

that they must become familiar with the principles of the law ; and they will reply that they have no time for that, they are so occupied with their cases. They have learned their A B C's, and have got over into the pictures.

Now, the study of cases, as they arise in practice, is not to be neglected. But he who does no more will never manage his cases well, nor advise well in them—never. He may think he does. He may think, when he pockets his client's money, that he gets it by no false pretences ; and his client may never learn the cheat. To be sure, if, in a particular case, he succeeds, that is all that is necessary. But if he loses, the difficulty may, and often does, lie in a mistake of which he never becomes conscious. So, if he he wins, it may be by another's folly, not his own wisdom.

The "short" way to become eminent in legal knowledge, is to study perseveringly legal principles. He who will not employ this means, need never hope to see this end.

J. P. B.

NOTICES OF NEW BOOKS.

Principles of the Law of Personal Property, intended for the use of Students in Conveyancing. By Joshua Williams, Esq. Second American from the Second English edition. With Notes and References to the latest American Decisions, by Benjamin Gerhard and Samuel Wetherill. Philadelphia : T. & J. W. Johnson. 1855. 8vo, pp. 484.

Mr. Williams' two treatises on personal and real property have been regarded, both in England and this country, with very great favor. The author has a most satisfactory style of composition. Clear and concise, and at the same time accurate and full, he gives in a reasonable space all the doctrines and decisions of the subject of which he treats.

The present edition of the work on Personal Property is enriched by the very learned and able notes of Messrs. Gerhard and Wetherill. These notes show the greatest thoroughness in research, and the most conscientious care in the citation of authorities. The learned editors seem to have spared no pains to render their labors as complete and useful as possible. They have made the book, indeed, most valuable "to the American profession, both as an elementary composition for the student, and as a book of reference to the practitioner." The character of the notes may be

judged of, by the statement of the editors that "more than thirty-five hundred cases have been referred to in them; and in almost every instance where a citation has been made, the original book has been consulted, and, when practicable, the opinions of the judges have been quoted, rather than the syllabus of the reporter of their decisions, or any abstracts of such judgments." Edited in such a manner, Williams on Personal Property cannot fail to become a standard work in this country.

Independently, however, of its merits as a text book, it has peculiar claims to attention, as a very successful attempt to supply a want which has begun to be seriously felt. While there are many admirable treatises upon separate branches of the law of personal property, there have been hitherto none of substantial value which, treating the subject as a whole, have brought its general doctrines into relation, and presented them in a systematic and logical form. The result of this has been, that lawyers, compelled in most cases to study each branch in an independent manner, have come to lose sight of many important analogies; and a painful want of unity in the various parts, has been produced. No one who will turn over the pages of any general work on the common law, can fail to be struck with this. Within the boundaries of real estate, all is connected and logical enough, but when he passes to the province of personal property, he finds only a series of treatises on topics whose relation seems scarcely more than that of arbitrary juxtaposition. Mr. Williams' book must be regarded as an important step towards a more scientific development of the subject.

A Treatise on the Law of Executors and Administrators. By Edward Vaughan Williams. Fourth American, from the last London edition. With Notes and References to American Authorities, by Asa I. Fish. Two vols. Philadelphia: R. H. Small. 1855.

Williams on Executors is a book which it is unnecessary to praise. It has already become a legal classic. Admirable in its thoroughness and accuracy, it occupies the field without a rival. A fourth American edition shows that its merits are fully appreciated on this side of the Atlantic. Mr. Fish's notes are full and careful, and adapt this work to the necessities of the profession in the United States. The book is well printed and got up, and presents a handsome exterior.