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Book Review (reviewing Walter C. Clephane, Handbook of the Law of Equity Pleading and Practice (1926))

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slowly than technical invention progresses. The trouble with the populace is not so much that it is Satan, as that it is, too often, not even an intelligent devil. And we part company with Mr. Angell by suggesting that the hope of the future lies perhaps more in the silent and unsensational building up of an economic and juristic organization, which renders war difficult in its inception and spectacularly disastrous in its consequences, than in a moral conversion of the Public Mind, untaught by repetitions of the bitter experience of war. 'A fire-drill,' urges Mr. Angell, 'propaganda which rehearses the terrors of war!' But only the burnt child dreads the flames. Better take steps, as well, to render the house non-inflammable. Nevertheless, while we should not divert our attention from the study of the chemistry of political anti-combustibles, it remains the moral obligation of all adult and literate persons to read Mr. Angell's incisive and important book.

George E. G. Catlin

Equity Pleading and Practice. By WALTER C. CLEPHANE. St. Paul: West Publishing Co. 1926. Pp. xiv, 605.

This book is the successor to Shipman's Equity Pleading, published in 1897. The older book covered pleading only, whereas Colonel Clephane's work includes also material on practice. The lapse of nearly thirty years has brought much change in the federal equity rules and numerous decisions which justify a new edition of the Hornbook.

Colonel Clephane's experience as a practitioner in the District of Columbia and as a teacher in the George Washington School of Law qualify him for writing a book, balanced in theory and practicality. The leading rules and principles are stated with clarity and succinctly. The footnotes contain references to many of the leading decisions and to sections from Langdell, Story, Daniell, Van Zile, Fletcher, Foster and other writers on the subject. Features of much utility are an outline of the steps in an equity suit (pp. 17-19), the Federal Equity Rules revised to date, and a complete set of forms. A table of cases is lacking.

The older books on this subject are so covered with the barnacles of successive editors' footnotes and so heavily laden with cargoes of obsolete learning as to be unseaworthy. The large encyclopedic book of the head-note type is so cumbersome as to be almost impossible to use. Clephane's usable summary of the topic will fill a real want in those unfortunate jurisdictions where equity pleading and practice are not yet extinct. The book will also be of some aid to the student of the federal practice on the chancery side.

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George G. Bogert