

NOTICES OF NEW BOOKS.

ANNUAL DIGEST OF THE LAWS OF PENNSYLVANIA, for each of the years from 1853 to 1860, namely, from 28th May, 1853, to 3d May, 1860. Together with some Laws of Older Date inadvertently omitted in Purdon's Digest—1700 to 1853; Marginal References; a Digested Syllabus of each Title; Foot Notes to the Judicial Decisions; and a full and exhaustive Index, in which the contents of all these Annual Digests are incorporated in one Alphabet. The whole completing Stroud & Brightly's Purdon's Digest to the present date. By FREDERICK C. BRIGHTLY, Esq. Philadelphia: Kay & Brother, 19 south Sixth street, Law Booksellers, Publishers and Importers. 1860.

We always welcome Mr. Brightly's Annual Digest with pleasure. It presents the multitudinous and confused legislation in an orderly and intelligible manner, and serves as a key to unlock the doings of the annual legislature. It is always accurate and always methodical. The side notes and the foot notes are of the utmost service to all practitioners. This particular volume deserves some special notice, inasmuch as it contains our new Criminal Code, (fully reviewed by us in this number,) in a regular and complete manner, each section annotated, not only by the commentary of the Commissioners, in itself most valuable, but also by a copious citation of cases and points adjudicated both in England and in this country. It may well be questioned whether there is in type, in the English language, a code of criminal legislation and procedure at once so comprehensive, so philosophical, and so well adapted to the actual daily wants of human society, as the one which Pennsylvania now possesses. Mr. Brightly has well aided the labors of the commission by his judicious notes and careful citation of cases and authorities. And the bar of the commonwealth may well be thankful that such a code has now been presented to them, with notes at once important and not cumbersome. The industry of the learned editor is most commendable. We have just had the Pamphlet Laws laid on our table, and yet the learned editor of Purdon has accomplished the task of arranging the voluminous legislation of 1860, and placing it in an orderly and convenient manner, with notes for actual practical use. We commend this volume, not only to our fellow practitioners at this bar, but to enlightened criminal jurists everywhere, where the principles and practice of the common law prevail.