BOOK REVIEWS


A few weeks before his death, Dean Wigmore requested that I write a review of this book. I felt then as I feel now, that I really am not equipped to deal critically with its content. Dean Wigmore's request, under the circumstances, however, I considered a command. I have no background for commenting on the traditional practices of the legal profession in Italy, but I have some hunches about what the traditions of the legal profession should be almost anywhere, and I have at least the best will in the world to say something about the things that Dean Wigmore loved and fought for in this field during his long life. Perhaps on the last score at least I may say a few words.

As for the book, it deals in simple and idyllic manner with the way of life of the lawyer so far as he works with and for the judge, and they together work out the achievement of justice. The first pages deal primarily with trial courts, and the various personal and psychological features that affect both lawyer and judge. Much idealistic and some shrewd comment is made upon the apparent contradictions of a judge's duties as well as those of the lawyer. For instance, how far may a lawyer show more enthusiasm for his case than he feels, and how far may a lawyer go in defending a client whom he personally thinks is guilty? The answers of the author to these and other questions are not superficial and platitudinous—they are deeply sympathetic and philosophical.

The book itself might well be said to be in honor of Dean Wigmore in that it is in praise of the fundamental honesty and selfless devotion to duty that are a part of the morals of the legal profession, and especially of the obscure, often berated, long-suffering, and hard-working trial judge. Not only by his teaching, but through his daily contacts and in the honest vigor of his private thought, the high traditions, the devotion of spirit, and the singleness of purpose of the trial judge were part of Dean Wigmore's life. He believed and he acted on the belief that the legal profession was a special calling devoted to the fine art of securing justice between man and his brother man. He felt that lawyers and judges were set apart in a special way for the discharge of this art which involved both learning and skill and took all life for its province. The author of this little book feels the same way. He has a guileless and utterly charming humility as he approaches the good judge and considers his high service.

But if I may add a crude and crass note at the end, high as this unselfish devotion to the special calling of the administration of justice may be, must we not be always watchful that we do not follow it to the cruel error which at times tempts the very best of professional men, namely, that they think too steadily even of their high calling and hence tend to lose themselves in methodology, failing to see clearly their flesh-and-blood litigant for whose sake all of us in the law exist and work?

PAUL SAYRE*

† Professor of Civil Procedure, University of Florence.

* Professor of Law, State University of Iowa.
This is the running account—primarily told by excerpts from the documentation—of a man who dreamed a fantastic dream and made it come true. The man was Salmon O. Levinson, Chicago lawyer. His dream was the outlawry of war. And for it he gave his vast, talented influence and his equally vast fortune.

More and more widely credited now as the author and originator of the Kellogg-Briand Pact, Levinson had a genius for negotiation. How he wielded that genius to win the "right" people here and abroad and to marshal, as well, the necessary public opinion for his cause is both explicitly and implicitly found in this book of excerpts from his voluminous correspondence, cables, telegrams, memoranda, and other records which were originally confidential.

The volume will be of value to students of current politics; government and political science; international relations, law, and organization; propaganda; and the history of diplomacy and of Europe since 1914.

$4.00

The University of Chicago Press

From the lessons of past failures peacemakers of tomorrow will find valuable suggestions which may help to guide them in the formulation of a peace plan that will work.

PLANS FOR WORLD PEACE THROUGH SIX CENTURIES

By

SYLVESTER JOHN HEMLEBEN
Fordham University

What were some of the noted peace plans of the past? What did they contribute to organized world peace? Why were none of these plans adopted?

Here is a concise and clear portrayal of peace projects from the proposal of Pierre Dubois in 1305-7 to the formation of the League of Nations in 1919. Other plans discussed include those of Dante and Marsiglio in the fourteenth century; George Podébrad of Bohemia, in the fifteenth century; the plea of Erasmus and Wolsey's league in the sixteenth century; The New Cynen of Crucé and the "Grand Design" attributed by Sully to Henry IV of France; Grotius, Penn, Bellers, Saint-Pierre, Rousseau, Bentham, Kant, Saint-Simon, Tsar Alexander I of Russia, Ladd, Jay, Bluntschli, and Lorimer. Programs of the first World War period, 1914-18, are carefully studied.

$2.50

The University of Chicago Press

Please mention the REVIEW when answering advertisements