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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

IN AND OUT OF COURT. Francis X. Busch. DePaul University Press: Chicago, 1942. Pp. xii, 306.

The after-dinner speaker whose anecdotes have been well received is often urged to put his material into print so that the evanescent pleasures of the moment may receive a more permanent record. Mr. Busch, whose forte as a public speaker is well known to audiences in the Chicago area, has apparently yielded to a suggestion which must have been made to him many times before. *In and Out of Court* contains a compilation of many of the humorous incidents, dramatic situations and entertaining stories with which he has regaled his audiences in the past. If apology be necessary for so recording reminiscences such as these, the author himself points out: "There is so much of tragedy in the courts, both civil and criminal, that one cannot justly be blamed for giving some emphasis to the comic side." Yet, withal, the book contains a current of philosophical comment on the judicial process as it has been observed in the courts of Illinois for the past forty years, material which should interest the veriest tyro in the law and provide both guidance and inspiration.

The history of that era remains to be written (Mr. Busch does not profess to write it). The historian, whoever he may be, will here find source material of value regarding the personalities of several of the judges and many of the outstanding members of the bar of that period. Together, they made the courthouse, now losing its sparkle, a gathering place for the community. Others have bemoaned the passing of the black string tie, the tobacco quid, and the flood of passionate, tear-jerking oratory, essentials of the trial lawyer in that not so distant past. The court room of Abraham Lincoln's day, the traditions and spirit of which, according to Mr. Busch, seem to have survived the turn of the century, has taken on a humdrum appearance now. A last, nostalgic look backward at that scene is thus afforded through these pages.

WM. F. ZACHARIAS