

BOOK REVIEWS

CASES ON EVIDENCE, by Charles T. McCormick. Published 1940, by West Publishing Co., St. Paul Minn—1035 pp.

Dean McCormick has endeavored to present to students of the law a case book which offers a compilation of cases emphasizing the practical trial room procedure. In some instances many paragraphs have been devoted to matters which do not point to the rule of law involved, but rather to act as a groundwork or foundation which will assist the student in retaining the rule of the case because of his opportunity to simultaneously learn the manner in which the rule is utilized in every day practice. Every student of the law of evidence is aware of the constant difficulty with the rules, which in the classroom appear to be close friends, and yet when application to a given set of facts is required take on the character of strangers. Any effort expended to overcome this common transition is to be highly lauded.

Dean McCormick has arranged his chapters and sections in a manner which is conducive to orderly thinking, with the subject matter developing in logical sequence. The cases are apparently chosen for the clarity in which the rule desired is presented. Dean McCormick has, except in few instances, rejected cases which deal with shady distinction and subtle differentiation. This is to be desired in a case book treating a subject matter such as evidence in which often time subtleties prove barriers along the dimly lighted path to clear understanding.

While Dean McCormick in selecting his material had an eye to conciseness, he did not sacrifice important topics for the accomplishment of this desire. Rather, he eliminated subject matter which is rarely used by the lawyer in the practice of law by reason of its specialized nature. However, in the footnotes, ample reference is provided so that if it is desired a study of such eliminated subject matter may be easily and satisfactorily accomplished. The footnotes dealing with each section of the book supply a key to a wealth of reading matter which may be pursued if a broader knowledge of each topic is required or if the student desires to develop the niceties of the rule.

Dean McCormick's book is a worthy addition to the case books on evidence.

IRWIN A. STEINBERG.

The American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers has, for the fourth consecutive year, invited universities, colleges, and schools which offer a course in law to participate in the Fourth Annual Nathan Burkan Memorial Competition. The contest is open to all enrolled students, and is on the subject of copyright law. The student who, in the opinion of the Dean of the law school, has submitted the best paper among those entered in each school is awarded \$100.

After the close of each annual competition, the winning paper from each

participating school is submitted to an authoritative national committee, which selects the best five papers from among the individual winners. No additional cash award is made to these national winners, but their papers are reprinted in a book entitled "Copyright Law Symposium," which is widely distributed to the bar at home and abroad, to associations and organizations interested in the subject matter, to libraries, and students.

The competition was inaugurated in 1938 in honor of Nathan Burkan, one of the founders of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers, and general counsel of the society until his death on June 6, 1936.

A prospectus of the 1941 competition has been published and is available on request from the society at 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City. The 27-page booklet contains an article by E. C. Mills, chairman of the administration committee, describing the founding, purpose, and growth of the ASCAP. For the student who intends to submit a paper, a very valuable compendium of authorities is included. It consists of citations of illustrative copyright cases from 1796 to the present, lists of treatises, periodical literature articles; and United States Government publications relative to the subject.