Cases on Evidence (2nd Ed.) (Book Note)

St. John's Law Review
BOOK NOTES

The work is divided under four general headings: Claims for damages for injuries to the person, claims for damages for breach of contract and for debts or sums due, actions concerning personalty and realty, equity. The development of pleading and procedure is traced from the days of oral pleading down through the common law to the present system. The entire work will be in two volumes, this being the first. The book is well indexed and should be exceedingly valuable to the student of adjective law.


The development in the law of Evidence since the first edition of this work in 1919 necessitated a revision of the very excellent collection of cases contained therein. Evidence covers such a wide field and there is such a vast amount of material that the compiler of a casebook on the subject is confronted with a colossal pruning job. Professor Hinton's many years of general practice, plus the years spent teaching the subject of Evidence, makes him an ideal person for this work.

This revised edition groups the cases under four general heads: 1. The respective functions of the judge and jury. 2. The qualification and privileges of witnesses and the rules governing their examination and impeachment. 3. The various rules excluding types of evidence. 4. Various matters embraced under the parol evidence rule. There are 141 new cases of the total of 546 found in the book. The English courts have contributed 192 of these and the balance are from American courts. Of the new cases included, about two-thirds of them have been decided since 1919, the date of the first edition.

Not much space has been devoted to the citation of cases in accord with, or contra to, the cases which have been reprinted. To offset this, however, the compiler has noted the more important of the recent articles in the various law reviews. The book is well indexed.


As aptly stated in the Introduction to this volume, its purpose is to furnish a "working tool and guide for all persons concerned with, or called upon to participate in, the formal activities of the corporation." There is no pretension that corporate matters and problems are treated with an infusion of academic discussion and philosophic analysis. The rules are determinate and are set forth in their stark significance. Not that the treatment of particular phases is left without historical trace, but that one is concerned primarily with formal corporate practice.

The inclusion, in abundance, of such necessary forms as certificates of incorporation, minutes of meetings and proxies reveal the practical value of a book of this nature. An attempt to include in a book note the multitudinous number of tables, charts and other material to be found in the volume would extend the review to unlimitless bounds. Mr. Crow's work will undoubtedly find its way into countless libraries of lawyers, accountants and corporate secretaries.