

March 1936

## Book Notes

Chicago-Kent Law Review

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### Recommended Citation

Chicago-Kent Law Review, *Book Notes*, 14 Chi.-Kent L. Rev. 201 (1936).

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## BOOK NOTES

THE FORENSIC APPLICATIONS AND EVIDENTIAL VALUE OF THE BLOOD GROUP TESTS. Milton I. Vogelhut. Baltimore, Maryland, 1935. (A pamphlet reprinted from The Daily Record, November 18, 1935.) Prepared for presentation to the University of Baltimore, May, 1935. Pp. 20.

Should the defendant be given judgment because of what science finds from analyses of tiny drops of blood? In brief, that is the question which Mr. Vogelhut discusses in this fascinating twenty-page treatise explaining the scientific soundness of blood group tests and their application to litigated matters.

Mr. Vogelhut, in this pamphlet, has undertaken an interpretation of the legal applications of the scientific finding that the blood of any single human being may, by analysis, be classified as within one of a limited number of types. Each of these types has certain distinguishing characteristics, which are in some cases hereditary, so that definite scientific laws have been established regarding them. It is Mr. Vogelhut's contention that these scientific laws relating to the blood groups are as completely deserving of judicial attention as the evidence of finger print and ballistic experts. In support of this contention, the scientific development of the blood group tests is set forth in detail, each phase supported by eminent authority and the legal application illustrated by use of brief case examples which show how the cause of justice has been served through judicial recognition of the competency of the blood group tests.

The most conservative court can not quarrel with Mr. Vogelhut's calm plea that the blood group tests should be recognized as authentic and reliable within their limitations. A man is accused of the paternity of a child. A drop of blood is taken from each of the parties concerned, the defendant, the mother and the child. Perhaps all are found to belong to the same blood group. This proves nothing. But the grouping may indicate that according to the laws of science the child belongs to a blood group that could not possibly have had a father of the blood group to which the defendant belongs. Such evidence, if admitted, would conclusively exonerate the defendant.

In a similar manner the application of blood grouping to the examination of blood stains is set forth. A defendant may show that the blood found on his clothes was not that of the victim. It is even possible, from the saliva present on the moist end of a cigar, to determine the type of blood of the criminal who left his cigar butt on the scene of the crime.

Those who have doubted the competency of the blood group tests dare not ignore Mr. Vogelhut's powerful arguments in their behalf; those who favor the acceptance of these tests by the courts will find his pamphlet replete with ammunition supporting that view; and those who have no opinion will find his article of great scientific and legal interest.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED

THE INSTITUTION OF PROPERTY. C. Reinold Noyes. New York: Longman, Green and Company, 1936.

THE LAW OF CADAVERS. Percival E. Jackson. New York: Prentice Hall, Inc., 1936.