

BOOK NOTICE.

The General Principles of the Law of Evidence, etc. Frank S. Rice. The Lawyers' Co-operative Publishing Co., Rochester, N. Y.

This work is advertised as being a working tool—not a classic. In two handsomely gotten up volumes the author has laid before us the modern law of evidence in its application to the trial of civil actions at Common Law, in Equity, and under the Codes.

Everything dead and obsolete—so much of which mars the present usefulness of the older and standard works on this subject—is cleared away, and nothing is given but the living law. And yet the book is more than a mere digest. A digest it is, and an excellent one; but while abstaining from individual speculations, Mr. Rice has quoted liberally from Taylor, Best, Phillips, Stephen, Greenleaf and Wharton, impartially presenting their views side by side, in elucidation of general principles, or testing their definitions.

The author's partiality for codification is manifested by frequent admiring references to the Codes of California and New York, and by setting forth the chapters on evidence in full, in the appendix. The first two thirds of the book is devoted to the general principles of the subject, and the last third to evidence in its relation to particular facts, issues and topics of a miscellaneous character, covering account books, affidavits, garnishment, letters and telegrams, photography, telephone messages, etc., etc.

The work is well done, and its claims are well sustained. An active and busy practitioner, even though he be the owner of Taylor, Greenleaf and Wharton, may well add this to his shelves. It is no slight to them, nor even to the excellent works of Abbott, to say that none of them quite fill the place to-day which this does.