

BOOK REVIEWS.

The Law of Wills. By Melville M. Bigelow, editor of "Sixth American Edition of Jarman on Wills." Cloth, pages xxxii, 398. Little, Brown, & Company, Boston. 1898.

A good text-book for students on Wills has been supplied. Mr. Bigelow here combines the results of his experience in teaching with his researches in the law of wills. His book therefore is accurate and clear. He believes in developing his subject theoretically and then illustrating it by the rulings, even if sometimes mistaken, of the courts. A thorough discussion of an erroneous decision gives greater thinking power to the student than a statement of the rulings in a dozen correct ones; and this thorough discussion can be carried on intelligently only after a good understanding of the theory. Mr. Bigelow always has his point of view and in leading to it he does not raise such a cloud of ambiguity as to bewilder his followers. The chapters on construction are the clearest and most logical statement of that subject that we have seen. The book is comparatively small, but we believe its use will confirm our experience, that the amount that the student absorbs is in inverse proportion to the size of his text-book.

We suggest that, in view of the definition of remainders, which American text-books give, the subject is not sufficiently developed in the chapter on "Executory Gifts." Also the illustration at the bottom of page 351 seems incomplete.

A Treatise on the Law of Easements. By Leonard A. Jones, author of the "Law of Mortgages," etc. Sheep, pages lxii., 768. Baker, Voorhis & Company, New York. 1898.

This volume, while complete in itself, is a continuation of Mr. Jones' "Law of Real Property." His books are eminently practical, and are written for the practicing lawyer. Accordingly the discussion of rights of way, the topic in easements which is of most frequent occurrence and of greatest importance, occupies a full third of the volume. Some five thousand cases are cited, and those on leading points are grouped in the foot notes by States. It is to be hoped that Mr. Jones will carry out his project of writing on other subjects in Real Property.

Law Latin. By E. Hilton Jackson, LL.M., Instructor in Law and Law-Latin in the Summer School of the Columbian University. Sheep, pages xiv., 219. John Byrne & Company, Washington, D. C. 1897.

A knowledge of Latin is more and more being required for admission to law schools. The Yale Law School makes it a condition

to admission to its next class. While "Law Latin" would not fit one for reading literary Latin, it would be of great service to one wishing to understand the terms and phrases met with in law books. The author has laid out an elementary course in the language making the maxims in common use the foundation of the translation and composition work. Thus the learner kills two birds with one stone. Indeed, the book's object is the thorough understanding of the maxims, and the application of three hundred and eighty-five of them is explained in a terse and perspicuous manner. "Law Latin" is a novel and interesting book.

Cases on the Law of Partnership. By Francis M. Burdick, Dwight Professor of Law in Columbia University School of Law. Cloth, pages xi., 691. Little, Brown, & Company, Boston. 1898.

Since the development of the "case" system of teaching law the publishers of the Students' Series have issued volumes of selected cases on the subjects covered by that series. This is the latest and covers partnership and limited partnership. The thanks of law students are due to Little, Brown, & Company for the learned men whom they have secured to write, and the high grade of excellence which the Students' Series has maintained.

Probate Reports Annotated. Edited by Frank S. Rice. Volume II. Sheep, pages xix., 755. Baker, Voorhis & Co., New York. 1898.

This is the second of a series in which Mr. Rice collects the latest and best decisions on estates. The present volume contains extensive notes on the timely subjects of "Collateral Inheritance Tax," "Spendthrift Trusts," "Extent of an Executor's Liability," etc. It is difficult to see, however, what special relation the notes on "Leading Questions" and "Due Process of Law" bear to probate law.