

BOOK REVIEWS

Pocket Code of Evidence. By John Henry Wigmore. Little, Brown & Co., New York. pp. 566.

The name of Professor Wigmore is inseparably identified with the law of evidence. He stands pre-eminent as an authority on this important subject and his treatise has in a comparatively brief period achieved a place among the most valuable contributions to legal literature in the past quarter of a century.

His latest contribution—expressively called a pocket code—is a new departure; but it is one that is wisely calculated to prove a most effective aid to the trial lawyer in the heat of battle.

Within the compass of a handy volume there is given a survey of the whole field of evidence. Here is a summary of all the known rules of evidence; and it is almost indispensable that the practitioner should have these rules at tongue's tip, or with this code always with him—at least at his fingers' tips.

In addition to being a book of ready reference for all unlooked-for exigencies, the work is in the nature of a supplement to the original monumental treatise on the *System of Evidence* by the same distinguished author. There are extensive cross-references to the larger work and these references, as well as the typographical devices, are clearly defined by a keynote at the introduction of the volume.

The book is intended to be a constant working companion, and a commendable feature of it lies in the fact that it is provided with alternate blank pages for notes and annotations of the careful practitioner. Used in this way, the lawyer at once becomes accurately familiar with the every-day rules, and at the same time is enabled to keep in touch with the trend of judicial decision.

Viewed in the above light, there is something peculiarly appropriate in the black morocco binding. The gilt edge leaves, the flexible covers, the convenient pocket size, are all suggestive of something more than a text book. The volume is meant for a companion, to be always present in the court room and in the office.

Another valuable feature of the present little volume is the textual provision for variances of rule in independent jurisdictions. What may be settled as the law in one state may be widely variant from the rule as to the same subject in another. To meet this difficulty the author has endeavored to note these variations, and by a system of references which is remarkably comprehensive, the user, in the event of such variation in his own state, is warned just where to search more precisely for the laws of his own particular jurisdiction.

Typographically, the book is all that could be desired; it is printed on high-grade paper, and the result is pleasing. As an abridger, Professor Wigmore maintains the same high standard which he has set as a compiler, and there can be no doubt from an examination of the *Pocket Code* that he has attained his desired object and has given to the legal world a volume "attractive to read, convenient to learn, and profitable to use."

C. K. W.

The Law of the Universities. By James Williams, D.C.L. (Oxford), L.L.D. (Yale); Barrister-at-Law; Fellow of Lincoln College; Oxford All Souls; Reader in Roman Law in the University of Oxford, London. Butterworth & Co., 11 and 12 Bell Yard, Temple Bar. 1910.

This is a work which is ornamental as well as useful, for not only does the author bring to his readers, in a legal like way, a thorough collection of the principles bearing upon the subject under discussion, but at the same time he accomplishes this result in a scholarly and direct manner. The subject itself while based upon far reaching principles, is not directly of wide scope. Of this fact the author is fully aware, and no part of his work is unduly expanded.

The book proper is prefaced by an excellent introduction and table of cases cited and abbreviations used. Chapter I is devoted to Oxford and Cambridge. Chapter II is devoted to visitation as applied to those two institutions in particular. This chapter alone would make the book worth while and will be found instructive to any student who desires to become proficient in the slightest degree, in the subject of corporations, private and quasi-public. The remaining chapters, devoted to the two great

English universities, are grouped under the subject heading of Government, Discipline, Education, Finance, Privilege, the University Courts and a miscellaneous chapter.

There is an appendix of the leading English, American, Scotch and Irish adjudged cases, touching upon the subject of universities and colleges. The book should prove to be valuable for the reason alone that it has gathered together the law upon a hitherto loosely scattered subject.

S. B. L.