or any contract or agreement, be valid or effectual, and whether with or without the sanction of the Commissioners, unless and until the patron of the benefice and the bishop of the diocese shall have respectively signified their consent in writing thereto. Provided that nothing herein contained shall invalidate, or prejudicially affect, any charge which may have been validly and effectually made before the passing of this Act.

Short title.

2. This Act may be cited as the Improvement of Lands (Ecclesiastical Benefices) Act, 1884.

CHAPTER 68.

An Act to amend the Matrimonial Causes Acts.

[14th August 1884.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the law as to the restitution of conjugal rights in England:

Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1884.

Periodical payments in lieu of attachment.

2. From and after the passing of this Act a decree for restitution of conjugal rights shall not be enforced by attachment, but where the application is by the wife the Court may, at the time of making such decree, or at any time afterwards, order that in the event of such decree not being complied with within any time in that behalf limited by the Court, the respondent shall make to the petitioner such periodical payments as may be just, and such order may be enforced in the same manner as an order for alimony in a suit for judicial separation. The Court may, if it shall think fit, order that the husband shall, to the satisfaction of the Court, secure to the wife such periodical payment, and for that purpose may refer it to any one of the Conveyancing Counsel of the Court to settle and approve of a proper deed or instrument to be executed by all necessary parties.

Settlement of wife's property.

3. Where the application for restitution of conjugal rights is by the husband, if it shall be made to appear to the Court that the wife is entitled to any property, either in possession or reversion, or is in receipt of any profits of trade or earnings, the Court may, if it shall think fit, order a settlement to be made to the satisfaction of the Court of such property, or any part thereof, for the benefit of the petitioner and of the children of the marriage, or either or any of them, or may order such part as the Court may think reasonable of such profits of trade or earnings to be periodically paid by the respondent to the petitioner for his own benefit, or to the petitioner or any other person for the benefit of the children of the marriage, or either or any of them.

Power to vary orders.

4. The Court may from time to time vary or modify any order for the periodical payment of money, either by altering the times of payment or by increasing or diminishing the amount, or may tem-

porarily suspend the same as to the whole or any part of the money so ordered to be paid, and again revive the same order wholly or in part, as the Court may think just.

Non-compliance with decree deemed to be desertion.

5. If the respondent shall fail to comply with a decree of the Court for restitution of conjugal rights such respondent shall thereupon be deemed to have been guilty of desertion without reasonable cause, and a suit for judicial separation may be forthwith instituted, and a sentence of judicial separation may be pronounced although the period of two years may not have elapsed since the failure to comply with the decree for restitution of conjugal rights; and when any husband who has been guilty of desertion by failure on his part to comply with a decree for restitution of conjugal rights has also been guilty of adultery, the wife may forthwith present a petition for dissolution of her marriage, and the Court may pronounce a decree nisi for the dissolution of the marriage on the grounds of adultery coupled with desertion. Such decree nisi shall not be made absolute until after the expiration of six calendar months from the pronouncing thereof, unless the Court shall fix a shorter time.

Custody, &c. of children.

6. The Court may, at any time before final decree on any application for restitution of conjugal rights, or after final decree if the respondent shall fail to comply therewith, upon application for that purpose, make from time to time all such orders and provisions with respect to the custody, maintenance, and education of the children of the petitioner and respondent as might have been made by interim orders during the pendency of a trial for judicial separation between the same parties.

Act to apply to England only.

7. This Act shall not extend to Scotland or Ireland.

CHAPTER 69.

An Act to make better provision against Cholera and other dangerous Epidemic Diseases. [14th August 1884.]

BE it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Cholera, &c. Protection (Ireland) Act, 1884.

Acquisition of sites for hospitals.

2. When under the provisions of any Act the sanitary authority in Ireland is empowered to acquire a site for a cholera or other hospital within its district, it may, with the sanction of the Local Government Board, exercise such power for the acquisition of a site for such purpose without, but contiguous to, the said district.

Incidence of charge.

3. Whenever, under clause three of the forty-sixth and forty-seventh Victoria, chapter fifty-nine, the Local Government Board, Ireland, directs any urban sanitary authority to superintend and see to the execution of such regulations, which otherwise would be the duty of any board or boards of guardians, the sanitary authority may, in any rate applicable to the purposes of the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, insert a separate item for the amount necessary

41 & 42 Vict. c. 52.