

## BOOK REVIEWS.

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REPORT OF THE TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION. Philadelphia: Dando Printing & Publishing Company. 1906. 2 Vols. Pp. 836 and 466.

This report includes the transactions of the St. Paul meeting of the Association. The record of the new statute law enacted during the past year, as set forth in the address of the president, George R. Peck, Esq., indicates clearly the alarming tendency of our law makers to pass many ill-considered and unnecessarily voluminous acts. This aspect of the new legislation is also emphasized by the paper by Hon. Alton B. Parker on "The Congestion of Law," in which the causes which have led to these conditions are carefully analyzed. The first volume contains also the reports of the usual committees, and the second the proceedings in detail of the various section meetings, including the valuable address of William Draper Lewis, Esq., as chairman of the Section on Legal Education on "Legal Education and the Failure of the Bar to Perform its Public Duties."

*R. D. J.*

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THE LUNACY LAW OF THE WORLD. By J. A. CHALONER. Roanoke Rapids, N. C.: Palmetto Press. 1906. Pp. xxviii, 348 (unbound).

The purpose of this author is to call to the attention of lawyers and of citizens generally the "atrocious spectacle of an utter disregard for the very first elementary principles of common law, common justice and common sense" (p. xx). The central point in this lurid picture is the failure of the statutes of many states and foreign countries to require that specific personal notice shall be given to every alleged lunatic of the initiation of lunacy proceedings. The attitude of the author can hardly be considered impartial, in view of his extravagant language. Furthermore, his statements are sometimes misleading. For example, in the list of states where "no notice, express or implied, shall be given the alleged lunatic or the alleged incompetent" (p. xviii), is included Pennsylvania. As to incompetent persons, this is clearly an error, for both the

present Act of May 28, 1907, and the laws which it supplants, provide distinctly for written notice, which must be served upon the alleged weak-minded person. As to insane persons, the statement quoted above is misleading, for the Lunacy Act of June 13, 1836, provides for some form of notice, and it has been decided in *Comm. v. Groh*, 10 Pa. C. C. 557 (1891), that the failure to give notice will result in the setting aside of the subsequent proceedings. It is, of course, impossible to examine here the statutes of the various states, but the references above given are sufficient to show that the present book is hardly a dispassionate investigation of the subject. It is, however, doubtless true that in many jurisdictions the statutes on the subject of lunacy should be amended to provide more clearly for adequate personal notice of proposed lunacy proceedings. If the present work serves to call effective attention to these defects in our laws, its publication will have been justified.

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THE LAW AND PRACTICE IN BANKRUPTCY UNDER THE NATIONAL BANKRUPTCY ACT OF 1898. By WILLIAM MILLER COLLIER. Sixth Edition by Frank B. Gilbert. Albany, N. Y.: Matthew Bender & Co. 1907. Pp. liv. 1077.

So rapid has been the development of the law of bankruptcy under the Act of 1898 as amended and so numerous the decisions construing the intricate provisions of that statute that it is not surprising that after a lapse of only two years a new edition of Collier's Bankruptcy has been published. The present volume brings the work down to April, 1907, and includes all the decisions reported in the American Bankruptcy Reports to volume 17. In the treatment of the subject in the present revision there has been no departure from the general plan adopted in the previous editions. This is undoubtedly wise, because although that arrangement sometimes seems confusing it has the merit of familiarity to those who have used the earlier volumes. The new edition contains the full text of the Bankruptcy Act and the usual collection of forms for use in bankruptcy cases. Throughout is shown the same careful and thorough work which has earned for the work the approbation of so many practitioners in the bankruptcy courts.

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