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Book Review: Twenty-Five Short Cases in Library Personnel Administration

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NEW BOOKS APPRAISED

BLE TIME AND ENERGY FROM OTHER URGENT
tasks which this second edition undoubtedly represents.

DAVID S. STERN
University of Miami
School of Law


Mr. Shaffer's book deserves the attention and consideration of all members of the library profession. For law librarians, it is of particular interest because it presents, for the first time, an organized use of the case method of instruction in the field of library science. It is true that the cases depicted are really "situations," but nevertheless the employment of this technique in this field of endeavor is a vital development.

The selection of situations has been well designed to illustrate sound general personnel administration principles. At the same time, the examples are constructed to bring out the special application of these principles to the area of library work. All librarians, law librarians included, and even the expert will benefit from a reading of this volume.

Whether personnel administration be considered an art or science, much thinking still remains to be done in the area. A reading of these cases will give a very strong feeling that administration is more of an art than a science, especially when the subject matter under consideration is homo sapiens. The emphasis on the human approach by the editor is well underlined.

The last case in the volume, "A Twenty-Two Hour Week for a Professional Staff," is of special interest and gives much food for thought concerning the status of librarians.

The reviewer looks forward with great anticipation to future volumes in this series.

HARRY BITNER
Law Librarian
Yale Law School


For once, the information on a book jacket correctly describes its contents, its purpose and its worth. Written by a practicing lawyer who is also a practicing genealogist, here is a volume of instruction on solving a genealogical problem, suitable for beginner, the dabbler on the way to becoming an expert and the expert.

The book begins with a section on analysis of the problem, with questions on information already possessed by the researcher. This is followed by a list of sources for research in outline form. Later sections illuminate material in the outline, with specific directions toward particular historical societies, libraries, pension records, etc., as well as book titles and articles. Following is source material peculiarly applicable to each state (and some foreign countries), which includes names, addresses and costs of obtaining vital records from public officials. Any lawyer at some time may have need of information on how to solve the genealogical problem of a client, for case or controversy. Any lawyer also needs a hobby. Merely to read the book is to become aware of the fascination of the chase, as this reviewer, now irretrievably committed to it, can testify.

A law library should add the book to its collection solely for addresses and designation of officials in charge of official records. In other respects the volume seems far superior to other works in the field. It is a superb buy for the money.

JEANETTE O. SMITH
University of Miami
School of Law


The second edition of Street on Torts retains the essential features of the first