

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ABRIDGMENTS, DIGESTS, DICTIONARIES AND INDEXES OF ENGLISH LAW TO THE YEAR 1800. By John D. Cowley. London: Quaritch. 1932. pp. xcv, 187.

WHEN Lord Coke, in the preface to one of his Reports, advised law students to seek the fountains, he was drawing a distinction between the "books at large," namely law reports and statutes, and abridgments of them. Of the latter, including indexes and dictionaries, one hundred items had already been published. His advice, good when given, and still good, did not, however, reduce the demand for such books, for they continued to be published and used. Cowley lists 294 of them published before 1800, and their present day bibliographical descendants are among the most important facilities required by the lawyer. Such books are now accepted as necessities, not as substitutes for the "books at large," but as means of approach to them. Without them, search in the multiplicity of source books would be an endless task. In Coke's day, some abridgments were themselves source books, because they digested cases not available in printed reports. Since the distribution of reports and statutes was not wide, as compared to later practice, a legitimate demand existed for substitutes for them. Moreover, the latter responded to a human trait, still evident in the habits of lawyers, leading them to seek the path of least resistance by accepting the work of others in lieu of their own.

Mr. Cowley's Bibliography is therefore significant as a means of picturing the method of work of early English lawyers and judges. In this picture perhaps may be found explanation of mystifying developments both of doctrine and legal institutions. Summaries of statutes and decisions actually used and relied upon, even when they were inaccurate, perhaps contain the answers to many a mooted question of legal history.

Without any such practical *raison d'être*, the bibliography justifies itself in the eyes of book-lovers, for the books listed include some of the monuments of English printing. The work is expertly done, solves some difficult bibliographical problems concerning important items and is preceded by an introduction which is both scholarly and interesting to read. It contains facsimiles of title and text-pages, and is itself an example of fine printing, upholding the traditions of the Selden Society, under whose auspices it is issued.

Users of the book should note that the author did not attempt to list all American copies of the books described. Many other libraries than those indicated are rich in this material.

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LEGAL DUTIES AND OTHER ESSAYS IN JURISPRUDENCE. By Carleton Kemp Allen. Oxford: At the Clarendon Press. 1931. pp. xvi, 318. \$5.

WITH one exception all the papers in this volume have previously appeared in print in the legal periodicals. They cover a wide range of topics, as the titles show: Jurisprudence—What and Why?; Status and Capacity; The Judge as Man of the World; The Phlegmatic Englishman in the Common Law; Legal Morality and the *Jus Abutendi*; The Young Bentham; Maine's 'Ancient Law'; Legal Duties; The Nature of a Crime; The Presumption of Innocence.

As always, Mr. Allen writes with vigor and entertainingly, at times brightening his pages with a bit of quiet humor. Obviously it is not possible within