REVIEWS OF BOOKS.

"THE LAW RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT."*

When a standard work like the present reaches the eleventh edition the task of the reviewer is easy and his work may well be confined to pointing out additions and improvements.

This, the very latest contribution to sanitary law, is at the same time the most complete. Its possession by a Sanitary Officer in the provinces gives him the whole law relating to the powers and duties of his local authority, and it only has to be supplemented by the Metropolis Local Management Acts, by the London Public Health Act, and by the London Building Act for the same remark to apply to metropolitan officers.

The first volume consists of 704 pages and is wholly occupied with the Public Health Act of 1875. The Act is set out verbatim and after each Section there are explanatory notes and references to decisions in the superior Courts of Law. These decisions are well up to date, take for example the definition of sewer and drain, and it will be seen that *Travis v. Utley*, the *Lowther Arcade* case, and the important recent decisions as to the meaning of "curtilage," are all set forth in brief, and their bearing discussed.

Some of the notes are of considerable length far exceeding the text, for instance the commentary on Section 4 occupies nearly 23 pages.

At the end of this same volume is placed the index to the whole work, the edges of the index pages are tinted red, a convenient method well worthy of imitation. As a rule the index to legal works is badly done, and it is at once a surprise and a pleasure to find that in this case immense pains have been taken to give a complete and most convenient index.

The second volume consists of the principal statutes passed up to the end of 1894, under which District Councils have powers or duties or in which they are otherwise immediately concerned. These are arranged in chronological order, commencing with the Knackers' Act of 1786 and ending with the Merchant Shipping Act of 1894, no fewer than 121 statutes or portions of statutes!

The Local Government Act of 1894 is annotated by Mr. A. F. Jenkin, of the Inner Temple, who has published a separate work upon that Act.

After the statutes named come the instructions, memoranda and

* *The Law Relating to Public Health and Local Government.* Being the Public Health Act, 1875, and other statutes affecting District Councils, by the late William Cunningham Glen, Barrister-at-Law. Eleventh edition by Alex. Glen, M.A., LL.B. Cantab., Barrister-at-Law of the Midland Circuit; including the Local Government Act, 1894, and the statutes and orders relating to the election of District Councils by A. F. Jenkin, Barrister-at-Law. 2 Vols., 8vo., 1864 pages, price £3 3s. Knight & Co., London, 1895.

orders of the Local Government Board of any present importance, also in chronological order and ranging from 1876 to the end of 1894.

Tables of cases, of statutes, and of reference from repealed statutes have also been added.

The ability and conscientious industry with which this work has been prepared merits the highest commendation. Essentially *the* work of reference for the lawyer, it will also find its place in all public libraries and be consulted by sanitary officials and members of local authorities.

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SANITATION IN INDIA.

The Medical Congress which assembled recently in Calcutta has done much to call public attention to the pressing need for further enlightenment both of governors and governed on the subject of public health in India. Those who are familiar with that country will not be surprised to learn that in all discussions on this subject cholera is always assigned a very prominent position, the views held by experts in the East and in the West differing very widely as to origin, methods of propagation, and spread of this terribly fatal malady. The writer is old enough to remember the origin and development of opposing schools of thought regarding the etiology and epidemiology of cholera which found graphic expression in some doggerel lines written some twenty-five or more years ago by Dr. Edwin Seward, Drs. Macnamara and Bryden being the then prominent representatives of the respective parties.

The Western theory, or the creed of Macnamara :

"Man-bred and man-shed, anon diffused in water-bed;
Multiplied and further spread, thus the pest o'er earth has sped."

The Eastern theory, or faith of Bryden :

"Earth-grown, wind-blown, air and vapour-hatched and sown;
Thus the pest o'er earth has flown."

The great advances made in bacteriology and pathology since these lines were written has done much to throw the respective theories into the shade, and to substitute for them others which it would be hazardous to say, in the still imperfectly developed state of these sciences, are altogether beyond criticism. Men speak of eating and drinking cholera, and of the spread of the disease by water and by articles of food, without giving much heed to the methods by which such supplies are contaminated. In great centres of population, where for example water is drawn from a common source and distributed through known channels, it is easy to understand how the source may be infected, and the community drawing its supply from such a source may thus suffer; but in a vast continent like India, where the great mass of the people draw their water supply from wells having no communication with each other, a further agency appears to be necessary for the spread of the infective material. Granting that this agency exists in human intercourse, it