

stitutions. Letter V is devoted to a brief but clear explanation of the responsibility of ministers and of the nature of the cabinet system of England.

**Introduction to the Study of the Law of the Constitution.** By A. V. Dicey, B. C. L., of the Inner Temple, Vinerian professor of English law, etc. Third edition. London: MacMillan & Co., 1889. 8vo, pp. xiii+440.

This is the most notable work on the English constitution that has appeared of late years in England. Stress is laid "upon the essential distinction between the 'law of the constitution,' which, consisting (as it does) of rules enforced or recognized by the courts, makes up a body of 'laws' in the proper sense of that term, and the 'conventions of the constitution,' which, consisting (as they do) of customs, practices, maxims, or precepts which are not enforced or recognized by the courts, make up a body not of laws, but of constitutional or political ethics." (See chap. xiv.)

**The Cabinet.** *Encyclopædia Britannica.* Ninth edition. Edinburgh.

This carefully prepared article is from the pen of Mr. Henry Reeve, C. B., registrar of the privy council of England, translator of De Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*, and author of several works of value.

**The Elements of Politics.** By Henry Sidgwick. London and New York: MacMillan & Co., 1891. 8vo, pp. xxxii+632.

In this thoughtful and suggestive work of a learned English thinker, imbued with the spirit and thoroughly conversant with the methods of parliamentary government, the chapter on the "Relation of Legislature to Executive" demands the special attention of the student of ministerial responsibility. The whole work must be carefully read as the resultant of the studies of a close and safe observer of institutions.

**Political Science and Comparative Constitutional Law.** By John W. Burgess, PH. D., Professor of History in Columbia College. Boston and London: Ginn & Co., 1890. 2 vols., 8vo, pp. xx+337, xx+404.

In this elaborate essay on political science by an eminent American scholar, there are some purely theoretical remarks on the crown and the cabinet (pp. 209-215), which even the writer believes are "crude and novel," and consequently afford no assistance to those who are anxious to understand the practical operation of the English and American systems of government. It is no doubt interesting from the point of view of speculative political science to be told that a cabinet in the English system "represents the majority quorum in the legislature," and this "majority quorum, chosen upon a cabinet issue, is the state;" but it is hardly a formulation that will bring about the reform in the irresponsible political system of the United States which Woodrow, Wilson and others, who are at all events intelligible, would bring about.

**Gesetz und Beordnung.** George Jellenek Freiburg. I. C. B. Mohr., 1887. 12mo, pp. 412.

This work is interesting to a student of English and Canadian institutions, because it is an able disquisition on what the author believes—and justly in most cases—to be encroachments of the administrative upon the legislative authority in England and other countries. The tendency in Canada itself, nowadays, is to give too much power and influence to the executive government.

In the foregoing bibliographical notes of this section the writer has cited only those constitutional and historical works which show the nature and operation of the cabinet system of England, by whose principles Canadian ministries have been regulated since the adoption of responsible government. The important and erudite works of Hallam and Stubbs, or the interesting treatise by Creasy, or similar authorities, which treat of the constitutional history of England generally, are not here taken into account, inasmuch as they have no special comments