Book Review (reviewing Ralph Stanley Bauer & Essel Ray Dillavou, Cases on Business Law, Bailments and Carriers, Security Rights, Property, Insurance, Banks and Banking, Bankruptcy, Crimes, Trade Regulation (1925))

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BOOK REVIEW

reason no professional teacher of agency can afford to overlook the book, and judges and practicing attorneys can also study it with profit. As an original intellectual product the text is decidedly superior to the average hornbook; so much so, in fact that the reviewer thinks it should have been published independently, as a scholarly, argumentative treatise, advocating sweeping innovations in concepts and terminology. Yet for this very reason the work strikes the reviewer as too difficult and to contentious to be put, as a basic text, into the hands of law students, particularly students in part-time schools.

The publishers have omitted the customary table of cases, thereby depriving everybody who wishes to use the book of a valuable tool for quick reference. The reason is difficult to see, unless it be some notion of economy. But if this be the cause the underlying policy appears pennywise. Readers are not likely to favor a book, advancing and developing so many new concepts, if natural difficulties of orientation within the text are thus unnecessarily increased. The present reviewer found the omission decidedly exasperating.

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This work is a companion to Britton and Bauer's Cases on Business Law, published in 1922, which covered the most fundamental subjects in the law of business, namely, Contracts, Agency, Negotiable Instruments, Sales, Partnership, and Corporations. The new book devotes itself to Bailments and Carriers, Security Rights in Rem and in Personam, Property, Insurance, Banks and Banking, Bankruptcy, Crimes, and Regulation of Trade. Britton and Bauer contained 1512, this later book, 997 pages of cases.

The scheme of treatment of each topic is a short introductory statement by the authors, followed by the full text of judicial opinions which illustrate problems thereunder. Occasionally the statutory element is noticed, as in a typical statute on liens and in the Uniform Conditional Sales Act. Footnotes are so rare as to be negligible. At the front one finds a table of cases, at the back a dictionary of legal terms and an index.

The selection of subjects and cases seems to have been made with intelligence and discrimination. Necessarily the treatment is sketchy. For example, to the subject of Equitable Estates and Trusts are assigned six cases only. This is a characteristic of Business Law as a course, and not a fault of the book. Students who expect to engage in business and desire hints as to the legal dangers in their course will here receive a valuable chart of many of the shoals and rocks of modern commerce. They will learn much about when and how to consult a lawyer.

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