BOOK REVIEWS


Nowadays when books are being multiplied so rapidly, one may rightly demand of an author what excuse he has for adding to the difficulties which already confront him when he must select from a rapidly increasing mass of books a part of the small number which he can hope to read. The book here being considered has a real excuse for being. It does not purport to be a law book. But in these days when competition in business is so keen it should make an appeal to the business man and be of great practical value to whoever has a good will to protect. The lawyer should find it interesting. Besides being a very vivid and accurate portrayal of the difficulties which attend the protection of a good will, trade-mark or trade-name, it offers very practical suggestions for the solution of those difficulties.

Parts one and two of the book, comprising the first twelve chapters, are devoted to showing what good will is and to discussing the devices, such as trade-marks, trade-names, etc., which one may use to acquire it by enabling the public to recognize or identify his product. This part of the book is very practical and is well written.

Part three is devoted to what the author terms “Defending a Business from Unfair Competition.” The object of the author is to minimize infringement. He is very intolerant of anything that savors of unfairness or which looks like an attempt to steal away any part of a good will that has been built up honestly. His views, so interestingly written, are distinctly in advance of those of the United States Supreme Court as shown by the decisions of that tribunal on the subject he discusses. Hence it is probable that it will not be altogether convincing to the mind of the lawyer. On the whole, however, the book is a very good piece of work and will do good. The business man should be grateful to the author for an invaluable guide book.

H. W. A.

This little work is distinctly valuable and has been prepared with great care. By way of introduction the editors give us a sketch of the development of the Internal Revenue System as illustrated in federal statutes beginning March 3, 1791. The new law is presented with each section carefully annotated, the references including pertinent legislation and abundant citation of federal cases and such sources as the opinions of attorneys-general, etc. Appendant to the text is an exceedingly useful list of books and pamphlets touching the general subject. Both for the citizen, who is anxious to estimate his burdens as well as his privileges under federal law, and for the practicing lawyer this volume will prove an invaluable aid and can be very heartily commended to all seeking assistance or information in the field of which it treats. Our act of 1914 is essentially a revival of the legislation of 1898. The various rulings contained in Treasury Decisions touching the interpretation of that legislation, while not conclusive, will doubtless afford a guide to controversies likely to arise touching the new law. The editors have therefore made it a special feature of their work to indicate the cases of an administrative character which may throw light upon the new regulations. It is reasonably certain that no one will need to look further than this little volume and its references for a solution of the administrative problems begotten by this taxation.

G. E. S.


“Marbury v. Madison and the Doctrine of Judicial Review,” “We the People,” “The Peletiah Webster Myth,” “The Dred Scott Decision,” and “Some Possibilities in the Way of Treaty-Making” are the titles of the five essays comprised in this book. All of them should be of interest to the legal profession. The book is written essentially from the point of view of the historian. It is a historical research into the power of courts to
disregard and declare of no effect acts passed by legislatures in excess of their constitutional authority. The author in his notes at the end of the essay has collected and classified a vast number of decisions and precedents which evidence the thoroughness and ability with which the work is done. The lawyer who reads the book will not have to be told that the author is not a lawyer. He will note terms having a very definite and technical meaning in the law which are used in a somewhat unorthodox fashion. He will also be surprised at the motive attributed to the highest court in our land when it handed down the decision in the great case of *Marbury v. Madison*. We commend the book to all who may be interested in the history of one of the most important powers of the United States Supreme Court.

H. W. A.