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BOOK NOTES

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discover real criticism of our own system as well as comparison; for instance, to find in the writing of a German jurist a novel and refreshing attack on the relationship of breach of warranty and failure of consideration in the American law. Academically, it was instructive to see our Sales Act construed in good continental law fashion. The most important aspect of the work is the food it supplies for thought concerning the relative merits of the German and American status of the purchaser of goods owned by one other than the seller. The favorable attitude in the German system toward the acquisition of title by the bona fide purchaser makes the consideration of warranty of title less significant in the German system than it is in ours—an excellent illustration of function in the law. What better can be said of a Comparative Law work than that it succeeds in making our statute seem less good!

New York City.

NORMAN W. SCHUR.

BOOK NOTES

Das Recht der Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika. Part I. Erbrecht und Nachlassbehandlung. By Dr. Carl G. Grossmann. Die Erbschaftsbesteuerung. By Hans Krüger. Introduction by Dr. Carl Becher. (Vol. IX of *Rechtsverfolgung im internationalen Verkehr*. By Leske & Löwenfeld). Berlin: Carl Heymann's Verlag. 1930. pp. xlv, 349.

THIS volume is Part I of Volume IX of Leske and Löwenfeld's comprehensive work on the law of the world. Volume IX contains the law of inheritance and marriage of the United States. The present volume deals with the law of inheritance and inheritance taxation. The law of inheritance (pages 1-200) is by Dr. Grossmann and the law of inheritance taxation (pages 203-342) by Hans Krüger and Dr. Carl Becher. Dr. Grossmann discusses the law of intestate succession in the United States in general, setting forth the statutory provisions of the individual states as well as those of the Philippine Islands, Porto Rico, Virgin Islands, Panama Canal Zone, Samoa, Guam, Midway and Wake Islands, and Cuba, together with their interpretation by the courts. The law of wills is presented in a systematic fashion, but with reference to the law of all the states, which are classified in the notes. The same method is used with respect to the subject of executors and administrators. In addition to the above Dr. Grossmann gives a summary exposition of the rules of the conflict of laws governing in this country, of the law of the individual states relating to the rights of foreigners to acquire property by will, and of the powers of foreign consuls in connection with the administration of the estates of their co-nationals in this country. Although Dr. Grossmann's part of the work covers only 200 pages, he has compressed therein an astounding mass of materials. No single American writer, as Dr. von Lewinski correctly observes in his introduction to the work, has ever ventured upon such a comprehensive undertaking. Enormously difficult as the task was, Dr. Grossmann has taken the greatest pains to be accurate in the presentation of the law, and, so far as can be judged, his efforts have been entirely successful.

In the second part of the present volume, which is preceded by an introduction by Dr. Becher in which he compares the German law relating

to inheritance taxation with the American, Krüger gives the Federal Revenue Acts and the tax provisions of the individual states with comments.

The Education of Jeremy Bentham. By Charles Warren Everett. New York: Columbia University Press. pp. vii, 216. \$2.50.

IN the words of the author the purpose of this book is "to show some of the forces operating on the mind and personality of Bentham during his early years, to indicate that complex relationship between society and the individual which we call education." To effectuate this purpose a careful search has been made of heretofore unclassified Bentham manuscripts now in possession of the University College of London and the British Museum. The resulting picture of the influence of Bentham's environment upon his writings is comprehensively yet briefly portrayed. Particularly important is the manner in which the author establishes the influence of Bentham's education in the physical sciences upon his thinking in his chosen field of legislative reform. He shows Bentham not only as the intellectual source of a host of modern reforms but also as an early explorer in the scientific method as applied to the social sciences. Bentham is seen, however, not as searching for "absolutism" but only contending that "enough of man's pleasures and pains could be measured to enable a legislator to judge whether a certain act tended to produce a balance of pain and pleasure, and that it was better for the legislator to act on the greatest Happiness Principle than to be governed by his own likes and dislikes." Extracts from Bentham's letters to his brother Samuel are skillfully used throughout the book and give an intimate revelation of the inner thoughts and stirrings of Bentham's mind.

A Lawyer Tells the Truth. By Morris Gisnet. New York: The Concord Press. 1931. pp. 160. \$2.

ALTHOUGH this book probably serves a useful purpose, Mr. Gisnet does little more than repeat truths that have been rather widely aired before. He points out that law, lawyers and the courts have fallen into popular disrepute; that the absorptive capacity of the profession, diminished by corporate competition, is insufficient to cope with the ever-increasing number of lawyers the law schools are turning out; that the legal profession has become commercialized not only by the lowly but by the leaders of the bar as well; that delay and high costs make justice a luxury which only the wealthy can afford and that both bench and bar are shot through with corruption and a class consciousness which renders even more remote the possibility of justice for the great mass of the population. The most stimulating chapter is the last, in which he suggests the socialization of the law through state maintained legal aid offices and through the creation of the office of public defender.