

of *Comparative Legislation*, Mr. Justice Riddell collects statistics as to the number of women in the profession in various countries, and summarises what he has found, so far as Ontario is concerned, as follows:—"The admission of women to the practice of law has had in Ontario no effect upon the Bar or the Courts; the public and all concerned regard it with indifference; while no one would think of going back to the times of exclusion, no one would make it a matter of more than passing comment that a woman lawyer was engaged in the conduct of legal business. It has prevented any feeling of injustice, sex oppression, or sex partiality—it has made the career open to the talents. Otherwise it has no conspicuous merits and no faults."

LEGISLATIVE INTERFERENCE WITH TESTAMENTARY DISPOSITIONS.

Under the civil law a testator has not the right to dispose of the whole of his property without regard to the claims of his family. Thus, by s. 913 of the Code Napoléon an owner cannot, either by gift *inter vivos* or by will, dispose of more than half his property if he leaves one child, a third if he leaves two children, a fourth if he leaves three or more. In Scottish law we have the children's legitim and the widow's *jus relictæ*. Dower in ordinary English law is the only right that at all corresponds to these rights under the civil law—unless we add curtesy.

Both dower and curtesy have been legislated out of existence in many of the oversea dominions where English law prevails, but there is at present a movement in the opposite direction, and in more than one part of the dominions statutes of a novel kind have been enacted since the beginning of the present century for the purpose of curbing the uncontrolled right of a testator to leave his family inadequately provided for. The principle of the civil law has been adopted, and a right to some share in the property of a deceased person, notwithstanding any testamentary disposition of that property, has been conferred on his widow and children. This right, however, is not, as it is under the civil law, a legal right properly so called according to the nomenclature of