

## BOOK NOTICES.

The value of *Anson on Contracts* as a text book for the student of law is too well established to need comment at the present time, but the recent edition of this work by Professor Huffcut of Cornell University has rendered it a welcome addition to the library of the practitioner as a book of reference. The text is from the eighth English edition and contains the Married Woman's Property Act of 1893 and the Sale of Goods Act, and is edited with American notes. The object of this edition is to give "parallel references to select American authorities where the American law corresponds to the English law as stated in the text by the author, and to indicate clearly the points at which the American authorities either disagree with the English law, or are strongly divided among themselves." It certainly can be said that Prof. Huffcut has accomplished his object admirably, as the references have been selected with scholarly care and judgment and the notes are particularly clear and well timed. Also the very brevity of the text stating the rule of law in concise and vigorous language with reference to the leading English and American authorities will prove of greater assistance to the busy lawyer than the general discursive work on the subject.

This edition contains 441 pages admirably printed and bound with a table of the English and American cases. Published by Macmillan & Co., 66 Fifth Avenue, New York. 1895. \$3.00.

*Negligence of Imposed Duties, Carriers of Freight.* By Charles A. Ray, LL.D. Rochester, N. Y.: The Lawyers' Co-Operative Publishing Company. 1895.

Our chief criticism of this book is its title, which in common with the others of the series is unnecessarily involved and slightly confusing. The subject matter is for the most part excellent. Thoroughness is the principal characteristic. The author's research has been painstaking and careful, but he evidently is not familiar with the modern bill of lading or he never would have written Section 24 as he did. We do not see how a much more liberal contract from the carrier's point of view could be devised than the one there set forth. We are disappointed, too, in failing to find even a mention of the Uniform Bill of Lading adopted in April, 1890, and now used by a large proportion of the American railroads.

The subject of Official Classification is lucidly expounded.

This in connection with the chapters on rulings and jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce Commission makes the book a valuable addition to every working library. We take it that almost every lawyer at some time has a case for or against a railroad. Therefore to the profession generally we unhesitatingly commend this book.

*Elements of Damages.* By Arthur G. Sedgwick, of the New York Bar. Pages XXI. 336. Price, sheep \$3.00. Little, Brown & Co., Boston, Mass.

We are glad to note the appearance of this book which is in more senses than one an addition to the Students' Series. The writer is the author of Sedgwick on Damages, but this book is in no wise intended as an abridgment of that work. It is a new and independent review of the subject of damages and an attempt to put the legal principles of that subject, as far as possible in the form of rules. The arrangement is specially adapted to the use of students. The text gives the reasons for, and explains, the rules which are written in italics and followed by numerous illustrations. The latter are well selected and so admirably put that though few words are used the case and the principle involved is clearly stated. The first part of the book deals with principles and rules affecting the measure and proof of damages, while the latter part discusses the rules governing in particular cases. The chapters on Carriers of Passengers and Breaches of Telegraphic Contracts are specially good. In the former, a clear distinction between the liabilities of Carriers of Goods and Carriers of Persons avoids the confusion that often clouds this subject. The liabilities, too, of the Telegraph Company are distinguished from those of common carriers in general. The book is clear, concise and thorough.

*The Principles of Equity and Equity Pleading.* By Elias Merwin, late of the Boston Bar. Edited by H. C. Merwin, 658 pages. Sheep, \$6.00 net.

This valuable book represents the work of Mr. Elias Merwin at the Law School of Boston University, being a compilation, with some changes and the addition of notes, of the lectures there delivered by the author. The author treats in thirty-six chapters of the different subjects covered by equity. One entire chapter is devoted to the important subjects of subrogation and contribution, which are too often slighted in treatises on equity. The book contains copious references and foot-notes. The illustrations are drawn chiefly from the English courts, the Federal courts, and the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, although fre-

quent reference is made to the decisions of other State courts. We recommend the book both to students and practitioners.

*Outlines of Legal History.* By Archer M. White, of the Middle Temple, First Lecture Prizeman of the Inns of Court, London. Cloth, 250 pages. Price \$2.00. Macmillan & Co., New York.

This handy little volume in no wise pretends to be a complete history of English law, but it furnishes the English student, preparing for his final bar examination, a concise and clear outline of such a history. The book is similar to those of the Student's Series published in this country. The intent of the author has been to familiarize the English student with the courts by which the existing law is administered, with their origin and history. The present legal system is briefly described, giving the student a clear idea of the law of the day. The author then traces the development of that law through the old institutions which were important in developing it to its present form. The Saxon system, as the cradle of English law, is treated separately and the distinctions of the Norman system and the changes due to that system pointed out. The last chapter of the book is devoted to a summary of some leading legal principles. These topics are discussed chronologically which is of great advantage to the student.

*Handbook on the Construction and Interpretation of Laws.* By Henry Campbell Black, M.A. 1 volume, sheep, 438 pp. Price \$3.75 delivered. West Publishing Co., St. Paul, Minn. 1896.

This is the eleventh volume of the Hornbook series, and the second which has been contributed thereto by Mr. Black, who is so well known to the legal profession as the author of Black's Law Dictionary. It is a condensed statement of the rules which govern the construction of written laws, statutory and constitutional, and the cardinal principle which the author seeks to impress is that the interpretation should follow the intent of the legislator. This difference between strict and liberal construction he has aimed to reduce to a minimum. The case references are not over numerous, and many cases appear in the body of the text from courts and States whose authority on the construction of laws, however great locally, cannot be of much weight throughout the profession at large. The general principles are stated with clearness and conciseness, and the elaboration of them is as full as the size of the work admits of. The arrangement and typography are similar to the others of the same series that are familiar as text books to the students of this school.