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Book Review (reviewing James Love Hopkins, The New Annotated Federal Judicial Code (1926))

George Gleason Bogert

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ence, in form at least, to a few outworn rules, which can only be made to serve the needs of a changing society by an ever-increasing distortion, with a resultant uncertainty, in advance of each decision, as to whether the rule will or will not be stretched and strained just a mite further. This complaint of the uncertainty of French law comes as a revealing glimpse behind the scenes. We, of the common law, have been told so much and so often of the blessings of a code, with its nickel-in-the-slot answer to every question, and it has been so hard to believe that absolutely all possible situations have been provided for by apposite rules, that is a relief to have our doubts confirmed. Even a European code sometime needs 'interpretation' and that interpretation is not always wholly obvious. In such an event the difference between our precedent-following and a genuine system of precedent-disregarding would seem to be the difference between some measure of predictability and none at all.

University of Chicago Law School.

E. W. PUTTKAMMER.

THE NEW ANNOTATED FEDERAL JUDICIAL CODE. By James Love Hopkins. Second edition. Cincinnati: The W. H. Anderson Company, 1925: pp. 375.

THE NEW FEDERAL EQUITY RULES ANNOTATED. By James Love Hopkins. Fifth edition. Cincinnati: The W. H. Anderson Company, 1925: pp. 335.

The first edition of the Judicial Code by Mr. Hopkins appeared in 1911. The changes made in that statute by the Act of Congress of February 13, 1925, give occasion for the second edition.

The introduction contains a brief outline of the history of the federal courts and an account of their jurisdiction, in simple form. The main body of the book consists of the sections of the code in order, followed by brief references to the sources from which the sections are drawn and brief notes concerning the construction placed upon the sections or their predecessors by the courts. There is an index and table of cases.

The first edition of Mr. Hopkins's Equity Rules appeared in 1912. This latest edition contains the most recent changes in the rules and the decisions construing them, down to July 1, 1925.

The introduction contains some useful historical material, notably a report on the condition of equity pleading in England in 1912, the questions put to Lord Chancellor Loreburn in 1912 by Mr. Justice Lurton and the former's answers thereto concerning the rules in force in England, and a summary of the effect of the 1912 revision in the United States. Thereafter follow the rules of 1822, the rules in force from 1866 to 1911 with notes regarding sources and construction, and the rules of 1912 with source and construction references. There are also forms for use in drafting bills, answers, motions, master's reports, and decrees. The book ends with a table of cases and an index.

These little books constitute a collection of material doubtless of much convenience to practitioners in the federal courts.

University of Chicago.

GEORGE G. BOGERT.