for unwittingly unethical lawyers and to hinder and disbar members who knowingly violate the professional code.

Mr. Cohen's chapters on "Business Enterprise in the Law" and on "A Commercial Invasion" are almost enough to dash the courage of an ethical lawyer. Examples are given of large and prosperous business concerns which have as their sole means of prosperity the "touting" of business for the less prosperous members of our noble profession. Discouraging facts are set forth in abundance but we are not left in the Slough of Despond but, like Christian, are brought to firmer ground in the next chapters. In these we are shown that standards are being slowly elevated and are shown the inspiring example set by some of America's best lawyers who are devoting valuable time and service to the cleansing of their profession.

In the final chapters Mr. Cohen advocates the teaching of legal ethics in all law schools as one means of reaching the desired end. This plus watchfulness on the part of the ethical lawyer and unflinching courage in weeding out unethical members will succeed in putting the lawyer in a respected position. The Appendices are devoted to the Code of Ethics adopted by the American Bar Association and to questions presented to the Committee on Professional Ethics of New York County and the answers given. LUCILLE STOCKE, '26.

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LAW REFORM. PAPERS AND ADDRESSES BY A PRACTICING LAWYER, HENRY W. TAFT. New York. The Macmillan Company. 1926.

Mr. Taft has published in book form an instructive collection of his papers and addresses. The fact that it is a collection of papers and addresses assures the reader that the book is entertaining as well as informing. The various subjects treated deal with law reform in different phases and with varying degrees of particularity; for example, the title essay on "Law Reform," deals with this subject in a manner which should prove interesting to both the lawyer and the layman. The subjects of "Justice and the Poor," "The Press and the Courts," and "The World Court," should all be extremely interesting to the layman. Those in the profession will find his treatment of "Will Contests in New York," "Uniformity of Procedure in the Federal Courts," and "Freedom of Speech and the Espionage Acts," highly instructive.

Since the title essay deals generally with the subject of law reform and gives Mr. Taft's views on the subject, a review of that essay

is perhaps the best mode of giving one an idea as to the scope and the value of the work.

Mr. Taft believes that both the substantive and the adjective law are in need of sweeping reform. He says: "While we need to have the uncertainties of our substantive law removed by both a scientific restatement and a thorough revision which will bring it abreast of modern requirements, the most pressing need is to reform our procedure, both that which precedes and that which regulates the trial. * * * * We are still wallowing in a morass of complicated pleading and archaic rules of evidence." After giving a most instructive review of the law reform movement in other countries he calls attention to the difficulties to be encountered in this country, because of the 48 different jurisdictions, and cites the failure of many of the "uniform acts" which have been advanced as an example of the apathy of the legislatures in cooperating in reform movements. The work of restating the substantive law is already under way under the auspices of the legal profession and is being carried on by the American Law Institute. This work, according to Mr. Taft, will require ten years and is a "movement of first importance," but it has no governmental authority and must derive its chief influence from the high character of the jurists who are doing the work. However, the author seems to think that this is about all that can be done along the line of changing our substantive law and devotes much of his discussion to the procedural reform, considering both the criminal and the civil procedure.

In speaking of the causes of failure of criminal administration he says: "Technicalities in indictments surviving from a past age; the excessive accentuation of the presumption of innocence; the retention of archaic and absurd rules of evidence; long delays in bringing to trial persons charged with crime; absurd rules relating to the examination and qualification of trial jurors, resulting in great delay and the elimination of intelligent jurors; the general exaggeration of the character, extent, and historical development of the safeguards with which the liberty of the citizen should be surrounded;—these are some of the causes for failures in the administration of criminal justice. England, from which we derive the traditions on which our criminal justice is founded, has long since abandoned most of these excrescences." To these defects in the courts themselves Mr. Taft adds "exaltation of the criminal," the "trial by newspaper," the apathy of the public and the inertia of the legislature, as other causes for the failure of criminal administration.

The author makes no suggestion as to an organized method or any means of carrying out needed law reforms but infers that the remedy lies with the people and is not due to any lack of leadership from the profession. He cites an example of a certain reform bill of a procedural nature, which has the approval of the bench and bar, the Senate Judiciary Committee and many other bodies, yet because of the active opposition of two or three senators has been held in committee for eleven years. As long as the people tolerate such legislative inertia Mr. Taft would have us infer that there can be no reform. But as he truly says: "The insufficiencies of the law do not touch the people closely enough or frequently enough to excite their prompt and active interest."

The other papers deal chiefly with other phases of the subject of law reform and develop many of the points advocated in the title essay. Mr. Taft has indeed made a valuable contribution to the understanding of the problem with which he deals and while he has offered no solution, he has offered a work which should create an interest and understanding among all who read it and may in this way develop the public support which must be the foundation of all reform measures.

FORREST M. HEMKER, '27.

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SOURCES AND LITERATURE OF ENGLISH LAW. By W. S. Holdsworth, K. C., D. C. L., F. B. A. Oxford University Press. New York. 1925.

There is no need of introducing W. S. Holdsworth. He is well known in his profession, both as a teacher and a writer. He holds the Vinerian Chair at Oxford University; he is a Foreign Associate of the Royal Belgian Academy, and a Bencher of Lincoln's Inn. He has written "The Sources and Literature of English Law" (based on six lectures given by him at Oxford) for the purpose of familiarizing the student, who is beginning to read the law, with the sources from which it developed, and with the names of the men who played important parts in that development.

The book opens with a short outline of the political condition of England at the time of the Conquest—the most significant, according to Mr. Holdsworth, political change in relation to the development of English law. He traces the gradual weakening of the strong Norman