

legislature; and the growing appreciation of the inability of school officials who have been elected or appointed for ulterior political reasons, to deal with the educational problem, have given rise to important legal as well as sociological questions.

A book dealing solely with the law of the Public School meets, therefore, the requirement of a large number of laymen and lawyers; especially, as there is no other modern work on the subject. This book, the author intends, as shown by the announcement of his preface, should serve school officials in settling many of the troublesome questions which come before them. A good index and a synopsis of the principal statutes are commendable aids. The text is practically a digest of decisions. It confines itself more to the statement of the solution of specific problems which have arisen in the courts, than to discussions of legal theories.

W. B. GUMBART.

*The American Plan of Government.* By Charles W. Bacon, A.B., Harvard, assisted by Franklyn S. Morse, A.B., A.M., Harvard, with an introduction by George Gordon Battle, M.A., University of Virginia. Published by G. P. Putnam's Sons. New York. 1916. pp. xxi, 474.

Readers of the YALE LAW JOURNAL may recall two interesting articles dealing with the adaptability of the United States Constitution as applied to modern American life, one by Joseph R. Long entitled "Tinkering with the Constitution" appearing in the May, 1915, issue, and the other "Rejuvenating the Constitution" by Charles Zueblin in the January, 1916, issue of the Journal. These two articles indicate two well-developed opposing lines of thought, one favoring a remodeled Constitution and the other opposing a radical change. The author of "The American Plan of Government" does not in this book advocate either view, but the work supplies that knowledge of the scope and meaning of the existing Constitution which is necessary for intelligent advocacy of either view, and indeed which is necessary for any intelligent appreciation of the duties of American citizenship.

As Mr. Battle points out in his interesting and illuminating introduction, there is no similar book in existence. The plan of the work is indicated in the sub-title "The Constitution of the

United States as Interpreted by Accepted Authorities." For the most part the United Supreme Court is the accepted authority. The Constitution and Amendments are set forth, clause by clause, together with a discussion of the important cases upon each point. The system is the same as that used in publishing an annotated edition of statutes, although the discussion of each point is decidedly more comprehensive than that contained in ordinary annotations. This mode of considering the Constitution cannot be too highly commended; for there is here presented in an orderly and systematic manner a view of the entire Constitution as it has been applied to the changing conditions of our national life.

Much of the material here presented was used by the author in the New York City Public Lecture Courses, and this fact is indicated both in the style and in the matter of the book. The author has in general given simply the decision of the Court without original comment or discussion. The work is apparently planned not for the constitutional lawyer but for the ordinary citizen, and a complete treatise upon constitutional law is not intended. This method of treatment, while possessing the great merit of giving a reasonably complete view of this very important subject in a small compass, necessarily makes it impossible to do full justice to some of the more important questions. The discussions of the commerce clause and the Sherman Law, and of the full faith and credit clause and the Haddock divorce case are hardly adequate. Nor is the consideration of the cases of *Dartmouth College v. Woodward* and *Proprietors of Charles River Bridge v. Proprietors of Warren Bridge* entirely clear, for the impression is conveyed that the latter case stated a different rule than did the former; whereas the latter case decided only that the chartering by the State of a competing transportation company did not impair the obligation of the contract contained in the charter to the original transportation company, and left intact the great principle of the *Dartmouth College* case that a corporation charter is a contract the obligation of which is not to be impaired through amendments even by the State creating the corporation. But any possible faults of this nature are due to the limits which the author has set for himself, and on the whole he has wisely not attempted too elaborate a treatment of the subject. As it is, the book should reach a much larger audience than would a more extended treatise, and it well deserves an extended circulation.

While the author is impartial upon the subject of amending the Constitution, the book by its very nature is a powerful argument, as is any history of the interpretation of the Constitution, against any radical change. We see here how the Constitution has met new conditions in the past, and we may well expect that it will adapt itself to future needs. As President Wilson has said, "The Constitution of the United States is a vehicle of life, not a skeleton of fear."

CHARLES E. CLARK.

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*South America: Study Suggestions.* By Harry Erwin Bard, A.M., Ph.D. Published by D. C. Heath & Company, New York. 1916. pp. 68.

*Trust Laws and Unfair Competition.* By Joseph E. Davies, Commissioner of Corporations. Issued by the Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 1916. pp. lvi, 832.

*Year Book of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.* Issued by Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington, D. C. 1916. pp. xviii, 204.

*Toward the Danger Mark, Administration of Justice in the United States. Evils—Causes—Remedies.* By Cairolì Gigliotti, Chicago. Published by the author. 1916. pp. xxv, 188.