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BOOK REVIEWS

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BOOK REVIEWS.

A Treatise on Criminal Pleading and Practice. By Joseph Henry Beale, Jr., Professor of Law in Harvard University. Cloth, pp. 384. Little, Brown & Co. Boston, 1899.

The students' series of text-books, started by Messrs. Little, Brown & Co. a few years ago, is now so well known that it is unnecessary to comment on its excellence. Although designed, as the name implies, primarily for students, and as a basis for the instructors' work in the class-room, yet the books have been written by such excellent authorities and have been so uniformly compact and yet complete, that the lawyer in active practice has found them of the greatest service on many occasions. To this series Professor Beale has contributed the present volume. It embraces the whole subject of Criminal Procedure and Pleading in a small compass; the condensation has been made with great skill and accuracy. The bulk of the book has been reduced by leaving untouched, matters of local procedure and details. The indictments for homicide, perjury, forgery, embezzlement and false pretenses, however, have been treated fully, on account of the frequent difficulties which arise under them.

Wit and Humor of Bench and Bar. By Marshall Brown. Cloth, pp. 544. T. H. Flood & Co., Chicago. 1899.

Mr Brown has the advantage of his lay readers, a class which he has no doubt hoped his book might entertain. Their iridescent ideas of the incident of bench and bar may perhaps be even more highly colored after reading the facetiae here compiled. But the profession will fail to see the reason for the book. The collection of legal anecdotes and amenities has been so much done, and with such success, that there seems no occasion for another, unless under the possible pretext of making it up-to-date. Some witticisms of late lawyers are indeed served up. A few of them are very good, and more are rather flat. The author, it seems to us, has failed in the greatest essential of such a difficult task, the art of omission. For the author's preface we are grateful, wherein refraining from "humbly dedicating the work to the profession," this art was most effective.