

JUDICIAL LEGISLATION IN EGYPT.

Macedonia has been described as macédoine of nationalities; Egypt might as justly be described as a macédoine of laws and jurisdictions. The Egyptian legal system includes Mixed Codes applicable to foreigners living in the country, and Native Codes exclusively applicable to natives. Questions of personal status for foreigners determining by the law of their nationality, for natives by the law of their particular religious community; while fresh laws may be made for foreigners by decrees approved by a number of powers which have special treaty rights, and for natives by Khedivial decrees. The judicial organization is not less complex: jurisdiction over foreigners is exercised by mixed tribunals consisting of judges appointed by all the greater and some of the minor powers, and in some cases by Consular Courts, while the jurisdiction over natives is divided between civil and criminal courts, composed partly of native and partly of foreign judges, and religious courts which consist of authorities appointed by the religious community. In fact, the system of the personality of law, which was regular in Europe after the invasion of the Roman Empire by the barbarians, still remains in force for European subjects living in Egypt, but it is modified by certain treaties which establish a special law and special courts for all foreigners generally, and for transactions between foreigners and natives. The development of this common law and these common tribunals, which are often called international but are in fact an integral part of the Egyptian system, is described in the book before us of M. Vercaemer, who is a member of the mixed Court of Appeal in Alexandria, and who has already written several treatises on Egyptian jurisprudence. The writer is more especially concerned with the legislative functions of the mixed courts, which have recently been the subject of important changes; but, to make the position clear, he traces in outline the history of the institution from its origin to the present day.

The account he gives makes a very interesting chapter of constitutional development. There is no legislature in Egypt with