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BOOK NOTES

A TREASURY OF LEGAL QUOTATIONS. Selected by Paul C. Cook. New York: Vantage Press, 1961. Pp. 181. \$5.00.

From time to time every legal writer finds that he needs a quotation from a distinguished source which will round out, or perhaps even restate, his argument. The purpose of this book is to enable the attorney to find such quotation with a minimum of effort. The compiler, a successful attorney from Texas, has selected brief statements from the writings of many well known lawyers and judges which can be employed in a variety of situations. He has arranged these not by subject but by the names of the sources of his quotations. In order to make the book more useful, he has prepared a twenty-page index which is exceptionally detailed.

The major strength of this book is in the variety which has been achieved. Its principal weakness is simply that it is not long enough. One wishes that the volume was nearly twice as long so that he could have a wider choice than this volume gives him.

COLONIAL JUSTICE IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS. Edited by Joseph H. Smith. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1961. Pp. ix, 426. \$7.50.

This scholarly and excellent volume provides the reader with a unique glimpse into the administration of justice in colonial America. The book is written in two parts. The second is the diary kept by William Pynchon and his son John in which they recorded the proceedings and decisions of the cases decided in the courts in and around Springfield, Massachusetts, from 1639 to 1702. Preceding the diary is a lengthy and detailed historical introduction prepared by the editor. In it, he presents a brief biographical sketch of each of the Pynchons, and also discusses the organization and procedures of the courts of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Both parts of the book are fascinating. It is refreshing to leave the world of space orbits behind and read about an Indian named Aquosso-wump who had the grave misfortune to be whipped for stealing. From this and other incidents recorded in the diary, the reader will receive a first-hand impression of colonial America which is all the more fascinating because of the brevity of the diary style. The introductory chapters prepared by the editor could hardly be expected to be as immediately interesting as the diary itself. Nonetheless, Mr. Smith has done a superb

job of collecting many materials and organizing them into a complete and readable description of the system of colonial justice.

Any person interested in legal history or in the early development of American government should have a copy of this book.

THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES: ITS BUSINESS, PURPOSES, AND PERFORMANCE. By Paul A. Freund. Cleveland: World Publishing Company, 1961. Pp. 224. \$1.35.

Any book by Professor Freund concerning the Supreme Court of the United States can be expected to be an interesting and informative volume. This brief book measures up to expectations in every way. As the subtitle indicates, Professor Freund in this volume does not devote his attention merely to the theoretical problems raised by the decisions of the Supreme Court. Instead, he sets the work of the Court into its context so that the reader can understand how the Court operates as a part of the developing political, social, and economic enterprise which is modern America.

The seven chapters of the book are revisions of essays prepared and published over a twelve-year period. It is a testimony to the quality of the author's work that they seem as fresh and as interesting now as they did when first published. The concluding chapter of the book, entitled "The Court and Its Critics," is particularly relevant. In it Professor Freund presents his views on the proper functions of criticism of the Supreme Court, and in doing so, he makes it clear how often the critics of the Court fail to provide an analysis which would be helpful as an aid to future decisions. At the present time, when so many emotional appeals are being made in opposition to the Court, this essay is a refreshing reminder that there are still many persons who are willing to disagree with the Court on a rational and constructive basis.

A LAWYER'S VERSUS. By Irving J. Siegal. New York: Vantage Press, 1960. Pp. 40. \$2.00.

The title of this book is a pun, for its contents are some two dozen verses written by a practicing attorney. These poems are all quite short and satirical. Virtually no facet of the legal profession escapes from the author's humorous pen. As poetry, the poems leave a bit to be desired, but they should provide several moments of pleasure to the member of the legal

profession who appreciates the lighter side of his work.

The author of these brief poems is a practicing attorney from Chicago. Each of the verses he has written, one suspects, has grown out of his own experiences. He has not provided the legal world with a great book, but he has written a very entertaining one.