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Getting a Divorce (Book Review)

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COURTS AND DOCTORS. By Lloyd Paul Stryker. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1932, pp. 236.

The author of this book, who for many years was general counsel for the Medical Society of the State of New York, has set down in a concise and readable fashion advice which he feels will be instrumental in protecting doctors against unwarranted attacks upon their professional characters. The need for such a work is readily seen when one considers that in 1930 there was on the average of one suit for malpractice for every twenty-two members of the Medical Society. This was a thirty-three per cent increase over similar suits brought in 1929.

While the author lays particular stress upon the action for malpractice, he also has included in this book many essential principles of law governing the doctor in his work. Particularly instructive are those chapters dealing with the doctor as an expert witness. From these chapters the doctor should learn a great deal which will assist him on the witness stand, should he ever be called.

The book is scholarly written, it is well indexed, the citations are profuse and the references complete. The work undoubtedly fulfills the purpose for which it was written.

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GETTING A DIVORCE. By Isabel Drummond. New York, N. Y.: Alfred Knopf, 1931, pp. 498.

We commend Isabel Drummond for her tireless efforts, her attention to detail, her tremendous research work, and her easy way of writing, sometimes rather interesting, and at other times very tedious. But we are prejudiced from the start against the book because to a lawyer reading "Getting a Divorce" is like "carrying coals to Newcastle."

It is stated in the preface that, "it is the object of this book to make clear to wives and husbands the laws governing marriage and divorce, etc." Therefore, we say that it is a book which should find favor and a useful place on the reference shelf of a public library. A wife or husband will find a quantity of knowledge in perusing the volume, although while so doing will be a bit perplexed and bewildered. There is much in the book. It is heavy with facts.

Further along Miss Drummond hopes "that lawyers themselves will find the book useful for quick reference." We might add that we have at hand numerous, too numerous perhaps, statutes, laws, and decisions, for our own particular "quick reference."

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