

BOOK REVIEWS.

Engineering and Architectural Jurisprudence. By John Carson Wait, M.C.E., LL.B. Cloth, pages lxxx., 905. John Wiley & Sons, New York. 1898.

Under this somewhat formidable title the author presents an application of law principles to the facts and circumstances of construction and contracting, and the province of the engineer and the architect. Mr. Wait is a civil engineer of large experience and lately the lecturer upon engineering at Harvard University. He is also an attorney at law and in this book combines his experience in the two lines of work. The work aims at furnishing to the layman that "ounce of prevention" which will keep him out of useless litigation, by showing him how his doings are looked upon by the courts. We think he has accomplished this, and one great means of his success is his ability to state legal ideas in plain language. Mr. Wait has collected a large number of contracts used in undertaking large enterprises and in the light of decisions upon these gives advice as to the proper stipulations to be put into future agreements of a like nature. The lawyer, who must know a little of many subjects, can learn much from a member of both professions. The chapter on expert testimony is most refreshing. We notice with regret that many of the cases, though of some years' standing, are cited only by reference to unofficial reports. To the lawyer this must prove an inconvenience which a little clerical labor would have avoided.

Report of the Twentieth Annual Meeting of the American Bar Association. Cloth, pages 592. Dando Printing and Publishing Co., Philadelphia. 1897.

This series always contains much matter of the greatest interest to the profession at large, as well as to the members of the association. This issue presents the address of President Woolworth, reviewing the year's work in legislation, in which he points out present tendencies and the lawyer's duty in remedying them; also that of Governor Griggs on law-making, with others by Messrs. Mather, Wambaugh, Davis, Finch, etc. It is encouraging to the law student to read of the interest taken in his behalf by the older lawyers, as is here shown in the report of the proceedings of the Department of Legal Education. America has always led in its facilities for the law-learner, but much remains to be done.