

BOOK REVIEWS.

BELGIUM, NEUTRAL AND LOYAL: THE WAR OF 1914. By Emile Waxweiler, Director of the Solvay Institute of Sociology at Brussels, Member of the Royal Academy of Belgium. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1915.

The appeal of this most valuable addition to the literature on the so-called "Case of Belgium" is directed particularly to those who are desirous of getting at the facts of the case, but who have neither the time nor the inclination to examine carefully the vari-colored books of the belligerent nations. Although the purpose of the author is to show the motives which dictated the actions of the governments of Germany and Belgium from July 25th to August 9th, 1914, the real worth of the book is in the clear statement of the facts upon which these conclusions are based. While every reader will be well able to form an individual opinion from the facts presented, it is probable that very few opinions will not be in accord with those of the author.

In substance, the book may be divided into two parts. The aim of the greater part is to justify the position of Belgium regarding her neutrality and the course of action pursued during that short period immediately preceding the actual invasion of Belgium by Germany. After a brief résumé of the relations, both official and public, between Belgium and Germany during the last twenty-five years, there follows a detailed account of the interviews between the representatives of Germany, England, France, and Belgium, and excerpts from the official documents of the diplomatic departments of the respective governments, in so far as they relate to the position of Belgium and the maintenance of Belgian neutrality during the impending war.

The noticeable absence of the influence of sentiment and the plainly evident desire of the author, though a Belgian, to record all the facts and only facts, makes the volume a reliable source of information in examining the truth of the Belgian contention that she adhered to the strictest conception of neutrality in relation to the guaranteeing powers under the Treaty of 1839, and that this fact was recognized by those powers, Germany included, until after the German advance into Belgium, when Germany began to cast imputations against Belgian loyalty.

The last chapter is devoted to a denial of the accusations concerning Belgium's conduct toward the invading Germans and to a review of the alleged unjustifiable attitude of the Germans in the matter of reprisals. The impossibility of proving or disproving the great majority of reported incidents at this time, due to the paucity of detail, greatly reduces the weight of the evidence on both sides.

The publication is an English translation of a book which appeared originally in Switzerland, during the early months of 1915. It was issued simultaneously in French and German, and at once became exceedingly popular. It has been widely read in Germany and, notwithstanding the Imperial censorship, received favorable comment from the socialist paper *Vorwärts*. The legal mind will appreciate and approve the concise method of treatment.

P. C. W.

OFFICIAL INDEX TO STATE LEGISLATION. A Cumulative Numerical and Subject Index and a Complete Record of all Bills Introduced in all State Legislatures. Compiled and Published for the Co-operating State Libraries and Legislative Reference Departments, under the Direction of the Joint Committee on National Legislative Information Service of the National Association of State Libraries and the American Association of Law Libraries. New York: Law Reporting Company, 1915.

The bound volume of the Official Index to State Legislation for 1915, gives in concrete form a tool that has long been desired, not only by the legal profession, but also by all those who are laboring in the fields of social work, or have to do with new problems in legislation.

The first step toward this work was the founding of Legislative Reference Departments in some of the states. Prior to the founding of these state bureaus, the libraries were asked to take up the work, but it was found to be far too large a proposition to be handled by a library staff, and far too expensive to be taken up by libraries as a separate piece of work. The solution of the problem by the creation of State Reference Bureaus, and by extending the service to all libraries that desire it, by means of the index, seems a happy one.

The bound volume is only the concrete evidence and the accumulated result of the work done throughout the year. Every week the subscribers receive weekly supplements, recording the legislative activity of all the state legislatures, and showing the exact status of each bill that has been introduced in any legislature. Each bill is given, its subject, the number and date of bill, by whom it was introduced and the progress it has made. Thus any person interested in any sort of legislation may know just what is being done at any period of time during the entire year. The value of the work will be apparent at once to any one who has to find out about current legislation, and who has found it impossible to secure such information without arduous labor.

The cumulative volume is immensely valuable because of its subject index, which classifies all the legislation for the year under appropriate heads; the legislation for each state is given separately, so that finding what legislation has passed in any state is a very simple matter in spite of the immense mass which has to be indexed under certain subjects.

The gathering of all this matter is an enormous work, and necessarily an expensive work; yet it seems that the Index is an absolutely necessary tool for the worker in legislative fields.

Mr. Godard, one of the joint committee for the work, has labored long and ardently to make such a work possible; his associates on the committee are all well known and most able members of the National Associations of State and Law Libraries. Their names alone are a sufficient guarantee of the conscientious thoroughness and value of any work which may be done under their direction.

M. C. K.

TITLES TO REAL PROPERTY. By Ralph W. Aigler. (Being Volume 3 of a 4-volume set of Cases on the Law of Property.) Pp. xx, 953. St. Paul: West Publishing Company, 1916.

Either because the subject is not thought so attractive as some others, or because the monumental work of John Chipman Gray has been thought so well to cover the field that nothing more need be done, there have been fewer attempts at a comprehensive Case Book, or series of Case Books on the subject of "Property," than on any other fundamental topics taught in law schools. The present work constitutes one of the West Publishing Company's series of Case Books, and its general form needs no comment.

In the important matter of the substance of the work, Professor Aigler is entitled to very high praise. The cases and authorities used are excellent. It is believed that on the whole they are more satisfactory than those chosen by Gray in the volumes covering the same subject matter as is covered by this book.

In the matter of notes, it seems that the author has well accomplished the two purposes which it is conceived notes in such a book can serve. Just enough citations are given to show the trend of authority, and striking and interesting cases are shortly abstracted in the notes, without, in most cases, giving the decisions, thus stimulating investigation and discussion on the part of the student and leading him to test, by a glance at the report, the accuracy of his judgment concerning the problem presented.

The arrangement of topics is somewhat different from that in Gray's Cases, but it is believed that it is logical. Taken altogether, the book is one of the best Case Books we have seen on any subject.