

BOOK NOTICES.

It is with pleasure that we greet the appearance of the "*Law Book News*, a Monthly Review of current Law Literature and Journal of Legal Bibliography," published by West Publishing Co., St. Paul, Minn. It is unpretentious in appearance truly, but in its scope it is far from being over modest. Its title fairly indicates the field which it proposes to fill. It will undoubtedly prove of great assistance to buyers of law books, enabling them to judge of the nature and merits of new publications without consulting many reviews. The publishers promise to meet a long-felt want of the profession by this new enterprise of theirs.

By the courtesy of the secretary of the University of the State of New York, Melvil Dewey, Albany, we are in receipt of the "*State Library Bulletin, Legislation No. 4.*" This little pamphlet gives in very convenient form a summary and index of legislation in the several States in 1893. The object of the publication is to point out to legislators and others the sources whence they may obtain material for a comparative study of present political problems and legislative attempts at their solution. The plan and execution of the work are admirable.

A Treatise on the Law of Mortgages of Personal Property. Fourth edition, revised and enlarged. One volume, 8vo., 900 pages. Price, \$6.00 net. By Leonard A. Jones. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston.

The former editions of this work have been so well received by the profession and occupy so high a position in modern legal literature that this new and revised edition scarcely needs an introduction, and favorable criticism can say little which is not already familiar. The clearness and comprehensiveness of the author's treatment leave little to be desired. The style is easy and flowing without being diffuse. The fundamental principles are made prominent while a wealth of detail is added. The natural and artificial difficulties of the subject are not hidden underneath deceptive general statements, but are sought out and elucidated, or, if that be impossible, are clearly indicated, that the practitioner

may not be taken unawares. The value of the work is increased by the particular discussion which the author gives to the statutory regulations of the several States. And where there is essential difference in the common law of the various sovereignties, a separate treatment is given to each of the several doctrines, and the vain attempt to reconcile irreconcilable conflicts is not attempted. One feature of this edition which deserves special mention is that in citing cases the author refers not only to the regular State and national reports, but also as far as possible, to the Reporters in the National Reporter System, to the American Decisions, to the American Reports, and to the American State Reports; thus in many instances giving references to two or three reports for the same case. This will greatly facilitate the use of the text. The mechanical work of the publishers is of a high degree of excellence, and quite in keeping with the subject matter — very substantial.

A Treatise on the Law of Liens, Common Law, Statutory, Equitable and Maritime. Second edition, revised and enlarged. By Leonard A. Jones. 2 vols., 8vo. Price, \$12.00 net. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston.

An eminent jurist in a recent work attributes the rapid and constant growth in the number and scope of liens to the extension of commerce and a higher sense of justice in legislative bodies and in the courts. But, whatever the reason, the increase of liens in number and importance is an undoubted fact. Therefore, this new edition of Jones on Liens, bringing down to date the decided cases and legislative enactments, is especially opportune. The work is characterized throughout by the author's well known learning and exhaustive research. The arrangement of the work is most admirable, volume I. being devoted to liens on personal property, and volume II. to liens on real property and maritime liens, the fundamental or natural distinctions between the several classes of liens being carefully preserved under each heading. In these two volumes is to be found in concise and convenient form practically all of the law on the subject, both common and statutory. The particular excellencies which we have found to belong to the same author's treatise on chattel mortgages also pertain to the work now under review. It is in all respects a standard work. The system of referencing is the same as that employed in Jones on Chattel Mortgages. The typography, paper and binding are of the high order which we always expect of the publishers.

A Treatise on the Law of Building and Buildings. Especially referring to building contracts, leases, easements and liens; containing also various forms useful in building operations; a glossary of words and terms commonly used by builders and artisans; and a digest of the leading decisions on building contracts and leases in the United States. By A. Parlett Lloyd, of the Baltimore bar. Second edition, revised and enlarged; 1 vol., 8vo., sheep, \$5.00 net; cloth, \$4.50 net. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston.

In this title the author has contrived to give an excellent description of the contents of his work. Building contracts and leases rest, of course, on the same fundamental principles as other contracts, their distinctive feature being the subject matter to which they relate. In the first instance building contracts are contracts for labor and material to be furnished under certain terms. But the result contemplated is a structure attached to the soil and therefore partaking of its character as realty. Hence, in determining the rights of parties to such contracts, a full discussion of the law of fixtures becomes valuable. The author's treatment of this complicated subject is clear and satisfactory. He also discusses with particularity the easements with which builders are chiefly concerned, party-walls, lateral and subjacent support, light and air, etc. The subject of building leases is treated at length as is also that of mechanics' liens. These topics have been ably expounded in general treatises on the law of real property and in Mr. Jones' exhaustive work on liens. But in this book we have the advantage of having them treated from a particular standpoint—that of the person who proposes to build. Furthermore, it is a convenience to have the whole body of law upon a single branch of industry collected into one volume. But the greatest service rendered by Mr. Lloyd in the preparation of this volume is the collection of valuable material relating specially to contracts of building; the relation between employer, architect, and builder; plans, specifications, certificates of approval, extras, and other subjects for a discussion of which we should otherwise seek in vain outside of the reported cases. When we consider the increasing importance of this branch of law, we will readily concede that there is a place for this volume in the library of every general practitioner.

Principles of Common Law Pleading. By John Jay McKelvey, of the New York Bar. Bound in cloth. Price, \$2.00 net. Baker, Voorhis & Co., New York, 1894.

This work is designed as a text-book on common-law pleading.

It contains a concise explanation of the different forms of actions and a summary of the important principles of pleading. The works of Chitty, Stephen, and other text-writers, are encumbered by a mass of technical and local rules peculiar to the English system, and are suited rather for books of reference than for text-books. Mr. McKelvey has given the main principles of pleading at common law, whose influence is still felt in the various systems of pleading which prevail in the different States. The cases, which are used to illustrate these principles, have been judiciously selected and are a great aid to the proper understanding of the subject. The book is divided into two parts, the first giving the forms of actions and declarations, the second the pleadings subsequent to the declaration. The book is eminently adapted for preliminary study by those who expect to practice in States where code pleading prevails, whether the subject be pursued in an office or in a law school.