

BOOK REVIEWS.

Bouvier's Law Dictionary. By John Bouvier. New edition, by Francis Rawle. Volume I., A to I. Sheep, pages xviii., 1127. Boston Book Co., Boston. 1897.

Every established lawyer has a Bouvier and will welcome this new edition. The younger members of the bar have been led into other fields somewhat, probably from the lack of a revised Bouvier. The present edition is enlarged and every topic worked over by Mr. Rawle, the editor of the preceding edition. Branches of the law which have shown a marked development in the last fifteen years have received special attention. While there may be a difference of opinion as to the advisability of making a dictionary of law a compendium of all legal knowledge, there can be no doubt that in this instance the encyclopædic work is most full and accurate, though compressed. The size of the volumes, each containing over a thousand pages, with the small type commentaries on the titles defined, ensures the presentation of everything of value, and the giving of clues to its wider treatment. No more substantial and trustworthy "cornerstone of a lawyer's library" could be recommended. The second volume is promised in about three months.

Abbreviations Used in Law Books.—Reprinted from the "Lawyer's Reference Manual of Law Books and Citations." By Charles C. Soule. Sheep, pages iv., 153. Boston Book Co., Boston. 1897.

Pending the publication of a new edition of the manual that part of the text most constantly needed is issued under a separate cover. The list embodies not merely the ordinary citations of reports and text-books, but all forms of abbreviations, correct or incorrect, which have been used, so arranged as to enable the lawyer to make out, without unnecessary delay, the meaning of any abbreviation he finds in a book or brief. The index is brought down no farther than 1883, the year of the last edition of the Manual.

Celebrated Trials. By Henry Lauren Clinton. Cloth, pages x., 626. Harper & Bros., New York and London. 1897.

"Celebrated Trials" follows "Extraordinary Cases," and gives us inside information of many famous trials, mostly criminal, now fast passing out of memory. This volume describes most entertainingly the Cunningham-Burdell murder case, and the trials for differing crimes of the famous New York politicians—Mayor A. Oakey Hall, Wm. M. Tweed and Richard Croker. Mr. Clinton's style smacks of the address to the jury, and current clippings from the newspapers add to its raciness. Many of the arguments to the court and jury are printed and are really worthy of study by the young lawyer; as also Mr. Clinton's methods of conducting a trial in which

he was remarkably skillful. The side-lights cast upon Daniel O'Connor and other great lawyers of the seventies are especially entertaining to us who can know them only by name and rumor.

Handbook of the Law of Evidence. By John Jay McKelvey, of the New York Bar. Sheep, pages xii., 468. West Publishing Co., St. Paul, Minn. 1898.

This, the latest of the "Handbook Series," while retaining the features of the series is distinctively a book for students. With this idea in view the authorities cited are few in number, but consist of the leading cases on each topic. Extended statements of many of these are inserted in the text and footnotes. The author confesses himself indebted to a great extent to Professor Thayer's collection of cases, and has made use of extracts from magazine articles by the same writer. While a bird's-eye view of the law of evidence is presented it is submitted that a student could hardly gain a working knowledge of the subject from this book alone. Could McKelvey be used with Thayer's cases, it seems to an humble adherent of the Dwight system that the cases would expand the text-book, while the book would furnish a needed guide in the study of those cases.

Commentaries on the Law of Trusts and Trustees. By Charles Fisk Beach. Two volumes. Sheep, pages ccxxxiii., 1873. Central Law Journal Company, St. Louis, Mo. 1897.

No work on this subject has been published in so long that the profession was in real need of a recent discussion of its doctrines and a citation of late cases. The latter point has been most admirably looked after. Over eighteen thousand cases are cited. Contrary to what might have been expected from that immense number, the notes are not mere columns of cases. Almost every foot-note contains extracts from the opinions and a discussion of the citations. As to the text it is understood that prior to its acceptance by the publishers one of the most critical members of the bench of Missouri examined the manuscript and gave the work his entire commendation. "A feature of these volumes by which they are distinguished from the older works on this subject, consists of the numerous expositions of equitable doctrines by the great Lord Chancellors of England, and by the most eminent American jurists. These commentaries on the rules underlying their decisions are taken from reported opinions, commencing with an early period and coming down to a recent date. * * * These statements are the law of to-day, and it is believed that they are in such form as to be of special value, alike to the jurist and to the advocate." The name of Beach is so closely associated with treatises on equitable doctrines that a distinction must be made. The author of this work is not Charles Fisk Beach, Jr., of New York, but the father of that well-known writer, and hails from Indiana. The paper, type and binding of the volumes are of the highest order, and in the best law-book style.