

Book Review

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STUDYING LAW. Edited by Arthur T. Vanderbilt. New York. Washington Square Publishing Co., 1945. Pp. viii, 753. \$4.75.

This book has been compiled and edited by Dean Arthur T. Vanderbilt of the New York University School of Law, former President of the American Bar Association, and one long active in legal education and in Bar Association activities. It is a collection of materials earlier published or delivered by various writers and lecturers in other places. The editor himself has included an excellent introduction, a presentation of his own notes to a lecture course attended at law school, and a forceful Bar Association report of his earlier preparation.

The purpose of the book is said to be manifold, though principally it was planned for the benefit of returning veterans and college students contemplating the study of law, and of beginning law students who wish to gain a general view of the field. But it is also offered for the general reader, including lawyers interested in a broad view of our legal system.

The book turns out to be a very well chosen collection for these various purposes. Not the least of its merits is the diversity of sources from which the component items have been selected. Thus the graduate lawyer reader, accustomed to using a law library, even to following the periodical literature or the currently published books, will inevitably be introduced to something he probably would otherwise have overlooked, despite possibly having heard of it.

Only one of the chapters is a reprint of an item heretofore published in a law review. This is Dean Pound's *A Survey of Social Interests*, here reprinted from the Harvard Law Review version of it.

Two of the chapters are from collections of essays by various writers. John Maxcy Zane's *The Five Ages of the Bench and Bar of England* is taken from the Select Essays in Anglo-American Legal History, and the late Dean Wigmore's *Jury Trial Rules of Evidence in the Next Century* is from Law: A Century of Progress, the centennial celebration essays of the New York University Law School.

Two others are from books published by individual authors. Goodhart's *Determining the Ratio Decidendi of a Case* is taken from his *Essays in Jurisprudence and the Common Law*, and Beveridge's *The Young Lawyer and His Beginnings* comes from that author's book entitled *The Young Man and the World*.

Another pair of items were originally introductions to law school teaching materials. One is Dean Pound's *Interpretation of Statutes*, which is reprinted from his Introduction to the late Professor DeSloovere's *Cases on the Interpretation of Statutes*, and the other is the late Professor Wambaugh's *How to Use Decisions and Statutes*, reprinted from the manual Cooley on Brief Making.

There are two presentations of material originally prepared for lecture purposes. Dean Pound's *An Introduction to American Law* was prepared by him in 1919 as the outline of a course of lectures before the Trade Union College in Boston and he has revised it for inclusion in the volume under review. The other is entitled *Elements of Law*, by Professor Munroe Smith. With the exception of the first brief portion, which had already been published in the late Professor Smith's collected essays, this chapter consists of Mr. Vanderbilt's classroom notes of Professor Smith's lectures at the Columbia University Law School. Even if the book performed no other service, its making this unpublished material available would well justify its publication.

Finally, there are two recent American Bar Association Committee reports. One is *Prelegal Education*, by Arthur T. Vanderbilt, the compiler of the book, prepared as Chairman of a Committee to submit a Report on Prelegal Education to the Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the Association. This Report had been submitted in 1944. The other is *Finding Your Place in the Legal Profession*, by Charles T. Stephens, i. e., a report of the Special Committee on the Economic Condition of the Bar of the Association, submitted in 1945.

At first glance the casual reader might feel that the contents are unduly weighted, in that of the twelve chapters (including the Introduction), three are by Dean Roscoe Pound, and three are by or from the compiler himself.

But, Dean Pound has well been described as "the schoolmaster of the American Bar." Inclusion of much of his enormous list of writings would have been inevitable.

Then, too, his three chapters actually occupy only one-sixth of the page space.

The compiler's own contributions are equally to be commended for their inclusion. One was the inevitable Introduction, well and briefly done. Another was the highly useful presentation, through his own notes, of the Munroe Smith lectures. The third was the recent Bar Association committee report, prepared by the group under his chairmanship, and itself a prominent part of recent Bar Association literature.

Some may believe the bulk of the book, some 750 pages, to be forbidding for at least three of the groups for whom it is intended i. e., veterans, college students, and beginning law students. The thought may be that it will discourage some from studying law if they do read it for the purpose for which it is intended.

But it is well that a beginner, if he does wish to read ahead in the profession, should learn early that the literature of the law is not noted for its brevity. It is a merit of the book that it is able to present so very much in as little as 750 pages.

And even if some potential law students may be frightened away from studying law after reading this tome, so much the better. Even in normal times there are far too many students who attend and graduate from law school though temperamentally unfitted to study and practice law. In the immediate future there will be more, particularly among the veterans, some of whom will attend law school only because of the generous government subsidies for their education.

It is only to be hoped that these will be counterbalanced by others who, being temperamentally fitted, will attend law school where, but for such subsidies, they would have been financially unable to do so. A careful reading of the book under review should aid the potential law student the better to decide in advance whether he has a knack for things legal.