Materials And Methods Of Legal Research: With Bibliographical Manual

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BOOK REVIEWS 191


The above two volumes are companion books of the Hornbook Series, the second being revised by the author of the first.

To those who approve of the Hornbook series, the third edition of McKelvey will be welcome. The style is clear and the didactic syllabi lend themselves rather easily to effortless assimilation. If this be a desirable pedagogic end then the text will serve as a very ready means. To the present reviewer this has never seemed desirable. The text is a very clear and rapid statement of the law of evidence as it is to-day and has been brought up to date. For review purposes and for a busy trial-lawyer who wishes to brush up on types of cases infrequently met with in a specialized practice, the book is excellent. One regrets that there is not more forward looking criticism of evidence as it exists, for the benefit of the lawyer of to-morrow. The author's eminence and soundness it is felt should be used for effective propaganda against certain existing evils which he seems to recognize, in his preface exist. While the practicing bar usually feels that a text on evidence should confine itself to evidence as it exists in the courts, it is submitted that for students, more of the sturdy constructive criticism of Wigmore should be present.

The table of contents and the index render the matter easily accessible.

The case book is a most excellent selection of material carefully arranged and brought down to modern times. The table of contents, which follows the order of presentation of the text is a veritable outline of the law of evidence. If it be held proper pedagogy to have a text accompany a selection of cases, and those cases all analyzed by an expert, these two books should prove most valuable in a class room. The criticism of the present reviewer with reference to the case book is that the work is too well done and leaves nothing to the student in reading the cases to analyze, distinguish or compare. It presents a most lucid group of illustrations of the principles outlined in the text. One can not help but feel that the student should be taught to analyze these things himself. While all of the material is excellent it would seem that special attention should be called to the cases on Writings as being unusually good examples.

JOHN McDILL FOX


This work is at once a text book for law students, giving the fundamentals of legal bibliography, that is, where to find the law, and a hand book setting forth methods of finding the law for the benefit of everyone wishing to make use of Anglo-American legal literature.

The book is divided into three parts. Part I deals with the classification of law books, contains a description and an analysis of particular books including statutes, reports, appeal papers, treaties, legal dictionaries, encyclopedias, digests and search books.

Part II is devoted to information about law libraries, including catalogs, arrangement of books and suggestions of what a working law library should contain. These suggestions should prove helpful to law librarians in the judicious selection of books.

Part III is primarily a legal bibliographical manual containing lists of law books, including legal periodicals, lists of legal abbreviations, table of regnal years, and lists of American, English, Irish, Scotch and Canadian law reports.

In keeping with the internal merit of the book is the excellent index which is in reality a "key" to the knowledge and information it contains.
The matter in this book is actually down to date, as much material published for the first time in the last year is mentioned in it.

The work is of special value to users and prospective purchasers of law books because it treats law publications in a fair, impartial way, points out their merits and shortcomings, and leaves the reader to form his own opinion.

WILLIS E. LANG


The full title of this book is suggestive of its aim and contents for, as its more pretentious title explains, it is an Outline for Review of the Fundamental Principles of the Law and Analytical Summary of American Law. It is a pocket edition prepared to meet the requirements of a young lawyer seeking to pass the bar examination.

William Lawrence Clark, who has compiled this book, is well known, having many works to his credit on the subjects of Corporations, Contracts, Criminal Law and Evidence. He is at present reviewing editor of Corpus Juris and Cyc. As the introduction by Donald S. Kiser proclaims, the primary purpose of this book is to be of practical service to the student contemplating taking a bar examination. It is a combination text and quizzer with problems annexed which illustrate some basic principle covered by the text. The main divisions of the text are the groupings of Elementary Jurisprudence, Substantive law and Rights and Remedies.

This book will be welcomed by all students facing a bar examination, for with its comprehensive index a more convenient book for a thorough review is unavailable.

V. W. D.

Books Received.