April 1957

Book Reviews

Chicago-Kent Law Review

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One need only glimpse at the morning newspaper to realize that the news reporter may, without undue strain, be likened to a tight-rope walker. He is, almost daily, forced to tread that narrow and uncertain line between full news coverage and the liability accompanying libel and, more recently, the invasion of the right of privacy. Like the tight-rope walker, however, he is not completely without assistance. The former has his balancing pole and the latter has "Say It Safely", the book here reviewed. The author's avowed intention is to provide those charged with the dissemination of news with a guide that will enable them to perform that service to the public without incurring the economic disaster that might possibly follow a legal defamation. Under the handicap of a subject matter that is uncertain and nebulous at best and an audience untrained in the vagaries and refinements of the law, the author has done an excellent job of tight-rope walking, if that analogy may again be used. He has delineated the principal problems and pitfalls with sufficient accuracy to enable the book's readers to anticipate and avoid possible liability while steering clear of the morass of legal gymnastics that would leave the layman in helpless confusion.

For a volume of its size, the breadth of material contained within its covers is remarkably complete. The author first concerns himself with the subject of libel and, incidentally, slander. The text then runs the gamut from the definition of the torts, with practical illustrations of how they are likely to be committed, through the various defenses such as privilege, fair comment, truth, and consent, and finally considers the possibility of mitigating damages by corrections and retractions. The author next considers the possibility of encountering legal difficulty in the form of a citation for contempt of court for certain public utterances. An attempt, in the language of the layman, is made to draw a line between freedom of speech and abuses thereof in the nature of obstructions to justice. And finally, there is a discussion of the still developing right of privacy and its accompanying hazards.

In conclusion, it should be said that this book was intended to be, and is, only a handbook available for ready reference. Its function is only to make one aware of potential dangers. But when a danger is encountered and recognized, the solution to the problem must be gleaned from other sources.