility during a crisis of impending dangers, his incomparable fertility in expedients, and almost supernatural coolness, etc. It would seem unnecessary also for him to discuss the history and merits of an Italian painter, as he does on p. 1369. As another example, a good many pages are wasted in the discussion of matters connected with medical men, common carriers, and other classes of persons, matters which may indirectly lead up to the subject of negligence, but at so great a distance as to be of no practical value and only encumber the work.

We should have expected to see in a work of this size much more space devoted to the subject of negligence in regard to the use of electricity, but, so far as we can see, half a page covers the only reference to the matter, apart from that which is included under the heading of Telegraphs. We are aware that the cases in England on complications arising from the use of electricity are not, as yet, very numerous, but there are plenty in the United States and elsewhere, and it would have been well in such an exhaustive book to have taken up the discussion of the greatest power of modern times, and given all that could be said about it within the scope of the work. Whilst feeling compelled to call attention to these matters, we are, nevertheless, quite aware that it is very much easier to find fault than it would be to produce such an excellent treatise as that of Mr. Beven, which is recognized as a standard work, of the excellence of which there can be no question.

In all the *et ceteras* which make a volume pleasant to the eye and its contents acceptable, nothing can be said but words of praise. The table of cases is very complete, giving references to all the reports wherein they appear. The index is full, giving references both to the text and to the notes, and the printers' work, as might be expected from such a house as Stevens & Haynes, is excellently well done.