

Book Review: Cases on Public Utility Regulations, By Francis X. Welch

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dence of the negligence of the defendant. This difficulty makes the court depend upon salient facts in order to form an opinion. In *Galst v. American Ladder Co.*, 165 Wis. 307, 311, 162 N.W. 319 (1917), the plaintiff was injured by the collapse of a ladder and sued the manufacturer. The defect in the ladder was a loose staple. The court denied recovery on the ground that there was no showing that the ladder was defective when shipped by the defendant, but said: "The situation here is quite different than it would be if the defect were a knot, cross-grained, or dozy material, or other defects of a similar kind." A large knot in a plank used in a scaffold seemed to be enough to find negligence on defendant's part in *Bright v. The Barnett and Record Co.*, (supra). Because of the difficulty plaintiffs experience in proving manufacturers negligent, the evidence being largely in the manufacturer's possession, the doctrine of *res ipsa loquitur* may well be applied.

HUGH F. GWIN.

BOOK REVIEWS

Cases on Public Utility Regulations, By Francis X. Welch, Legal Editor, Public Utilities Reports, Inc., 1932. One Volume. Public Utilities Reports, Inc., Washington, D. C.

A practical treatment of the ever-growing field of public utility law is found in this excellent collection of cases by Mr. Welch. In the past too much stress has been laid upon the academic aspect of the public calling field. The older books on the subject fail to treat it with the problem viewpoint found in this new book. The student should be made aware of the importance in this field of law of the rulings and opinions of commissioners as well as of the adjudicated cases. Welch's book ably takes care of this problem by citing many commission cases.

Another departure from the older casebook is found in the concentration upon cases dealing with electric, gas, water, motor transportation, and telephone utilities. This alone indicates the editor's appreciation of the economic developments of recent years.

The casebook is not over-sized. There is a welcome absence of over-numerous annotations and an equally welcome addition of short, well-stated, pithy notes at proper places in the book. A carefully prepared subject index should make the book of use to the attorney in practice.

The rapid changes in this field of law are followed by means of a cumulative supplement which may be placed in a pocket-flap on the inside of the back cover. For teachers of the subject, the Teacher's Manual, which is furnished, is of great aid.

In short, Mr. Welch has made a valuable contribution to the field of public utility law.

J. WALTER MCKENNA.