

American Family Laws. 1938 Supplement. By Chester G. Vernier

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American Family Laws. 1938 Supplement. By Chester G. Vernier. Stanford University Press, Stanford University, Calif. 1938. Pp. xxiii, 178. \$3.50.

This book presents concisely and readably the statutory changes made in the law of Domestic Relations since the publication of the five volumes of Professor Vernier's *American Family Laws*. The original work plus the supplement give the lawyer an exhaustive survey of the statutes in the 48 states, Alaska, Hawaii and the District of Columbia. The supplement sections correspond in numbering to those of the main work. Accordingly, the index of the latter may be used for the supplement as well, although the supplement has an index of its own.

Like the original work, the supplement gives copious references to law review material and to A.L.R. annotations. Not many cases are cited, but there are occasional references to decisions construing statutes of uncertain meaning, e.g., the reference on p. 16 to *Collins v. Hoag and Rollins*, 122 Neb. 805, 241 N.W. 766 (1932) wherein a Nebraska statute was construed as abolishing common law marriages.

Noteworthy among the statutory changes in the seven year period covered by the supplement is the adoption in eight states of legislation abolishing actions for breach of promise to marry and for the alienation of affections. In nine additional states enactments were passed requiring advance notice of intention to marry. In six states where the common law ages of marital capacity had still prevailed statutes increased the ages at which a valid marriage may be contracted. In the competition among certain states for divorce business two states reduced the residence requirement to six weeks. In New York there was enacted a statute permitting personal tort actions between spouses. Three additional states provided family courts with jurisdiction over marital rights of husband and wife. Statutes in two states authorized the use of blood-grouping tests in paternity cases.

OTTO F. REIS.