

1942

Book Reviews

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Book Reviews

IN AND OUT OF COURT. By *Francis X. Busch*. De Paul University Press, Chicago, 1942. Pp. 303. \$3.00.

What Bellamy Partridge did in "Country Lawyer" to depict the way of life of the small town practitioner, has been more than duplicated as to the metropolitan practitioner by Francis X. Busch in "In and Out of Court."

Every lawyer in Chicago for many years has known at least by reputation that the author was a master of the law and a great trial lawyer. Now his home town brethren as well as the bar of the country generally know him as a master of English prose.

It is the metropolitan barrister at his best whose legal exploits in and out of court make this fascinating tale so graphic in its demonstration that the art of advocacy is compounded of four ingredients: (1) the imagination which enables the lawyer to know the hidden facts that must be unearthed and to visualize the way it can be done, (2) the unyielding persistence which spurs the thirst for evidence until every least shred of helpful truth has been assembled, (3) the knowledge of human nature and mass psychology which enables the barrister so to call forth from the witnesses their knowledge of the facts as to lead the jurors to the same conclusions as the trial lawyers, and (4) the technical legal knowledge which enables this last to be done without offense to the prophylactic and procedural rules we know as the law of evidence.

To anyone who has had the privilege of knowing the author either personally or by reputation, surprise will be generated by the pages of his text, for who could have believed that Mr. Busch was old enough to have participated as counsel in trials which took place in days so long ago as now to seem of another era? Everyone familiar with the history of the Chicago courts these last 25 years knows of Mr. Busch as a lawyer of character, ability and distinction, and as a public official whose conduct tended to give politics a good name; but who among the members of the bench and bar born since 1885 knew of him as a court reporter, or dreamed that he could tell a story in language worthy of another court reporter our grandfathers made rich by buying blue covered volumes bearing in gold the name, Charles Dickens.

"In and Out of Court" should be read by every law student that he may better know what he wants to become and how to do it; by every lawyer that he may be a better lawyer, and by the members of the public generally that the great services of the legal profession and of the courts may be better understood and appreciated, and by all three classes for entertainment and pleasure, for surely this is a book so fascinating that it keeps one who begins to read it out of bed until he has finished it.

May we not all look forward to a sequel. The sooner, the better.

GRENVILLE BEARDSLEY

Washington, D. C.

THE ECLIPSE OF A MIND. By *Alonso Graves*. The Medical Journal Press, New York, N. Y., 1942. xii+ pp. 722. \$3.00.

Shakespeare says (or did he?) "Books have brought some men to knowledge, and some to madness." The author of this volume may have exploded that idea because after being hospitalized four times for manic-depressive

psychosis—popularly known as “circular insanity” because one stage presents a patient bubbling over with excitement and the other stage gives us a person as glum as glue—the patient was last heard of in Moscow, leaving for parts unknown. Yes, this is the life of Alonzo Graves by himself, who was five times hospitalized.

I could not help note the fact that the material in this book was obtained from him by his attending physician after the fourth hospitalization as from my layman point of view anything said by a man after being in an insane asylum four times and going on five must be very carefully weighed.

You might wonder why a layman would find this a very interesting book. Well I will tell you. Within the past few months I had to take charge of the affairs of a person whom I had watched evolve into manic-depressive psychosis that culminated in a walk to the lake amidst shouts of “I am going crazy.” I was one of a party that accompanied the patient to a sanitarium and had occasion to observe the cycle of conduct for a few months, and because there seemed to be no improvement in the patient a change of doctors and institutions resulted. The third day after being taken to a different hospital the patient was given the first treatment of “shock therapy” and it was like a miracle as the patient responded and snapped out of it or should I say, had been shocked out of it. Six or seven treatments followed every other day. After the third treatment the patient was allowed to leave the hospital and return to old haunts each day but to return to the hospital at night. After the fifth treatment the patient was released and allowed to go home but returned to the hospital for two more treatments every other day. At present he is living an apparently normal life except that he does not return to the old job for the time being, as I understand continuous daily work is still too strenuous for him.

