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Book Review: The Problem of Proof Especially as Exemplified in Disputed Document Trials, By Albert S. Osborn

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BOOK REVIEWS

The Problem of Proof Especially as Exemplified in Disputed Document Trials, by Albert S. Osborn, New York. Published by Mathews Bender and Company, New York and Albany, 1922.

An author offering a book to the legal profession, must, if it is to be well received, either present a definite contribution to legal learning, or handle the matter in a novel way making it more accessible to the busy lawyer. A book is not to be rejected, therefore, because the matter contained in it can be found in disconnected passages elsewhere, for there is little in principle about the law which has not been discussed somewhere in the "book."

Mr. Osborn, with due modesty, states the purpose of this book at page XIV. as follows:

"The main purpose of this book is to help the lawyer who has a case to try in which it becomes necessary to prove facts relating to a disputed document."

He certainly has accomplished this purpose and much more, for the advice respecting personal bearing, conduct and expression at the trial is invaluable to the beginner and the veteran alike. No one can tell another exactly how to succeed in the trial of a lawsuit because the most successful trial lawyer does not know in advance how he is to achieve the desired result; but the suggestions contained in this book are bound to be helpful to one who does not admit he knows all about the game.

In this connection, Chapter X. relating to the lawyer's words, deserves special mention. What is here said about method of expression, and the necessity for proper preparation in the language in which the lawyer is to express his ideas is timely. A lawyer may be saturated with learning, but if he cannot communicate his thoughts to the court and jury in understandable language, the value of his learning consists in the mere personal satisfaction of possessing it.

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