

pages, our readers may be disposed to think that the author must have achieved his purpose. On a closer inspection, however, the formidable proportions of the work become greatly diminished. We find that the actual text of the book is only some 425 pages, the remaining 515 pages being supplied by statutes, Patent rules, international regulations, voluminous forms, and an index. We have always understood that a legal text-book ought to be in form as concise, and we might almost say as condensed, as possible, consistently with the importance of the subject-matter. Mr. Edmunds does not appear, however, to pay much regard to this wholesome rule. We rarely remember to have seen a legal text-book more gratuitously padded out than the work now before us. To take one illustration, the author devotes nearly 200 pages to printing the Patent Acts 1883-1888, twice over, for what good purpose we are at a loss to understand. The notes which are appended to what we must, under the circumstances, call the first edition of the Patent Acts 1883-1888, are of considerable value, but we cannot approve the system of cross references, by means of which the author seeks to incorporate, under various sections of the Acts, passages from the preceding text. By this device, Mr. Edmunds seems to have attempted to combine in one volume two inconsistent methods of text writing—the method which constructs a book by noting the sections of an Act, and the method which, relegating the statutes to an appendix, makes the body of the text a continuous treatise. There is much to be said for each method. Mr. Lawson's admirable work on Patent practice is an excellent illustration of the first; and the now old but well-known work of Mr. Hindmarch on Letters Patent is a felicitous adoption of the second. But we do not think a cross between the two can ever be satisfactory. Considering how fully Mr. Lawson's work meets the needs of practice, and how much more convenient it is in point of size than the book now before us, we think Mr. Edmunds would have done better to have devoted himself to the production of a treatise on substantive law only. A new work on Patent practice was not required by the legal profession, but a new work on substantive Patent law has long been a public desideratum; and we think the present author, with his industry and evident ability, might well have supplied that want. We are afraid, however, that that want still remains to be supplied.

Coming to what is the text of the book—Part I., Patent Law and Practice—we notice that Mr. Edmunds gives in his first three chapters an interesting historical account of the origin of English Patent law. But we are disappointed to find that the very important question of subject-matter is but scantily treated in a chapter of thirty-four pages. This in a work of nearly 1000 pages, claiming to be an exhaustive treatise, is a surprising deficiency. In this part of his book, Mr. Edmunds has, in fact, limited his space far too much, and betrayed a tendency to huddle important cases into footnotes—a tendency the more to be regretted considering the size to which the book has otherwise been allowed to grow. In his chapters on specifications and infringement, the author has been much more successful, and these show great care and considerable merit. The chapters on foreign and colonial Patent laws are interesting, but necessarily short,

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and where a statement of law has to be so condensed its utility must be very doubtful. The table of cases is very complete, and it is a useful addition to the usual citations to add, as Mr. Edmunds has done, the dates of the decisions. The appendix of forms is a very full one, and the index seems to be well compiled. The immense increase in the number of patents granted by the Crown in recent years has given to this department of our law a greatly enhanced importance, and while we have not scrupled to point out what we regard as the defects of Mr. Edmunds's work, we doubt not that the book will have a large circulation amongst those whose professional duties lead them to consult works on this branch of English law.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

Lessons on Health. By Arthur Newsholme, M.D., D.Ph. (Univ. Lond.). (London: W. H. Allen and Co., 1890.)

UP to the year 1889, the Science and Art Department of South Kensington required that candidates for the examination in hygiene should at some previous time have passed the Departmental test in physiology. Since that date, however, the Science and Art authorities have decided that the hygiene paper shall contain questions on physiology, embracing the general structure of the human body, the forms, positions, and uses of the more important organs, more especially the construction and action of the circulatory and respiratory systems, and of the digestive and excretory organs; and that a separate examination in this subject shall be dispensed with. Dr. Newsholme's "Lessons on Health" is a manual designed to cover the requirements of the elementary stage of the hygiene examination under the altered regulations. Writing for elementary readers, the author wisely begins by devoting a chapter to the chemistry of the chief elements which enter into the composition of the body. The next four chapters are taken up with histology and physiology, but here we do not think the author has entered sufficiently into detail to enable beginners to grasp the full meaning of what they are reading. Our objections have special reference to the histology. For example, the author tells us that the tissues, when examined microscopically, are found to consist of cells, which, in the case of muscular and connective tissues, have become transformed into fibres; and that the original appearance of cells is best seen in the cells of connective tissue, brain, and epithelium. No explanation, however, is given as to what is meant by a cell; nor even a brief account of the appearances and structure of the other tissues of the body; so that, when the reader comes to learn such facts as that the stomach is composed of four different coats, or that there are three layers in the wall of an artery, the latter differing from a vein in possessing more elastic tissue, he cannot form any adequate idea as to the meaning of these words. Again, in the description of the skeleton, the sterno-clavicular articulation is mentioned, but no allusion is made to the joint between the clavicle and scapula; the ulna is said to articulate with the humerus, but no mention is made of the fact that the head of the radius enjoys the same privilege.

The matter in the hygiene section of the book, both in arrangement and description, is excellent, and may be cordially recommended for the purpose intended.

J. H. E. BROCK.

Practical Inorganic Chemistry. By E. J. Cox, F.C.S. (London: Percival and Co., 1890.)

THIS is a volume of 51 pages, consisting of "the necessary notes, reactions, and analytical tables constantly