

BOOK NOTICES.

A Treatise on the Law of Circumstantial Evidence. By Arthur P. Will of the Chicago Bar. Law sheep, 500 pp. text. T. & J. W. Johnson & Co., Philadelphia, 1896.

Mr. Will's work will be of the greatest benefit to the criminal lawyer, although it contains also much matter of great assistance to the general practitioner. It is an admirable combination of the theory and the practice of the law of circumstantial evidence, beginning as it does with the rules of logic which govern the production and effect of this sort of evidence, and closing with an exceedingly interesting collection of cases in which those rules have had a practical application. The best feature of the book, we think, is the clear and logical way in which the question of the relative value of direct and circumstantial evidence, and the whole subject of the *corpus delicti* are handled. The volume is unique in that it has brought the subject up to almost the moment of publication, many of the cases reported having been decided within the past year.

The Law of Evidence in Civil Cases. By Burr W. Jones of the Wisconsin Bar. Law Sheep, 3 vols., 16 mo., 1,998 pp. text. The Bancroft-Whitney Co., San Francisco, Cal., 1896.

This is one of the most convenient and practical books we have ever examined. It has been arranged with special reference to rapid examination of the different branches of the subject, the heading of each section clearly indicating its contents, and the authorities cited in each paragraph being placed immediately after the paragraph. In the case of disputed points there is a complete list of references on either side, and the reasons for the author's opinion are logically stated. An original feature is found in the fact that citations to the leading articles in the various law journals are placed side by side with those to the reports and text books. The type is clear and legible and the division into three volumes and the small size of each volume make the book very easy to carry about for ready reference. As a practical working text-book it leaves little to be desired.

The General Digest, American and English. Law sheep, 1,708 pages. The Lawyers' Co-operative Publishing Company, Rochester, N. Y., 1896.

"Good wine needs no bush." The "General Digest" in former years has so conclusively proved its merit and value that it does not require further praise from us. It is a sufficient guaranty of its excellence that the practical work of producing

this issue has been done by the same hands and under the same skillful supervision as in former years. The paragraphs are clear and concise and are so arranged that those referring to any required subject are easily and quickly found. In a supplement which accompanies the volume are contained the cases which have not been officially reported.

Commentaries on American Law. By James Kent. Law sheep, 4 vols., 718, 1,061, 787 and 673 pages text. Little, Brown & Company, Boston, Mass., 1896.

By far the most valuable edition of this "masterpiece of Chancellor Kent's" is the present one, the fourteenth, produced under the editorship of Mr. John M. Gould, Ph.D. The notes and citations of Judge Holmes, the editor of the twelfth edition, have been altered wherever there has been a change in the meantime in the legal principle involved, and an addition of some nine thousand cases has been made to the former list. Considering the development and advance which has taken place in American law since the first quarter of the century, when Chancellor Kent first delivered the lectures which form the basis of his Commentaries, it is an arduous task indeed to so annotate the work as to make it fully harmonize with the present state of the law. This labor Mr. Gould has shown himself fully able to undertake and to complete with marked success. His notes are copious when dealing with doubtful or disputed points, yet so clearly and logically arranged are they that the principle stated is never lost or rendered obscure in a multitude of conflicting cases, as is often the case in text-books which deal with so important and fundamental legal subjects. In the words of the editor, Kent's Commentaries "will doubtless continue to rank as the first of American legal classics so long as the present order shall prevail." Be the future what it may, for the present these Commentaries owe their usefulness in no small degree to Mr. Gould's careful work as an annotator.

Illustrative Cases in Torts. By James Paige, LL.M. Cloth, 776 pages. T. & J. W. Johnson & Company, Philadelphia, Penn., 1896.

The above collection of cases forms one of the so-called "Pattee," series of illustrative cases. There are upwards of one hundred and fifty decisions, selected with great care, and serving to illustrate the leading points of the whole subject of torts. Most of them contain the opinions of the judges of this country and the book is thus expressly valuable to the American lawyer. The cases are printed in large, legible type, with a succinct statement of the principle involved at the head of each, and are arranged in proper order and sequence to be of the greatest assistance to one pursuing a systematic study of the subject.