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## Book Notes

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## BOOK NOTES

**IT'S YOUR LAW.** By Charles P. Curtis. Harvard University Press. 1954. Pp. 155. \$3.75.

This book by a member of a distinguished Boston law firm contains four essays, entitled *The Advocate*, *The Lawyer*, *The Trial Court* and *Courts of Appeal*. The author raises serious questions, and presents interesting, albeit sometimes impertinent, answers. When does an advocate have a duty to tell a lie in the service of his client? At times it is proper to be less than candid even with the court, says Mr. Curtis. Should a contract be construed in accordance with the intention of the parties? Unsatisfactory, not to say absurd, says the author, and he presents his own theory of the construction of statutes and legal documents, a theory that deserves the serious consideration of lawyers and judges. What is the function of the jury? Mr. Curtis introduces this discussion by saying that his uncle thought the jury served "the great purpose of ridding the neighborhood of its sons of bitches," and he finds that this point of view contains a deep insight. Mr. Curtis' book should be interesting reading for the thoughtful lawyer.

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**AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW.** By Bernard Schwartz. Cambridge University Press. 1955. Pp. xiv, 364. \$5.00.

This is a scholarly and well-written book by a New York University law professor that should be useful to the student of constitutional law, or to the lawyer who wishes to be brought up to date on the current doctrines of the Supreme Court of the United States. It was written to be used as a text for the teaching of American constitutional law in English universities. The author is familiar with English constitutional law as well as American, and frequently draws on English decisions to compare the two systems. The emphasis is on important recent decisions of the Supreme Court, but theory receives an appropriate amount of attention. Bryce and Laski receive almost as many references as Marshall and Frankfurter. Throughout the book the treatment of constitutional problems is objective and fair.

**LAW OFFICE MANAGEMENT.** (Third Edition). By Dwight G. McCarty. Prentice-Hall, Inc. Pp. 511, index. \$6.95.

This third edition of **LAW OFFICE MANAGEMENT**, originally published in 1926, is an up-to-date collection of aids in the management of a law office as it pertains to bookkeeping, filing, equipment, personnel, planning, routine, psychology, and even further, to the development of the lawyer's personality.

The lawyer's adaptation to his own needs of the wealth of charts, plans and forms reproduced in facsimile should easily result in a more enjoyable and leisurely practice.