

*Sorenson v. Wood* and then citing against that case the very one-sided and inaccurate list of law articles cited against it in footnotes in the opinion of the *Summit* case. That list, as I have elsewhere pointed out, consists almost entirely of selections inspired from sources directly traceable to attorneys for broadcasting companies. This Yale case book at this point leaves with me the impression that whether or not the compilers regard the lusty legal infant, *Sorenson v. Wood*, as in any sense my child they are in any event inclined to regard him as a naughty boy. He certainly has been much maligned in writings by lawyers for broadcasting companies. A number of courts, however, have treated him much more kindly. I have been gratified to notice, also, that the latest comprehensive discussions of this matter to come to my attention<sup>4</sup> also treat him much more kindly.

LAWRENCE VOLD\*

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**A Cataloging Manual for Law Libraries.** By Elsie Basset. New York: H. W. Wilson Co., 1942. Pp. 365. \$5.00.

The scope of the manual is much wider than its title would indicate. It deals with law cataloging, law classification, assignment of subject headings, administration of the cataloging department, and relation of the cataloging department to other divisions of the library. The textual presentation is enlarged by appendixes consisting of subject heading outlines and classification schemes, bibliographies with recommended readings for each chapter, and a sample catalog.

The manual is projected against the general cataloging rules which have been adopted by the American Library Association and interpreted in cataloging treatises of a general nature—rules which are put into practice by the majority of the American libraries.

In introducing the chapters dealing with the various aspects of cataloging and classification, Miss Basset does not tell anything which a person trained in cataloging would not have known. But this background material is not intended for the trained librarian. It is a person without library training who will appreciate the succinct and plain overviews. The reviewer does not wish to imply that the chapters on cataloging are not valuable to the general cataloger who is faced with the cataloging of a law collection. After skimming a few introductory paragraphs in each chapter, he will find adaptations of the general cataloging rules to the field of law and examples drawn from the field of law which are infrequently encountered in general cataloging literature. Let us take as an example the assigning of book (or Cutter) numbers. As a rule, a book number is taken from the author's name in order that the arrangement of the books on the shelves may follow the arrangement of the catalog cards. Library practice makes an exception of this rule in the case of biographies. The Cutter number is chosen from the name of the biographee rather than from the biographer's name—a procedure which brings together all writings about a certain person. Miss Basset rightly extends this exception to the determination of Cutter numbers for documents concerning single trials. Such documents are "cuttered" from the name of the trial rather than

<sup>4</sup> Finlay, *Defamation by Radio*, 19 Can. Bar Rev. 353 (1941); Eldredge, *Modern Tort Problems* (1941).

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from that of the person reporting it. To give her example: Seldon, Samuel L., *Opinion in the Parish Will Case*, is cuttered from Parish and not from Seldon. In that way all writings relating to the individual trials are placed together on the shelves.

Miss Basset emphasizes again and again the role which Library of Congress cards should play in the cataloging process. Although she expects libraries to avail themselves of the Library of Congress card service whenever possible, she makes librarians aware of the fact that the cataloging rules as followed by the Library of Congress are not in every way suitable for all kinds of libraries. For instance, digests of reports or digests of statutes would logically be placed with the corresponding reports and statutes. The Library of Congress feels that the digesters must be given due credit and usually enters digests under their names. On account of this considerate treatment digests are separated from the reports or statutes with which they are concerned. A digester would probably be just as well satisfied with the secondary entry to which he is, for example, relegated in Miss Basset's manual and in Columbia University Law Library.

