

BOOK REVIEWS.

Probate Reports Annotated. By Frank S. Rice. Volume 3. Baker, Voorhis & Co., New York, 1899. Sheep, pp. 752.

Since it is a well-known fact, unnecessarily supported by statistics, that with every generation the property of the country must pass through the hands of the Probate Courts for adjudication; and because within this ever-growing field many a lawyer has found the cream of his practice, it is safe to predict, or even assert, that from year to year, volume after volume of the above reports, as they appear, will find their way, not only upon the shelves, but constantly into the hands of every progressive practitioner of the law. Containing, as each volume does, over one hundred cases, selected from all States, which arise in Courts of Common Law and Chancery Jurisdiction, as well as in Probate Courts, together with clear, concise and self-leading head-notes, as well as carefully written annotations, the knotty questions of probate law are here reduced to the level of simplicity. To the student who wishes to familiarize himself with the latest phrases and the most important points of probate law, these reports will become invaluable. For nowhere within the field with which they deal can a superior exposition of the practical development of probate law be found than as therein appears in decisions fresh from the pens of eminent jurists.

A Dictionary of Words and Phrases used in Ancient and Modern Law. By Arthur English, Washington Law Book Co., Washington, D. C., 1899. Sheep, p. 979.

Mr. English, recognizing that the legal fraternity have long felt the need of a legal dictionary, which confined itself to words and definitions of those words, planned the above book. In the execution of the plan he has succeeded admirably. The book is in every sense just what it purports to be, "a dictionary of words and phrases used in ancient and modern law," containing definitions unencumbered with worthless surplusage. Its compactness of style and clear enunciation of legal terms and words in short yet accurate and complete definition, commend it to the attorney and student alike.

A Treatise on the Law of Evidence. By Simon Greenleaf, LL.D. Sixteenth Edition, Vol. I, revised, enlarged and annotated. By John Henry Wigmore, Professor of Law of Evidence in the Law School of Northwestern University. Little, Brown & Co., 1899. Three Volumes. Vol. I, Sheep, pp. 993.

The issuance of Vol. I of the Sixteenth Edition of Greenleaf on Evidence is a testimonial monument to the ever increasing popularity of that treatise. The main object of the new edition is to keep the book on its high plane of excellence, and to accomplish this the text of earlier editions have been carefully revised. Some parts of it have been wholly re-written by Professor Wigmore, and yet no part of Greenleaf's text has been left out or lost track of. A careful comparison of the first volume of the above edition shows a marked improvement over all previous editions. For the addition of four new chapters on the subject of Real Evidence, Relevancy, Circumstantial Evidence, Exceptions to Hearsay Rule, Regular Entries in course of Business, make the book more complete and admirable than ever before. One of the marked changes, or rather we should say improvements, which the student will be quick to appreciate, is the fact that the text of the new edition states the law fully and completely, while the notes give full references to the authorities on which the law rests. The fact that Vol. I is edited by Professor Wigmore, whose many years of study of the rules of law which it illuminates will make the new edition need no recommendation to the lawyer or the student, for to quote from Greenleaf is to quote law.