

Selected Papers of Homer Cummings: 1933-1939. Edited by Carl Brent Swisher. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1939. Pp. xxvi, 316. \$3.50.

The life span of this volume is six years, 1933-1939. That many years, when compared to our government's history, is not impressive, but during those particular years the Department of Justice was faced with and required to handle many extremely important and critical problems. Because of that fact alone, such a chronicle as this commends itself to both lawyers and laymen.

By publishing many of the papers that passed over the desk of the Senior Partner, the editor outlines the operation of the "Nation's Largest Law Office," and, at the same time, gives some insight into the personality and ability of that Senior Partner. The papers used to accomplish this twofold purpose were drawn largely from the Attorney General's public speeches, office memoranda, arguments to courts, and personal notes to the President. The latter are particularly interesting when the subject of the communications was gold hoarding or the court "packing" plan.

The volume is arranged in six parts, each dealing with particular functions of the Department of Justice. In editorial notes preceding each section the editor gives a historical background. A sufficient number of reported decisions are cited to satisfy the demands of lawyers, and yet not so many as to bore the layman. The most interesting selection of papers, probably because they are the most controversial, are arranged under the title, "The Courts, the Constitution, and the New Deal." Attention also is given to Crime Control, Practice, Judicial Reform, and the routine litigation of the Department of Justice.

This volume not only gives the reader an interesting introduction to an important department of our Federal Government, but it also leaves the reader with the feeling that he has been privileged to see behind the scenes.

JOHN A. ECKLER*

* Member of the Illinois Bar.