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BOOK NOTES

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BOOK NOTES

Book Review Editor's Note. — Books listed hereunder, as well as future reviews, will not be limited to those dealing specifically with the legal profession. This section of the Review will endeavor to bring to the attention of the bar any noteworthy book dealing with fields allied to and of effect on the law, such as history, political science, economics and philosophy. It is hoped that thereby will be maintained the bar's interest in writings other than the everyday "tools of the trade" and thus perhaps encourage more concern for the basic concepts of the law and awareness of the forces continually influencing and changing those concepts.

THE SCHOOL SEGREGATION DECISION. By James C. N. Paul. Institute of Government, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N. C., 1954. 132 Pp. \$2.00.

A careful study of possible state action under the recent United States Supreme Court's segregation decision, this report was prepared under the direction of and for the use of the State of North Carolina. The study presents the history of the legal, social and economic background of the decision and analyses the legal problems which may be raised by such proposed solutions as private state-supported schools, tuition grants to parents, and such gradual adjustments to the decision as redistricting or assignment of students. This thorough examination of the possible interpretations of the decision and the feasibility of the suggested means by which the State may comply with the decree with the least disruptive effect upon the social structure of the State constitutes an outstanding report on the South's most urgent problem and should be of great value and interest to lawyers, educators, public officials and — in fact — all citizens of South Carolina.

HOW TO PROVE A PRIMA FACIE CASE, 3rd Ed. Howard Hilton Spellman. New York, Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1954. 701 Pp.

A working manual for lawyers, presenting questions to ask the witness and answers necessary to prove a prima facie case in many recurring situations in general trial practice. As an example, under the heading "Death Action ('Wrongful Death')": the Testimony

of Witness to Accident, Testimony of Father of Deceased, Testimony of Physician, and Testimony of Undertaker. A subsection entitled "Hints" then treats of such questions as declarations of pain and their admissibility, funeral expenses as proper items of damage, and degree of proof required. A subsection entitled "Source Cases" supplies leading cases from almost every jurisdiction as a starting point for research. The book should be extremely useful to the beginning practitioner, and of value to the practiced lawyer as a check on his trial planning.

THE CASE OF MRS. Surratt. By Guy W. Moore. Univ. of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Okla., 1954. 118 Pp.

Mr. Moore has pleasingly presented a well documented study of the actual trial, and attendant circumstances, of the woman at whose boardinghouse the plot to assassinate President Lincoln was allegedly formulated and who allegedly had knowledge of and took part in the plot. Though convicted and hanged, the word "allegedly" is perhaps proper in view of the fact that her trial before a military court was undoubtedly a mockery of justice. Aside from its historical interest, this book is a striking reminder of the unpleasant truth that at times the administration of justice in this great country largely ignores the letter and spirit of our Constitution and laws and instead follows the hasty and ill-conceived sentiments of the populace.

HATRED, RIDICULE OR CONTEMPT. By Joseph Dean. Constable & Co., London, 1953. 259 Pp.

This entertainingly written collection of the outstanding English libel cases of the 19th and 20th centuries provides a most informative observation of the law, lawyers and personalities in litigation seeking to protect a person's reputation and—perhaps more frequently—to excessively recover for non-existent damages. The reader will find this book of interest not only as a commentary on the attitudes of society and the courts in regard to the matter of libel, but also as a vivid account of the outstanding English legal talent in action in the court-room.

YESTERDAYS. By Louis S. Levy. Library Publishers, New York, 1954. 354 Pp. \$3.75.

This collection of personality sketches by an outstanding member of the New York Bar gives a series of brief but illuminating pictures of the lawyers, businessmen and politicians who were notable figures in their respective fields during the first half of the 20th century. Of particular interest to the lawyer are the candid comments on the unusual divergent personalities comprising the leaders of the bar and the way in which each utilized his particular traits in the approach to and the handling of legal controversies. Although only about half of the book deals with members of the legal profession, the remaining sketches are of interest in understanding the personalities of the leaders of business during the past fifty years and are of value to a well informed lawyer.

It is the purpose of the American Bar Research Center to serve the legal profession. One of its first projects has been the establishment of the "Research Clearing House"—a subject index of unpublished legal theses and current legal research projects on file in the accredited law schools of the country. This information as received is catalogued and classified by appropriate subjects so that the Research Center may be in position to furnish information readily to those interested.

In May 1954 the Research Center issued its Publication No. 1—a list of all such items reported by the law schools up to that date. On October 1, 1954, Supplement A to Publication No. 1 became available. This Supplement covers the academic year 1953-54. Both booklets are for sale by the American Bar Research Center *at cost*. Publication No. 1—\$1.50 per copy; Supplement A—50c per copy.

Part I of this publication includes a list of unpublished legal theses showing the name of author, title of paper, date and the library where the thesis is on file. If any other library or any person interested desires to have access to any of these theses, arrangements must be made in each case with the depository library.

Part II, the list of current legal research projects, includes the name of the person engaged in each project, the subject matter and the place where the research is being carried on.



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