

NEW LAW BOOKS—MEETING OF COUNTY JUDGES.

Statutes) is compiling a book on Costs, which is much wanted by students and practitioners. McMillan on Costs, though in many respects defective and occasionally inaccurate, sold well and was found useful. Mr. Harrison has in the printers' hands, and now nearly completed, another edition of his Municipal Manual, rendered necessary by the recent Act. We fancy this must have rendered necessary a re-casting of the whole work; but however this may be, we do not doubt but that the proper course has been taken. We should counsel its being kept back for a few months to see what further changes the Ontario Legislature may make. It will be strange if they do not make some. Mr. Cooper has continued his Chancery Digest by a supplementary volume, which is said to be much superior to the first one, which was not all that could have been desired. It is not given to every man to know how to make a Digest. But this brings us to the last book on our list, which is by far the most important one of them all—the much wanted, long promised, and patiently waited for Digest by Mr. Christopher Robinson, Q. C. We fancy we already see the hardworked lawyer actually gloating over this book, for will it not save him, day after day, hours of weary labour. It will contain all the cases “from the beginning of the (Upper Canada) world” to the present time, thus superseding and practically rendering waste-paper the labours of Mr. Harrison in “Robinson & Harrison's Digest,” the labours of Mr. Henry O'Brien in “Harrison & O'Brien's Digest,” and that of Mr. Cooper in his “Chancery Digest” and supplemental volume. We understand that this new digest by Mr. Robinson, in the preparation of which Mr. Frank Joseph has been assisting him, will be in the hands of our readers before Christmas. The sooner the better.

MEETING OF COUNTY JUDGES.

Complaints have been made, and not without foundation, of a want of uniformity in the rulings of County Judges, leading to much inconvenience and bringing the administration of justice into disrepute by reason of a lack of that certainty which is the essence of law and order. Let us look at the causes of the evil and the most available means of remedying it.

It may be, and we fear is the fact that in the selection of those gentlemen who preside over the local Courts a few mistakes have been made, and that some perform their duties in a perfunctory and unsatisfactory manner, not being equal to their position, whilst others again are all that can be desired, being of such ability, learning and industry, that they would sit with credit to themselves and advantage to the public on the Superior Court Bench. But the fact is, there is scarcely any inducement to men of the first rank in the profession to accept County Judgeships. The inadequacy of the salaries is in itself a sufficient reason in a new country where there is little inherited wealth, and families have to be provided for. When the best men at the bar can hardly be found to accept judgeships in the Superior Courts of law and equity for this very reason, it is manifestly absurd to expect them to retire to a county town on salaries barely sufficient to keep body and soul together.

But no matter how good a lawyer may be appointed, his position as a County Judge is necessarily peculiarly difficult. The principal difficulty is the want of attrition. They have not, as a rule, the advantage of hearing cases before them argued by counsel of the experience and ability of those who conduct cases at the Assizes or in Term. Neither have they the books to refer to that can be had in the Osgoode Hall Library. But above all they have no fellow Judge to consult