

## BOOK REVIEWS.

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**MORTUARY LAW.** By **SIDNEY PERLEY**, of the Massachusetts Bar.  
Boston: George B. Reed. 1896.

In legal literature the end of making many books seems much further in the future than the exhaustion of new subjects for literary effort. Mr. Perley, by filling a two hundred and twenty page volume with the exposition of a branch of the law to which no other legal work has been exclusively devoted, has surely performed a noteworthy act. "The law concerning dead human bodies" begins with the last sickness and carries the reader through the records of deaths and burials, the property, custody, transportation, exhumation, and disposition of dead bodies, funerals, grave-stones, and the somewhat bulky law relating to cemeteries. The author has treated the subject exhaustively and has cited nearly four hundred cases, most of which are American decisions. Owing to the large amount of money expended each year for funerals and burial places, and as the questions arising in regard to dead bodies must be determined quickly, it seems that this volume, dealing with these questions, should be both convenient and valuable to the practicing attorney. The author may perhaps be justly criticized for too diffuse a style and for sometimes wandering from the technical legal path into the fields of poetry and legend.

*F. S. M.*

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**A PRACTICAL TREATISE ON THE LAW OF RECEIVERS**, with extended consideration of Receivers of Corporations. By **CHARLES FISK BEACH, JR.**, of the New York Bar. Second Edition, with elaborate additions, etc. By **WILLIAM A. ALDERSON**, of the St. Louis Bar. New York: Baker, Voorhis & Co. 1897.

The frequency with which courts of equity have been petitioned in recent years to exercise their preventive jurisdiction has rendered the subject of receivers and receiverships of great importance. It is natural that the text-book makers should keep pace with this development, and the present volume is an excellent illustration of the fact.

Nine years have elapsed since the first edition was published. In speaking of his labor, the editor of this edition says: "I have not been satisfied to merely present the decisions of the various courts, but upon questions as to which courts have disagreed, and concerning many propositions not yet adjudicated, I have indulged in discussion and the expression of my own views." Perhaps the practice of making extensive quotations from reported opinions, which constitutes a large part of the editor's discussions, may be ques-

tioned; probably a statement of the principle underlying the decisions, or of their apparent trend, would be preferable, and the work would not be less interesting if more attention had been given to the editor's style and to the rules of syntax.

The treatment of the general subject is logical and complete. Succeeding an introductory chapter on receivers generally and on the nature of a receivership, appear chapters on the jurisdiction of courts and on conflicts between courts in the appointment of receivers. Eligibility, the principles of and the proceedings to obtain receivers, and appeals in such proceedings, are next treated. After discussing the receiver's bond, the effect of his appointment, his rights and powers, his duties and liabilities, the author continues with chapters on receivers of railroad corporations, receivers' certificates, receivers of corporations other than railroad, including national banks, of real property, of mortgaged property, of partnership property, of trust property, and in judgment creditors' actions, etc. He next treats of suits by and against receivers, of sales by receivers, injunctions, receivers' accounts and compensation, their removal, substitution and discharge, and concludes with a chapter recapitulating the general principles of the entire work.

The editor has considerably increased the size of the volume, and seems to have produced a practical treatise in which the most recent authorities may be found. He occasionally designates the judges of the United States Circuit Court by the letters C. J. These letters have so universally been regarded as an abbreviation of Chief Justice, that the innovation may prove confusing. The Table of Contents and the Index are especially complete. *W. B. L.*