Another point with regard to Library of Congress cards is well taken. The Library of Congress cards are primarily designed for the catalog of the Library of Congress. They contain bibliographical detail much of which may not be required in a small library. If small libraries accept the Library of Congress style as a pattern, they are cautioned by Miss Basset not to imitate the Library of Congress procedure slavishly but to adapt it to their own necessities. If libraries have to produce cards of their own, it may therefore be advisable to omit certain data—perhaps parts of the collation, or notes relating to editorship. It is further stressed by Miss Basset that the subject headings supplied on the cards are meant for the general library catalog. Some subjects noted on the card may not be sufficiently technical for the special library; others may contain information not needed in a catalog consisting exclusively of legal materials. To give one of Miss Basset's examples, "Forms (Law)" as used by the Library of Congress is desirable for a general catalog, but "Forms" is satisfactory for a catalog of only legal materials, since here it is not necessary to distinguish legal forms from other forms.

The purposes both of subject headings and classification are clearly brought out and well illustrated with examples. The subject heading lists supplied in the Appendix and those referred to in the bibliographies offer to any cataloger new avenues to this problem.

Since the Library of Congress classification for law has not yet been published, libraries have to rely on outlines which have been prepared elsewhere. The examples and the references given by Miss Basset to the works of Frederick C. Hicks, A. Arthur Schiller, Miles O. Price, Thomas S. Dabagh, and others clearly reveal the present status of law classification. It is understandable that she should have a preference for the outlines developed at Columbia University, in which she has had a considerable share; but here, as throughout her book, she is anxious to present objectively and fairly the endeavors of others.

It may be open to doubt whether Miss Basset's stand against a divided catalog is justified. To substantiate such a claim it would be necessary to offer at several institutions to the same or similar groups of users alternately the single catalog and the divided catalog. The reactions of the users could then be a basis for establishing the superiority of one kind of catalog over the other.

The manual is designed for law catalogers of different backgrounds. It is designed to serve those who are trained in cataloging but not in law and for those who are trained in law but not in cataloging. Thus, on account of its dual objective one might expect the book to contain sections with which a library-trained person is well familiar. However, Miss Basset has, on the whole, succeeded in reducing to a minimum observations on cataloging and classification in general. She never loses sight of her problem: to delimit, describe, and evaluate law cataloging and law classification. Not only will her manual be helpful to law catalogers, but it will also be of value to library administrators who might find it necessary to establish or change law cataloging policies. It is in every respect so well done that it could easily serve as a pattern for cataloging manuals in other special fields.

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**Law in Medical and Dental Practice.** By Jack Neal Lott, Jr., and Robert Hanes Gray. Chicago: Foundation Press, Inc., 1942. Pp. vi, 499. \$4.75.

This book offers a new and helpful approach to the problem of familiarizing medical and dental students with Medical Jurisprudence. It is a textbook designed to replace or to supplement lectures and to supply case records for collateral reading. It was compiled because the authors were dissatisfied with the customary methods of teaching. After several years of experience they concluded that students of medicine and dentistry, usually unfamiliar with legal terminology, tended to acquire from lectures only a hazy understanding of medico-legal problems. Convinced of the educational value of the concrete example, they became aware of the difficulties in finding suitable material for assigned or suggested reading. Medical and dental students do not always have access to a law library, even if they know how to use one. For such reasons the authors chose to present important aspects of Medical Jurisprudence through the use of case abstracts.

The cases included in this book were selected because of their value in clarifying legal principles. Thus, though they do not always represent the majority rule, in order to leave no doubt as to the prevailing opinions and their important exceptions supplementary notes and comments from the law reviews have been added as needed. Legal authorities and relevant cases have been cited; many abstracts contain quotations from testimony, from judicial and court decisions, from dissenting opinions, and from reference texts. In essence this is a legal textbook, but one in which the medical aspects of cases have been stressed, and special pains have been taken to make legal principles clear to the novice.

The authors have stated emphatically that this work was not intended to be encyclopedic. The problems chosen for detailed presentation usually have to do with the more traditional fields of Medical Jurisprudence. To explore the newer and more controversial aspects by means of the case method would be no small task. This is especially true of many problems having to do with social and industrial medicine, with the use of the corporate device in the practice of medicine and dentistry, and with the admissibility as evidence of the results of new technical procedures. Certainly it is beyond the scope of a textbook for beginners to attempt detailed analyses in fields where

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