

from instructors and fellow-students. The world would stand aghast at the spectacle of a scientific student turned loose in a laboratory and told to learn the use of the apparatus for himself. In recent years many law schools have attempted to remedy this situation by a systematic course in the use of law books, but their chief difficulty has been the lack of a suitable text book.

This lack, Mr. Cooley's book, now in its fifth edition, has admirably met. It falls naturally into three main divisions; where to find the law, how to find the law, and having found it, how to apply it. In addition the specimen pages from all leading law books make it a splendid laboratory manual for practical use. The legal novice is bewildered by the towering stacks of a law library, the first part of Mr. Cooley's books introduces him to these apparently numberless volumes and explains them to him and grades them for him. He may know, now, the difference between primary and secondary, direct and persuasive authority, but he must learn where the particular point of law he needs is to be found in their serried ranks. This the second section teaches him. Having learned where and how to find his law he must now apply it. On finishing his course and seeking a position the first question asked him is not, does he know the law (a presumption operates there in his favor), but can he draw a brief? The third part of the book enables him to do this. The specimen pages are of especial value in such work, for they enable every student to trace the same point of law simultaneously, and, incidentally, save much wear and tear on the library.

The Fifth Edition differs from the Fourth only in its mechanical make-up. By the use of thinner paper it has been possible to include all the work in one volume, which makes it decidedly more convenient and brings it within a range which makes possible its use as a regular text book. The new edition also includes specimen pages from California Jurisprudence, a new idea in encyclopoedic law, containing all the law of a single jurisdiction.

WARREN TURNER, '27.

---

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR BAR EXAMINATION REVIEW. By *Charles S. Haight* and *Arthur M. Marsh*. Second Edition. New York: Baker, Voorhis and Company. 1909. pp. lii and 585.

This book contains twenty-three subjects treated in the form of brief hypothetical questions and their answers. The book was not intended to be nor can it be relied upon as a source of original information. Its chief purpose is to recall in systematic form the propositions of law with which the student is already acquainted. These propositions are, in most instances, deduced from adjudicated cases and the condensed and simplified form in which they are stated is commendable. Following the statements of legal principles are numerous citations of cases which make convenient a more extensive review. Where the decisions are in conflict there is not only an alignment of the authorities but a discussion of the important principles and theories involved. This is particularly true of the doctrine in Suretyship as to notice of acceptance of the guaranty and of default by the principal; pp. 402-404. In a few instances topics are summarized in chart form. These are found in classifications of the powers of an agent p. 3; estates in real property p. 299, and torts with regard to the rights which they infringe p. 428.

The quantity of treatment of the various subjects is perhaps open to some criticism. Only 5 pages are allotted to Personal Property while 47 pages are devoted to Real Property. The fact that only 8 pages are given to Equity may be explained by the allotment to its kindred subjects of 14 pages to Quasi-Contracts; 15 pages to Trusts; and 27 pages to Suretyship.

The section on Pleading and Practice under the New York Code is of special value to those students who intend to take their bar examinations in the States which have adopted the Code. The subject is treated principally in the

exact language of the code except where further explanation is deemed essential.

Restraints on Alienation, pp. 336-340, and The Rule against Perpetuities, pp. 341-345 are topics so adequately treated and cogently expressed that they will appeal to the practitioner as well as the student.

An accurate table of cases and a thorough index and table of contents enhance the value of the book—especially to those who desire to use it for ref-

THEODORE SHORT, '27.

---

A DICTIONARY OF MODERN ENGLISH USAGE. By *H. W. Fowler*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1926.

Whenever a student of language utters a protest against the decline of grammar, the decay of syntax, and the consequent loss of perspective in language, the complacent among us remind him of the thirteenth century Orm and his fears for our tongue, and then cheerfully point out that the English language still manages to survive. Their implied argument, specious at best, is fully answered by even the most casual examination of *A Dictionary of Modern Usage*. Here quotation after quotation reveals the ineptitudes and absurdities that have reduced our speech to jargon—jargon, the dialect not of the illiterate but of journalists, novelists, and teachers. This work has a large significance; it is a protest against the vulgarization of our language.

With all its wealth of teaching, the book is a spirited adventure in words. Its author plunges into the wilderness of modern speech, and shooting jargon as it flies, he brings down many a graceless bird, often a monster. For our diversion and instruction he classifies and exhibits the creatures. He discourses on them learnedly, humorously. In fine, he produces something quite different from the usual dictionary, which merely records and explains. This new dictionary is plainly critical and didactic. The author not only describes but also chooses. And we are willing to listen and mend our speech because the writer possesses scholarship, wit, and taste. Special study and scientific investigation have not deadened his sense of form. With high spirits, with gusto, he exposes the shams of pretentious ignorance, ostentatious learning, and cheap ornament. He not only holds the mirror to the face of ugliness, but would also wash that face.

The book will be of special value to those who have not become acquainted with the idioms of English. Here they will find information on the uses of "a," "which," "shall and will," "the," and "that." They will find thousands of articles dealing with words that are a source of trouble to many classes of English-speaking people. He who will have nothing to do with "the acid test" and is above misusing "slogan" or misunderstanding "hectic" and "the psychological moment" may stand in need of advice on the use of "meticulous" and "exception proves the rule." In these articles on individual words and phrases and in more than four hundred general articles, with cross-references, he will be taught to recognize and to shun such common faults as *Vogue-words*, *Elegant Variation*, *Superiority*, and *Genteelism*. To him who is burdened with popular superstitions about the English language are addressed articles on *Fetishes*, *Puns*, *Saxonism*, *Preposition at End*, and *False Quantity*. These myths, which usually owe their life to a little learning and a great desire to show it, fall before the author's wide learning and intelligence. Perhaps the book may be of use to the ignorant; certainly it will prove useful to the misinformed.

Whoever deplores the breakdown of serviceable distinctions in our language, whoever shrinks from jargon and the tawdry style, will find in *Modern Usage* instruction and pleasure. The book makes for a wider acquaintance with words, with "the aroma, substance, and precision of words." By precept and example it teaches the ethics of pure and vigorous English. It is an attempt to formulate the canon of modern English speech.

WENDELL J. PHILLIPS, '27.