Naturally in pursuing the present volume of Alonzo Graves I was attempting to find parallel positions between his case and the one I mention. This volume does contain the hospital records side by side with the patient’s comments but I looked in vain for the specific treatment that Alonzo Graves received. Of course not all patients can receive the same treatment and some will not respond to treatment at all. But if this review arouses your interest in what is one of the greatest social problems that confronts society today, you will take it upon yourself to read this volume. Then you may become further aroused and start a movement throughout the United States in every hospital where insane are confined to have every patient re-examined by experts and given the most modern treatment at the expense of the State if the patient has no private funds.

You have not been told in detail about Alonzo Graves being an obese middle aged man of above average intelligence who was married twice, who was a journalist by profession, who did this and thought that. I was not surprised at Alonzo’s conduct when I read about the constitutional weakness in his direct and indirect ancestors. His sister attempted suicide and is at present in an insane asylum. There are several chapters that will be of value to the psychiatrist because they present other aspects of the patient’s mental activity.

After all we are mindful of the fact that the mind is a mystery. Still the words of the immortal bard haunt those who seek to unveil it. . . . with how much truth, no one knows, is the following from Macbeth,

“Canst thou not minister to a mind diseased,
Pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow?”

JOHN W. CURRAN

BLOOD GROUPING TECHNIC. By *Fritz Schiff* and *William C. Boyd* with a foreword by *Dr. Karl Landsteiner*. Interscience Publishers, New York, 1942. Pp. 242. \$5.00.

This book is similar in outline to those previously published by Dr. Schiff in German. Dr. Boyd has done a very good job in translating it into English and has contributed a good deal of his own experiences in the field of blood groups and related subjects. The book can be considered a complete handbook in regard to the technical aspect of blood grouping tests. The description of the technique of determining the blood groups in blood stains, as well as in mummies, deserves special mention.

The text as a whole is, as the title says, mainly designed for those who are actually engaged in performing blood grouping tests. However, the important application to those tests in affiliation cases, as well as in certain criminal cases makes it an important one for those members of the legal profession who want to be informed about the fundamental biological laws underlying the differentiation of human beings in different blood groups.

The chapters entitled "Problems of Relationship, Including Disputed Paternity" and "Forensic application of Blood Grouping, Including Blood Stains" will assist prosecutors as well as defense counsel in scrutinizing the testimony and in cross-examining experts and self-styled experts in this field.

The inheritance of blood group characters is described from various angles in considerable detail although a degree of mathematical knowledge is necessary to understand some of the deductions drawn from it. The procedures for safe identification of the parties involved, taking and transporting blood samples, making the tests and recording the results and conclusions are clearly discussed.

It is obvious from the book that though blood grouping tests are done now as a routine test in all hospitals, their application in forensic medicine should be carried out only by those who have large experience in this field in order to avoid many possible technical pitfalls, as well as mistakes in interpretation of results obtained.

Illustrations, charts and tables are included to make the problems under discussion clearer to the reader.

There are quite a number of references to the literature though they are selected somewhat indiscriminately. This criticism, however, should not detract from the value of this excellent book that will be considered a standard work regarding the technique of blood grouping tests.

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Buffalo, N. Y.

MAUI YOUTH ADRIFT. A Study of Juvenile Delinquency on Maui, T. H. By *Norman C. Smith*. Maui Publishing Co. Ltd., Wailuku, Hawaii, 1942, Pp. 184.

This is a report on juvenile delinquency conditions on the 48 by 26 mile island of Maui. Representatives of eight races live there—total 42,000. The document aroused the interest of the population. Volunteer workers abound, supporting a Co-ordinating Council. "There is no longer a caddy problem at Waiehu; no longer so many sex delinquencies at Fair Time. Harmful community conditions have been cleared up, adult education thrives, kindergartens flourish." "No road houses, taverns, over night tourist camps, night clubs, taxi dance halls, juke joints, slot machines or other questionable commercial amusements. Beer-joints and liquor stores are closely policed and the laws are enforced." Yet there has been a considerable increase in delinquency. Thirty individuals were responsible for the increase in 1940; sixteen in 1941. "Concentrate on the few and the rate will drop."

Northwestern University

ROBERT H. GAULT