

BOOK REVIEWS.

CASES ON BILLS AND NOTES. By Howard L. Smith and Wm. Underhill Moore, Professors of Law in the University of Wisconsin. American Casebook Series. St. Paul: West Publishing Co. 1910.

The keynote of the series of casebooks, of which this is one, is to provide, as stated on page v of the Preface, "a series of scholarly casebooks, prepared with special reference to the needs and limitations of the classroom on the fundamental subjects of legal education, which, through a judicious re-arrangement of emphasis, shall provide adequate training combined with a thorough knowledge of the general principles of the subject." To accomplish this, and, at the same time, satisfactorily treat the later decisions, while not ignoring those older cases, standing in the minds of teachers of the law and practitioners for certain definite lines of established law and time-honored legal principles, has undoubtedly required much labor and painstaking care. This volume contains a well considered, judiciously arranged, and thought inspiring collection of decisions on the law of bills and notes.

Although the later American decisions have been included in so far as they tend to indicate the modern development of the law, the student, as well as the practitioner having occasion to refer to this book, will find a large proportion of the older English and American cases. Some of the older ones have been omitted, owing largely to space requirements. Others, it will be found, have, for reasons which are apparent to the reader, been placed in the footnotes. The value of the book for the purposes of reference might, perhaps, be enhanced by including all of the cases in the footnotes in the table of cases, instead of indexing therein only those quoted more or less at length in the notes. Decisions like *Chester v. Dorr*, 41 N. Y. 279, footnote, page 452; *Charles v. Marsden*, 1 Taunt. 224, footnote, page 453, and the other cases, which are of sufficient importance to be included in the footnotes, should be easily accessible. Much valuable material on the law, as affected by "The Uniform Negotiable Instruments Law" (quoted in full in the Appendix, pages 711-735), which is found in the later decisions, contained in this volume, would be more readily accessible to the student, and the effect of the act more clearly brought to his attention, if some practicable way could be devised to direct attention to the particular part of the act to which the particular decision relates, using due care not to lead him to see in it a source of new law rather than a codification of the old. The facts of each case have been carefully digested, but care has been taken not to deprive the student of the excellent training in clear analysis found in mastering the facts for himself.

In conclusion, it may be said that this casebook seems admirably adapted to accomplish the difficult task the learned editors have set before it.

I. T. P.

