

## ALUMNI NOTES.

'48.—George W. Warner died at his home in Bridgeport last December. At the time of his death he was the oldest member and President of the Fairfield County Bar.

'61.—Louis H. Bristol, '61; John K. Beach, '79; John W. Bristol, '79, and Samuel H. Fisher, '92, are members of the newly formed partnership of Bristol, Stoddard, Beach & Fisher. The partnership was formed for the general practice of law in the State and Federal Courts.

'73.—Howard Mansfield has been elected President of the Grolier Club of New York.

'84.—George N. Frazine died Jan. 16, 1902.

'92.—Samuel A. York has been elected a director of the Springfield (Mass.) Gas Light Co.

'96.—A son was born February 25 to Mr. and Mrs. James S. Jenkins of Stamford, Conn.

'98.—At the recent organization of the Brooks Club of Trinity Church, New Haven, General Phelps Montgomery was elected treasurer.

'01.—The marriage of William T. Rawlins and Miss Jane E. Somers, daughter of Hon. George E. Somers, President of the Bridgeport Brass Co., took place at Bridgeport March 19. After the first of May Mr. and Mrs. Rawlins will be at home in Honolulu, Hawaii, where Mr. Rawlins is connected with the law firm of Holmes & Stanley.

'01.—John T. Smith passed the New York State Bar examination, January 18. He is now with Alexander & Green, 120 Broadway.

## BOOK REVIEWS.

*Britton.* Translated by Francis Morgan Nichols, M.A., with an introduction by Hon. Simeon E. Baldwin, LL.D. John Byrne & Co., Washington, D. C. 1901. Sheep, pp. 649.

This volume is the second of what is to be known as the "Legal Classic Series," which is to comprise the standard translations of the earlier treatises on the law of England. *Britton* will be highly appreciated by those who realize that the meaning and true force of legal doctrines can only be comprehended by a knowledge of their origin and history.

In the introduction to the book, we learn that it is uncertain who *Britton* was. Edward I., in his prologue to *Britton*, merely speaks of the work as a

compilation of the existing laws which he has had put in writing for the information of his subjects. Throughout the whole work, the royal prerogatives are defended and extolled. Its preparation was due, no doubt, to a desire to impress the people with the idea that the administration of justice belonged solely to the king.

Death was the penalty for larceny of goods amounting to twelve pence or more. This singular reason is given for the fixing of this amount as the limit. Three half-pence a day was considered sufficient to support a man. To deprive him of twelve pence was to deprive him of sustenance for eight days, at the end of which time he might be expected to die. Twelve-pence, therefore, had reference to the destruction of life, for which offense a man is rightfully put to death.

Britton asserts a right of inheritance in the ascending line. In this assertion he appears to stand alone, for it is without authority from the writers whom he generally follows. He was peculiarly happy in his phrasing of definitions and in the introduction it is remarked that in Britton's definition of obligation, the notion is very clearly brought out that a contractual obligation is the consequence of a contract, not a part of it.

The peculiar force of the seal and the value of the oath receive much attention. A defendant could not deny that he made a deed which bore his seal, unless his seal had been lost, and the loss published at the churches and the markets.

The volume is divided into six books. The first five of which deal with the possessory rights to property, while the sixth discusses proprietary actions and the rules of intestate succession. At the end of the work, the excuses for non-attendance at Court, and the nature and office of attorneys are explained. The valuable notes to the translation, are reproduced in this volume. They explain ambiguities, correct mistakes, and supply omissions by references to Glanville, Bracton, and Fleta.

The book is well printed and contains a complete index.

J. A. T.

*Cases on the Law of Damages* By Floyd R. Mechem, Esq. 3rd Edition. West Pub. Co., St. Paul, Minn. Cloth. 758 pp.

These cases were compiled primarily as an adjunct to lectures delivered by the author at the University of Michigan.

It is not necessary to comment on the importance of the subject. The question of damages enters into almost every civil action and especially is this the case under our modern codes, which give the courts power to administer whatever remedy best suits the case. At common law a recovery of damages was the only available remedy, with the exceptions of replevin, and detinue, until courts of chancery stepped in and administered relief where money was not a complete indemnification.

The introduction contains a brief but very clear discussion of the classes of damages, and their application; and sums up by showing that in an action for damages one must inquire:—(1) Was there a legal wrong? (2) What is the loss? (3) When and where did it occur? (4) What is the measure of compensation?

The question of direct and consequential damage is among the most difficult in the whole study of the law, and has puzzled even the most learned jurists.

Some thirty cases are given under this head, arising both from contract and tort. Several cases on damages in action against telegraph companies are given, nearly all of which are very recent.

This edition remains the same as earlier ones except that many recent decisions have been added. The work concludes with a good index and table of cases.

O. A. D.

*Handbook of the Code.* By Carlos C. Alden, LL.M., Professor of Law in the Law Department of New York University. Baker, Voorhis & Co., New York. 1901. pp. 170.

This work will be welcomed not alone by students intending to take the New York Bar examinations but by all those who desire a general knowledge of the Civil Procedure of New York State. Its use in practice as a substitute for the Code might be dangerous as it does not attempt to give details of procedure of specific application but rather to enable one to gain a working knowledge in order to practice with the Code. This working knowledge can be gained as well from this little work as from the difficult code with its three and a half thousand sections. The work is orderly arranged and is superior to Disbrow's Digest of the Code, in that it contains an index.

C. D. L.

## BOOK NOTICES.

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of the following books for review:

ESSAY ON LEGAL ETHICS. By *George W. Warvelle, LL.D.* Callaghan & Co.

LECTURES ON SLAVONIC LAW. By *Fedor Sigel.* Oxford Press, American Branch.