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BOOK REVIEWS


An up-to-date bird's eye view of the field this book covers should be welcome to the members of the Bar as well as to students in law schools. So far as the student is concerned, a reading of this volume ought to crystallize his tenuous ideas of those legal principles which even our Supreme Court has not yet made either clear or concise in its decisions. We are aware that the matter will never be presented concisely, but certainly there exists a great need for clearness which has not yet been brought about by the decisions of this august body.

As might be expected in an untechnical approach to the subject, the author has intruded into the discussion the philosophical and perhaps even the social viewpoint of many leaders of the Bench and Bar. The discussion is made interesting to a further degree by statements from specialists who are not lawyers, but are first rate economists, and whose viewpoint the author feels to be worth as much as that of those who approach the subject from a purely legal perspective.

The chapter on "Holding Companies" is particularly interesting, and it might be said that the author has almost anticipated some of the principles now being put into practice through the "New Deal" at Washington.

The author's own approach is without prejudice but is not ex cathedra. The volume contains several excerpts of practical problems and seems to foretell a shift from the well-known "reproduction value" to the "prudent investment theory."


The author continues in the second volume of this work his comparative survey of the family laws of the forty-eight states,
Alaska, District of Columbia, and Hawaii. The current volume deals with divorce and separation. It is not a work on sociology; the causes of divorce are not touched upon; its scope is limited to the effects. Yet it may prove as valuable to the sociologist as to the legislator and lawyer.

The organization of the book is the same as that of the first volume. Statutes are discussed, compared and criticized. Comparative tables make ready reference material. There are three main divisions—absolute divorce, limited divorce, and separation. Under these are such chapters as Causes for Absolute Divorce, Distribution of Statutory Defenses in Suits for Absolute Divorce, Custody and Maintenance of Children in Absolute Divorce, Allowance of Alimony, Causes for Limited Divorce, and Statutory Right to Separate Maintenance, or Alimony without Divorce.

Everything that was said on behalf of the first volume may be taken for the present one. It is a mammoth task and the first work of its kind, extent, and detail since the year 1886.


The author of this treatise has accomplished the purpose stated in his Preface by presenting "a concise review of the subject, with leading citations, touching only upon such major questions as arise daily in our practice." While the author does not claim to have cited all of the Illinois cases, a casual check of those cited with the cases found in the annotated statutes appears to indicate that very few have been omitted.

The treatise constitutes a thorough digest of the principles of mechanic's lien law in the State of Illinois. It should prove to be a valuable handbook to those members of the Bar who do not have a sufficient acquaintance with this particular field to justify a thorough study of the subject, and yet who are, nevertheless, compelled occasionally to familiarize themselves with it in connection with suits for foreclosure of mortgages in which mechanic's lien claimants file intervening petitions.

1 The first volume, dealing with the subject of marriage was reviewed in 10 Chicago-Kent Review 222.
The illustrations set forth under the subject of "Priorities and Apportionment" will be found especially valuable to such practitioners. The book should also prove interesting to laymen who are personally interested in the subject and who have sufficient knowledge of legal terms to read it with some degree of understanding.