

BOOK NOTICES.

Negligence of Imposed Duties. Personal. By Charles A. Ray, LL.D. The Lawyer's Co-operative Publishing Co., Rochester, N. Y. Under this title one might naturally expect to find a treatise wholly upon the subject of negligence. This is not the case. Indeed the title gives but the remotest clue to the contents of the book. With the help of the preface and the introductory chapter, we find that the author has sought to bring together and discuss, those duties imposed upon individuals by reason of their ownership of real property, personal property, and water rights, in restraint of the freedom which would belong to them under "Natural Law." The greater part of the book is given up not to the subject of negligence in its strict and ordinary sense, but to that of the non-performance of these duties. A large part of its subject matter is ordinarily treated under the head of "Nuisances."

The book has many excellencies, but scientific classification and treatment of the subjects are not among them. We find a practical hand-book of many every-day, common, rights and wrongs, reminding one somewhat of Mr. Bishop's "Non-Contract Law," but much narrower in scope than that admirable work.

It is divided into three parts; the first treating of land, the duties respecting it, and rights therein; the second of waters, the duties respecting them and rights therein; and the third, of personal property, the duty of care in its control, and the duties imposed upon a person using fire.

If, with the help of the index, which is a good one, one chances to find the subject discussed, of which he is in search, he will find it discussed carefully, thoroughly and well. The propositions of law are clearly and concisely stated, and well backed up by authorities, including the most recent.

The author, judging from his comments (on pages 30-33) upon the case of *Nolan v. R. R. Co.*, 53 Conn. 416, does not seem to have quite comprehended it, but in the main, so far as verified, his statements are accurate.

On the whole, the book is a useful one, if once its peculiarities be mastered.

The following letter from the Hon. C. E. Mitchell, while Commissioner of Patents, to Little, Brown & Co., of Boston, will be read with great pleasure by all who have ever been under Prof. Robinson's instruction:

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE, }
WASHINGTON, July 30, 1891. }

MESSRS. LITTLE, BROWN & CO.:

Gentlemen:— I have examined Robinson on Patents, not only with reference to its character as a scientific treatise upon the subject of patent law, but also with reference to its value as a guide to the practitioner. In both respects I find it to be easily without a rival. As a profound and exhaustive presentation of all that pertains to the science and administration of the most abstruse branch of the law it is a most marvellous production; and as a practical guide to inventors, solicitors, and lawyers having business in the courts and dealings in the Patent Office, it anticipates every difficulty and meets every requirement. I look upon it as one of those noble works, appearing at rare intervals, the product of a richly-stored intellect and a praiseworthy ambition to excel, which places the profession under lasting obligation and entitles the author to be ranked among the foremost of the world's great jurists. Every patent lawyer will find it indispensable, and no patent solicitor can afford to dispense with its invaluable assistance.

Very respectfully,

C. E. MITCHELL,
Commissioner of Patents.

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A Dictionary of Law. By Henry Campbell Black, M. A., author of treatises on "Judgments," "Tax Titles," etc. St. Paul, Minn., West Publishing Co., 1891, pp. 1253.

The author has certainly attained the objects which he sets forth in his preface, comprehensiveness and conciseness. His plan being to create a dictionary pure and simple, accordingly clear and concise definitions are the rule, and their number warrants his claim to comprehensiveness thus successfully covering the special fields of other dictionaries. At the same time it is a question how much can be safely sacrificed to conciseness; for while the definitions are admirable, the authorities and examples are less numerous than in other similar publications, though this is but following the plan of the book which "does not purport to be a compilation of the body of the law." An increase in the number of cross-references would render the matter more available. It is clearly printed and well supplied with alphabetical guides, but its bulk might well be reduced by using thinner paper of equal durability.