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Cases on Bills and Notes (Book Note)

Edward J. O'Toole

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CASES ON BILLS AND NOTES. By David Stewart Edgar and David Stewart Edgar, Jr. Brooklyn: St. John's University School of Law, 1939, pp. 362.

In 1935 the authors of this book published their text on the Law of Bills and Notes.¹ At that time the course in this subject which they were teaching was given in thirty hours in one semester. Due to a revision of schedule and courses, Bills and Notes is now allotted sixty hours in one semester. Because of this increase in time, additional material is naturally required, necessitating the publication of the present volume.

It is evident from an examination of the cases selected and the order of their appearance that the main purpose is to supplement the authors' text with pertinent references to the leading authorities in the various courts. Both old and late expressions of the courts are included. Perhaps, it might have been better if the cases had been arranged under topical divisions, but inasmuch as the case-book and the text-book may be described as one and are designed to be used together, the excellent topical arrangement in the text should suffice.

From the beginning of their respective careers as law-teachers, the authors have been staunch advocates of the text and case method. In days not so long ago when texts were considered as substitutes for students' "digging into the cases" and hence of no value at all, the Professors Edgar maintained that organization of knowledge was just as important a part of a legal education as the development of case interpretation. It would seem that their contention has been justified to a great extent by the somewhat recent appearance of the case and material book, which, in most instances, is nothing more than a case-book and a text-book under one cover. If good texts can help to unravel some of the mysteries of law as they appear to the student, why not have them? Their use should tend to conserve time for that ultimate, an intelligent development of the "legal mind".

EDWARD J. O'TOOLE.*

¹Finkelstein, Book Review (1935) 9 ST. JOHN'S L. REV. 498.

* Professor of Law, St. John's University School of Law.