

case book that it omits examples on the ground that they have already been used. Of the new cases, 43 were decided since 1900.

The author very wisely restricts his work to cases of non-contractual debts. It may be doubted whether, in our law, any other sort of obligation deserves to be classified among quasi contracts. He rightly indicates no doubt that a debt is non-contractual, even though a tort or a breach of an express contract may have been one of the causative facts.

ARTHUR L. CORBIN.

A Treatise on Federal Criminal Law Procedure with Forms of Indictment and Writ of Error and the Federal Penal Code.
By William H. Atwell. Second Edition. Published by T. H. Flood & Company, Chicago. 1916. pp. 808.

Mr. Atwell was for several years United States District Attorney for the Northern District of Texas. No better preparation could be had for the making of a compendium of federal criminal law and procedure. A work of this kind is necessarily more of a digest than a treatise and it offers small opportunity for treatment along original lines—indeed Mr. Atwell makes no special claim for originality in his preface. Nevertheless his pages are replete with suggestions which are plainly the result of the personal observations of a broadly-experienced and resourceful practitioner. This is especially true of the chapter on "Practical Suggestions." The author has shown great discrimination in selecting his indictment forms. An appendix contains a reference to all laws of a general nature, permanent in character, in force December 1, 1909, having penal provisions not properly severable from the administrative provisions, not contained in the criminal code, but embraced in the general revision of the Laws of the United States.

JOHN WURTS.

Connecticut Compensation Decisions, Volume I. Published by the State of Connecticut. pp. 732.

In 1913 there was passed in Connecticut a Workmen's Compensation Act which became effective January 1, 1914. The passage of this Act marked an epoch in the history of Connecticut. Legally, it was the most important change since the adoption of the Practice Act in 1879. Socially, it was the beginning of a new

era for the laboring classes. The present volume embodies the judicial precedents established through the operation of the Compensation Act down to June, 1916, and contains over six hundred cases, decided in the first instance by the various Compensation Commissioners, and, in the second instance, where there was an appeal, by the Superior Court. There is also a reference to the cases appealed to the Supreme Court of Errors and reported in the Connecticut Reports and Atlantic Reporters.

The compilers of this volume seem to have had difficulty in arriving at a suitable title. On the outside cover it is called a "Digest"; upon the title page it appears as a "Compendium of Awards"; while the suggestion is made that it be cited as "I Connecticut Compensation Decisions." The last seems the proper title. The confusion arises from the fact that the statute providing for the printing of these reports calls for a digest, but a digest in the narrow meaning of the term is not adequate without the cases digested, since it cannot show the exact scope and extent of the judicial precedent involved. Hence the compilers are to be commended for adopting the system of setting forth full and complete reports of selected cases, and especially for including the opinions of the Superior Court on appeal.

Certain errors in proof-reading have crept in, as in the interesting and able opinion of the Commissioner in *Wright v. Barnes*. Possibly in future volumes the finding of facts of the cases may be somewhat condensed, and possibly some of the many cases dealing with the allowances to be made to physicians for medical services may be omitted. This volume worthily inaugurates what will undoubtedly be a long and important series of reports.

Naturally, Connecticut lawyers will own this volume, for it is one of the ordinary tools of their trade. But it deserves a wider circle of readers, for it is a book of great human interest as a glance at the carefully prepared index will demonstrate. And it is with no small sense of pride that we turn its pages, for it shows how easily and naturally the people of Connecticut have met the great change occasioned by the Compensation Act, and how skilfully and ably the Board of Compensation Commissioners have discharged the arduous duties placed upon them and in so doing have added their worthy contribution to the legal literature of the State.

CHARLES E. CLARK.

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