

## BOOK REVIEWS.

American Bankruptcy Reports. Annotated. Vol. I. Edited by William Miller Collier. Matthew Bender, Albany, N. Y. Sheep, pp. 782.

The uncertainty which attends the interpretation of a new law assures a hearty welcome to any attempt at bringing the decisions under it within a narrow compass. This is particularly true in regard to the recent Federal Bankruptcy Act, as it is of every-day importance to the general practitioner. Volume one contains not only the decisions of the judges of the several courts, but also the opinions of the referees which, although not conclusive, must be of great assistance in throwing light on questions of first impression and matters of procedure. The supplementary notes are very full and contain numerous citations of the decisions under the former State and Federal Bankruptcy Acts and references to the leading text-book and magazine articles.

A Treatise on the Law of Bankruptcy. By John Lowell, LL.D., and James Arnold Lowell. Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1899. Sheep, pp. 787.

Part One is the work of the late John Lowell, judge of the District Court of the United States, for Massachusetts, from 1865 to 1878, and of the Circuit Court of the United States, for the First Circuit, from 1879 to 1884. The common features of bankruptcy acts and the general principles of law which have been deduced from them are arranged and discussed under headings which do much to simplify a subject of difficulty to the average student. The citation of cases in the foot-notes is very full.

Part Two is the addition of Judge Lowell's son, James Lowell, and is given up to the Bankruptcy Act of 1898. The Act is considered section by section—the text of each section being followed by a commentary on the interpretation of its various words and clauses, based on the decisions under this act, and those under former acts. The appendix contains the text of all the Federal Bankruptcy Acts and the general orders and forms under the present act. The index is carefully prepared.

The Civil Liability for Personal Injuries Arising Out of Negligence. By Henry F. Buswell. Second Edition. Sheep, pp. 545. Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1899.

With the exception of questions of evidence perhaps the subtlest legal distinctions of the present are found in questions involving negligence. The subject has always been marked by indefiniteness and the exceeding difficulty of confining its principles within rules of actual determinative value. Moreover, certain decisions may truly be claimed to still be in a chaotic condition, particularly that relating to contributory negligence. The obstacles in finding a satisfactory definition for a tort becomes small in seeking to define contributory negligence. This has been of great influence with Mr. Buswell, and he has given, therefore, the most painstaking attention to injuries arising from negligence as modified by the relation of employer and employee. This relation affords the widest opportunity for the claim of contributory negligence. Nothing but praise can be given to the book as a text-book, for it is exceedingly well arranged, statutory liabilities being most strenuously distinguished from common-law liability. Such a separation has now become of vital importance, because of the far-reaching enlargement of the narrow common-law rules of liability. Only one suggestion could be made, and that would be that disputed or doubtful point should be given

notice in the text, and not in most cases only considered in the notes. Settled principles need but enunciation, while doubtful doctrines need careful discussion in prominent positions. The book is of especial value, as the most recent publication of this kind and has been termed with accuracy a "modern model law book."

Mr. Buswell's previous books on the same and kindred topics have proved him a writer of high authority.

Forms of Pleading in Actions for Legal or Equitable Relief. Prepared with especial reference to the Code of Procedure of the various States, and adapted to the present practice in many Common Law States. By Austin Abbott, LL.D. Completed for publication after his decease by Carlos C. Alden, LL.M., Professor of Pleading in the Law Department of the New York University. Vol. II, pp. 1053. Baker, Voorhis & Co., New York, 1899.

We are in receipt of the second volume of Mr. Abbott's scholarly work. It stands now as an exceedingly comprehensive book of reference, useful not only to pleaders under the various codes, but in many common-law States. Its possession will be of the utmost value to those whose pleading is not restricted to specific lines, and to all who may care to save themselves from much anxiety and possible error, by a reference to such authority as Mr. Abbott has long been on this subject.