

BOOK REVIEWS

SELECT ESSAYS IN ANGLO-AMERICAN LEGAL HISTORY. By Various Authors. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1908. Pp. vii, 823.

This, the second volume in the series which is being published under the direction of a Special Committee of the Association of American Law Schools, will undoubtedly receive, as it deserves, the warm commendation of all legal scholars. It makes accessible in convenient form a series of essays of men of well-recognized special ability, dealing with the history of particular topics of law. These studies are classified under four main headings: "Sources of the Law," "The Courts, Their Organization and Jurisdiction," "Procedure" and "Equity." Among the numerous authors are included James Barr Ames, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., Sir Frederick Pollock, James Bradley Thayer, Frederic William Maitland, Heinrich Brunner and many others almost as distinguished. The mere mention of these names alone at once suggests the wealth of material, the brilliancy of style and the richness of thought contained within this single volume. The very contrast of the treatment of similar subjects by such men as Brunner and Maitland, the authors of the first two essays, is stimulating in its disclosure of the typical modes of thought of different nationalities.

The work of the Committee has been well done and their labor has produced a volume useful to every student of the sources and development of our English and American system of jurisprudence.

R. D. J.

A TREATISE ON FRAUDULENT CONVEYANCES AND CREDITORS' REMEDIES AT LAW AND IN EQUITY. By Dewitt C. Moore. Albany, N. Y.: Matthew Bender & Co. 1908. Two volumes. Pp. cclxvii, 1302.

The subject of fraudulent conveyances is one of such perplexity that any careful, conscientious and scientific work on the fundamental questions involved is sure to meet with a

cordial welcome. To this reception Mr. Moore's two volumes are certainly entitled. His discussions of the fundamental principles involved in cases of fraudulent conveyances, particularly where land is involved, show a most thorough, painstaking and therefore reliable investigation of authorities in all the courts of this country. Possibly his work should be more accurately described as constituting a digest rather than a treatise or even a text-book. His treatment of every branch of the subject discloses rather a summary of decisions than a general discussion of the basis, historical or analytical, on which these conclusions of the courts rest. The result is that the book is probably of greater value to the overworked practitioner, whose primary need is a quickly accessible knowledge of the present state of the law, than to the scholar of jurisprudence. For the former the author's style and methods are admirably suited, but for the latter the book will probably, but not unnaturally, prove disappointing.

One especially commendable feature of the book is that there is included not only a discussion of the legal problems, but also a helpful treatment in the chapters on Evidence, Trial, Pleadings, &c., of the inevitable difficulties which develop in the application of the principles to the actual conduct of a case in court.

One portion of the work deals with questions arising primarily under or rather because of the Federal Bankruptcy Act. This is so useful that any one who is constantly concerned with the effect of bankruptcy proceedings upon the validity of real estate titles cannot help regretting that the scope of the discussion was not even broader and the treatment more detailed.

As a whole Mr. Moore's work merits warm approbation for its thoroughness, for its logical structure, for its clear style and for accurate collection of authorities on a most intricate subject.

R. D. J.

