

a piece of practical work has been done which will enable the student lawyer to become a useful advocate. We allude to the 'Moot' which was held last week in the law-courts at the suggestion of Professor Jenks of the Melbourne University. We have always contended that a real and proper examination as to the qualifications of a lawyer should be something like that which is demanded of the medical student before he is allowed to operate on the world at large. A medical student here, before he gets his degree, has to go through a course of practical work, such as anatomy, dissection and clinical lectures, the performance of which actually means that he has done while a student exactly similar work to that of the practising physician or surgeon. Can the same be said of the solicitor or barrister? Is it not a fact that the average efficiency of the fledgling solicitor or barrister is far less at the beginning of his professional career than that of any class correspondingly placed? We think the answer must be in the affirmative. And the result of this unsatisfactory state of things is, as regards the barrister at all events, that he has to wait as a rule a good number of years before he is allowed to do anything of much importance in the conduct of a case in court, and when the wished for opportunity does come, he finds rather late in the day that he has to learn the real business of his profession by conducting a case perhaps at considerable risk to the unfortunate client. All the law in the world is worth very little if one cannot use it, and use it in the very nick of time, so that, may be, an all important piece of evidence may not be rejected, or improperly admitted through inadvertence, the advocate discovering just too late that he has allowed his client to be improperly put out of court. It is for this reason we hail with satisfaction the installation of the Moot Court by Professor Jenks and hope that it may become a permanent and regular institution. The late Lord Lytton remarks in one of his essays that the first requisite of an orator is a sound pair of lungs, and the legend runs that the first studies of Demosthenes were devoted to curing himself of stuttering: we may go a step further than that, and assuming the tyro to have the first of these qualifications and to be able 'to speak the speech trippingly,' we may then confidently recommend him both to practise before the Moot as frequently as he may be suffered, and also to attend the most important trials of Nisi Prius, imagine himself briefed on one side and mentally take a witness through his evidence, cross-examine others, take proper legal objections, and argue with the judge, all of course *sub silentio*; and, when the last witness is finished, address an actual living jury in a fine imaginary speech. If he can do this fairly to his own satisfaction in imagination, he will have gone a long journey on the road to successful advocacy when he dons wig and gown for a real client with a real brief, and with guineas marked thereon which are to be paid."

REVOCATION OF WILLS BY CUTTING OR ERASURE.—A belief that a person could not wholly disinherit his children led to the trite phrase "to cut him off with a shilling." In the case of goods of Dinah Leach, the testatrix said that she had "cut G. out of her will." This was no figurative phrase, implying