

The United States Constitution Annotated

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Outlines of the History of English and American Law. By PROFESSOR WILLIAM F. WALSH. New York: New York University Press. 1924. pp. xiv, 532.

The author states in his preface that he makes no pretense to original investigation but has freely drawn upon the works of the outstanding investigators and students of English legal history. A cursory examination of the book fully bears out this statement. It results that the volume has some of the inherent faults of a digest and lacks some of its virtues. A reader who turns to the sections dealing with the history of the English real property law after the study of such an unsurpassed work as that of Alfred G. Reeves's *Treatise on the Law of Real Estate* cannot but be somewhat disappointed.

The volume, though very large, is not entirely occupied with the law of real estate but covers, in addition, sketches of the history of Personal Property, Crimes, Torts, Contracts, Persons, Equity, Jurisprudence, and such commercial law subjects as Bills and Notes, Partnerships, Agency, Sales, Insurance and Corporations. Perhaps it is anticipating too much to expect to find compressed within a book of 500 pages complete adequate information on all the historical roots of such a wide variety of legal subjects.

Despite these defects the book is to be welcomed as a step in the right direction, at least. It is a laudable attempt to do for present day students of the law what Blackstone did for the students of his generation. There can be no question but that a knowledge of the historical development of the law is absolutely essential to a correct understanding and competent grasp of its present-day problems. The writer of the present review knows of no better book to place in the hands of a class in a course dealing specifically with the history of the law. He would, therefore, not hesitate to adopt the volume as a textbook were he asked to conduct such a course.

C. Z.

The United States Constitution Annotated. By The American Law Book Company, Brooklyn. 1924. pp. xxxi, 280.

In the past few years, numerous reference books concerning the Constitution of the United States have appeared on the market. This, undoubtedly, is due to the great emphasis placed on the Constitution by the courts in recent decisions and the more recent part it has played in the political field. As De Tocqueville properly remarked, the Constitution of the United States "is the most perfect Federal Constitution which ever existed." It is the final refuge of every right that is enjoyed by any American citizen. What, then, is more important to a lawyer than to have at his side a treatment of annotation, section by section, of the Federal Constitution?

Such a book is *The United States Constitution Annotated*. It furnishes in compact and convenient form an accurate printing of the organic laws of the nation from the Declaration of Independence to the United States Constitution with its amendments, and in addition, annotates the United States Constitution by means of references to a complete collection of the case law of the nation. It is of service to the practitioner in enabling him, without inconvenience, to find all the authorities, both federal and state, which have construed any particular word or clause of the Constitution. It impresses the lawyer with the

importance of visualizing the wide-spread influence of the Constitution as it affects even the ordinary activities of the people in general.

The make-up of the book is splendid; the type is clear and easily read. The seemingly numberless annotations are neatly arranged in a manner rendering them readily accessible to the busy lawyer and the inquiring law student. There is also a very exhaustive and correspondingly useful index, covering twenty-two pages.

J. O'B.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Cases on Corporation. American Casebook Series. By H. S. RICHARDS. Second Edition. St. Paul: West Publishing Co. 1924. pp. xxvi, 1025.

Cases on Sales. American Casebook Series. By FREDERIC C. WOODWARD. Second Edition. St. Paul: West Publishing Co. 1925. pp. xxii, 851.

Government Liability in Tort. By EDWIN M. BORCIARD. Part I. New Haven: Yale University Press. pp. 92.

Principles of Corporation Law. By WILLIAM WHEELER COOK. Norwood, Mass.: Norwood Press. 1925. pp. xlv, 813.