

BOOK NOTICES.

Principles of the Law of Wills with Selected Cases. Stewart Chaplin, Baker, Voorhis & Co., New York, 1892.

Prof. Chaplin has fallen into line with many of the modern legal authors, who write mainly for the use of students, and has united in the same volume both text and reprints of some of the most important illustrative cases. However variant the ideas of legal educators, nearly all agree that some reading of cases is indispensable to the student's appreciation of legal principles. The growth of our law schools, makes impracticable any study of cases, where they are only to be found in the school libraries. Collections of cases either in, or in connection with, the text-books used, are indispensable. The author has given in full many ancient and valuable cases, practically inaccessible to those not within reach of large libraries. In addition to these he has given abstracts of others, and condensed into the form of illustrations the essence of many more. The table of cases contains nearly 2000, many of them as recent as those in the 61st of Connecticut. The *motif* which runs through the book is the distinction between the testator's own wish, and his formal statement of it; each of which called his "will." As the author says, the latter derives its only intrinsic value from the fact that the former is back of and embodied in it. This distinction and this proposition may be applied to illuminate the dark corners, and solve the difficult problems of the law of wills, and are constantly so employed throughout the book. The several chapters deal with Testamentary Incapacity; Undue Influence and Fraud; Execution; Revocation and Republication; Form, Nature and Scope of Wills; and Construction, Presumptions and Rules of Law. A table of definitions follows, and the English Wills Act is given in the Appendix. The book cannot but be exceedingly useful to the practicing lawyer, as well as to those for whose use it is primarily intended.

United States Circuit Courts of Appeals Reports, Vol. I. West Publishing Co., St. Paul, Minn., 1892.

The recent organization of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals is the occasion of a new series of reports by the West Publishing Co., of which this volume is the first. It contains all the cases that have been decided up to date with many valuable annotations, as well as the acts of Congress establishing the courts, and the rules of procedure in the various circuits, also elaborately annotated. In the note to *Law Ow Bew v. U. S.* the jurisdiction of the court is discussed at some length, as well as the

jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in the direct review of trial courts and on error and appeals from this court. The typography is good, but the binding is not up to the usual standard.

Lawyers' Reports, Annotated, Book XVI. The Lawyers' Co-operative Publishing Co., Rochester, N. Y., 1892.

This book is the last of the series of 1892 and contains all the current cases of general value and importance decided in the United States, State and Territorial Courts, with elaborate annotations. The cases are carefully selected, which, in a work covering so large a field, is the most important element. In other respects as well the book is up to the standard of the series and should be in every library.

General Digest of the United States (Annual 1892). The Lawyers' Co-operative Publishing Co., Rochester, N. Y.

A digest containing all the cases in the higher courts of the United States, England and Canada is indeed a stupendous work, but it has become one of the necessities of modern practice. The Lawyers' Co-operative Publishing Co. have completed the task for the current year with excellent success. The cases are digested with remarkable accuracy and thoroughness. The classification is admirable and the references complete. These are the main requisites of a complete digest, and it is only necessary to add that the volume is kept within convenient size and is serviceably bound.

The Law of Electric Wires in Streets and Highways. By Edward Q. Keasbey of the New Jersey Bar. Callaghan & Co., Chicago, Ill., 1892.

The use of the streets for the erection of poles and the stringing of wires, has been, and will continue to be a fruitful source of controversy, and Mr. Keasbey is the first to undertake a logical treatment of the subject. The questions are so new and the law is developing so rapidly that the author does not attempt to do more than suggest the general principles applicable to such cases, and correct and examine the authorities. The discussion includes both overhead and underground wires, the extent of legislative and municipal control, the rights of abutting owners and the conflicting rights of the companies themselves, as for example, in case of interference with the telephone service by the proximity of other wires carrying more powerful currents. The work is thoroughly done, all the recent cases being carefully digested and considered, which, as well as the comparative novelty and growing importance of the subject, makes it of particular value.