

The Forum.

A CAUSERIE OF THE LAW.

CONDUCTED BY CHARLES MORSE.

It seems to be our sad métier of late to continuously chronicle the deaths of eminent members of the English Bar. Since our last writing Mr. Charles Isaac Elton, Q.C., and Mr. F. O. Crump, Q.C., have both passed away. Mr. Elton had a place in legal and antiquarian literature, as well as enjoying at one time a large Equity practice. His "Copyholds and Customary Tenures," and "Origins of English History" will serve to perpetuate his memory.

* * * Mr. Crump, Q.C., might have left some literary achievement behind him had his life been less exclusively devoted to the practice of his profession. He was a profoundly religious man, and it is touching to know that in the bag he had with him at the time he was stricken down with his fatal illness there was found an unfinished essay from his pen on, "The Outward Aspect of Christ." If it be true, as Renan claims it is, that there is only one saint in the calendar who was a lawyer by profession, we take comfort in the fact that so many sincere, and withal unostentatious, Christians, such as the subject of this notice, have lived and died within its ranks.

* * * The Edward Thompson Company, publishers of the admirable "American and English Encyclopædia of Law," have generously forwarded to Mr. Justice Burbidge, of the Exchequer Court, their cheque for \$100, to be applied to the Relief Fund for the sufferers by the recent fire in Ottawa and Hull.

* * * While lawyers will recognize the literary value of Mr. W. S. Lilly's recently published "First Principles in Politics," they will hardly be disposed to agree with all of the learned author's conclusions. Take, for instance, this generalization: "A striking characteristic of the present day is the well-nigh total effacement from the general mind of the idea of law." So far from concurring in this view, we take it that there never was a time when the "general mind" in the study, as well as the mind of the "man in the street," were so pervaded with juridical considerations. That