

CURRENT LEGAL PERIODICALS AND BOOK REVIEWS.

A TREATISE ON STOCK AND STOCKHOLDERS, COVERING WATERED STOCK, TRUSTS, CONSOLIDATIONS, AND HOLDING COMPANIES. By ARTHUR L. HELLIWELL. Pp. xxxii+1071. St. Paul, Minn.: Keefe-Davidson Company, 1903.

In these days of giant corporations and combinations, when modern trade seems to be centralizing more and more in the hands of great companies; at a time when nearly every man of business is interested and holds, to a greater or less amount, shares of stock in some corporation, there is no subject of more general interest or importance than that with which the author here deals. Were anything needed to impress upon the mind the significance of the modern company, the trial of Whitaker Wright, the collapse of the "Shipbuilding Trust," and the recent Northern Securities decision would be amply sufficient.

Not only is the book most timely, but it is a work of real merit. Its intended scope is thus outlined in the preface: "The author has made no effort to cover the entire field of corporation law. His purpose has been to select and elaborate those branches of the subject on which the present-day practitioner is most frequently consulted. Especial attention has been given, therefore, to the several forms of stock and the rights derived from the ownership thereof, the acquisition of membership, the transfer of shares, stockholders' meetings and elections, the power of corporate officers, dividends, consolidations and holding companies, the liability of stockholders, and the defences to actions instituted for the enforcement thereof."

We are inclined to agree with the author as to the practical use and importance of the field which he has chosen to cover and also to commend his manner of treatment. He writes as one well versed in the subject which he is expounding and presents the law in a clear and admirable style. The text is amplified by notes in which are cited the most recent decisions upon the subject under discussion. For the most part citations of the earlier cases are omitted except where used to trace the development of the law. The book contains a short table of contents at the head of each chapter, and its use for reference is further facilitated by a well-arranged index and table of cases.

The author has certainly written a most creditable book, one which should not only prove of value to the practitioner and the student, but also of interest to the layman. B. O. F.

A TREATISE ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL LIMITATIONS WHICH REST UPON THE LEGISLATIVE POWER OF THE STATES OF THE AMERICAN UNION. By THOMAS M. COOLEY. Seventh Edition, with large additions, giving Results of Recent Cases. By VICTOR H. LANE. Pp. cxxiii+1036. Boston: Little, Brown & Company, 1903.

In a list of fifty-two law text-books most frequently cited by the supreme courts of the various states in the first six months of 1902, "Cooley's Constitutional Limitations" ranks fourth. The sixth edition of this work, which has become of such widespread authority, was published in 1890 during the life of Judge Cooley, but owing to the confining nature of the official duties of the author, that edition was prepared by C. Angell, of the Detroit Bar.

In view of these facts and the great development in constitutional law and the new questions which have arisen in the past few years, it is unnecessary to comment upon the timeliness and need for this new edition, which has been prepared by Victor H. Lane, Professor of Law in the University of Michigan, at the request of the heirs of Judge Cooley. The text stands as it did in the last previous edition, and the addition of new matter, to bring the book to date, has been made entirely to the notes. All the additions appear in the bracketed matter in the notes, and where new references have been introduced into the text the matter referred to has been printed in a single column, thus distinguishing it from the old notes, which are printed in double column. A great number of the new cases cited will be found in the Lawyers' Reports Annotated and the American State Reports, citations to the National Reporter and System of Reports have been added for as many of the old cases as possible, as well as for the new cases. The notes have been prepared with a great deal of care. The book is well indexed and the value of the edition to the profession cannot be doubted.

B. O. F.

A TEXT-BOOK OF LEGAL MEDICINE AND TOXICOLOGY. Edited by FREDERICK PETERSON, M.D., and WALTER S. HAINES, M.D. Volume II. Philadelphia, New York, and London: W. B. Saunders & Company, 1904. Pp. 825. 8vo.

The first volume of this book was reviewed in the AMERICAN LAW REGISTER for July, 1903. The second volume is divided into two parts. The first part is a continuation of the subject of the first volume, Legal Medicine, including articles on Malingering and Feigned Disorders, the Legal Aspect of Pregnancy, Abortion, Infanticide, Malpractice, etc. The second

part, composing the major portion of the volume, is devoted to Toxicology, and constitutes a thorough treatise on the properties, effect, and detection of various kinds of poison.

The purpose of the book is not to make every lawyer his own expert, but to afford a ready means of acquiring in a short time sufficient knowledge on any given point of legal medicine to conduct an examination or cross-examination of an expert with a fair amount of intelligence. To this purpose the book is admirably adapted. It is accurate and concise, and as brief as is consistent with thoroughness.

R. B. E.

STREET RAILWAY REPORTS,—ANNOTATED,—REPORTING THE ELECTRICAL RAILWAY AND STREET RAILWAY DECISIONS OF THE FEDERAL AND STATE COURTS IN THE UNITED STATES. Volume I. By FRANK B. GILBERT, of the Albany Bar. Pp. xvi+943. Albany, N. Y.: Matthew Bender, 1904.

One has but to note the increase in the number of books edited and published, which contain solely a collection of cases embodying the law on a particular subject, to realize that the case system is governing and proving its usefulness and practicability not only to schools of instruction but to practising lawyers as well. The law of many subjects has been so collected and this book is an illustration of the extension of the system in still another direction.

When we consider the maze of street railways in our own city and realize that a goodly portion of the work of the average lawyer results from the operation thereof, we can see at once the importance of a collection such as this.

This is slightly different from an ordinary case-book, however, it being but the first of a series of books to be published in the future as the cases arise and are decided in the various states. The object of the series is stated briefly in the preface as follows, "to report all the cases decided in the Federal Courts, in the courts of last resort of the states, and the important cases decided in lower courts of original or appellate jurisdiction from April 1, 1903, relating in any way to the management, operation, or control of street railways, and the rights, duties, and liabilities of street railway companies." From this statement can be seen the wide range of the book, the fact that only cases of importance and weight will be detailed, and, more important still, only recent cases. Such a collection as this, issued as the cases arise, will allow the lawyer to keep pace with the law of all states on this subject and to acquire an

“up-to-dateness” which could not be obtained by a scattered and promiscuous reading.

It is to be noted that the decisions are from all of the states, and so will render it of general utility throughout the country. The cases are arranged not according to subjects, but according to the states in which they were decided, so that we have the decisions of each state grouped together and not scattered throughout the book, as is frequently the case.

The notes—an essential constituent of every case-book—are fully worked out and greatly widen the scope of the book. While only recent cases are given in full, in the notes can be found abundant reference to former cases, and also to points not of sufficient importance to warrant a report in full. An index to the cases, which is really a brief synopsis of the law of the cases cited in the book, adds to its completeness.

The book is undoubtedly one which can be utilized by the lawyer and student alike. To a lawyer whose work involves the conduct of cases for or against street railway companies, it should be invaluable and do away to a great extent with tiring research which would otherwise be necessitated. F. G. S.