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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

LAW OF THE AIR. By Carl Zollmann. Milwaukee: Bruce Publishing Company. 1927. pp. XVI, 286.

For some years the author of this text, a professor of law at Marquette University, has devoted much time to this subject, considerable of the present material having previously appeared in articles in the Marquette Law Review. The briefness of the text, 132 pages, is of course due to the paucity of decisions concerning airships and radio, but all of the available material is well covered and the author promises another edition wherein many of his conjectures may be replaced by statutes and decisions. In respect to airships, the book covers contracts, torts, insurance, patents and governmental control, as matters of municipal law; several problems of international law are also indicated. The chapter on radio is as complete as is now possible. Half of the volume is devoted to a fine appendix in which international, federal and state legislation is accurately printed. This is a great contribution, for much of the future law will be based on this material and here it is all made available in one volume.

It is unfortunate that a bibliography as a separate item has been omitted, to save searching through the foot notes. It is also unfortunate that so many typographical errors were overlooked; this writer counted ten of them within a few pages, some resulting in a false citation.

—E. W. H.

HANDBOOK OF ROMAN LAW, by Max Radin, LL. B., PH. D., West Publishing Co.: St. Paul, Minn.

At this time when there seems to be a new or renewed interest in the subject of Roman law it is pleasing to have Professor Max Radin's book brought to our attention. In this work we find the large and somewhat complex and complicated subject of the Roman law contained in one volume. The book does not pretend to be an exhaustive study of the subject but is rather a brief introduction to the outstanding elements thereof and coordinates that with Roman procedure and legal institutions in

a manner that does not confuse one who does not intend to study the subject exhaustively.

Prof. Radin has at all times, it would seem, a special audience in view. The book, was written to be read by law students or by those lawyers who wished an introduction with the system of law which may still be found to be at the base of many modern adaptations of law. For this reason the reader will find that this work contains more allusions and parallels drawn from the common law than is usually the case in a volume of this nature. While this would not be at all advisable if the author had a general audience in view, it endears itself all the more to the person who is familiar with the common law. While speaking of such references it might be well to add that these in the majority of cases are so clear as to necessitate no explanation.

In his introduction, Prof. Radin calls attention to the fact that he is not treating with Roman law as an existing code but rather as a historical fact. As a historical fact it can be considered as having affected all of the law in every land today although it is not consciously followed except in South America. The civil law in vogue in non-English speaking countries is the heir of the Roman law and even the Common Law has its tinge of the famous code.

The work is just a wee bit too technical for the student who knows nothing whatsoever of the subject. If it is to be used along with another text it is an excellent book to have on hand. The historical date contained in the early chapters at times seems to be at variance with the standard history of Rome.

Aside from these objections the book is very readable and as is the case with the books of the Handbook series, of which it is a part, is guide-marked in bold print at frequent intervals so as to add greatly to the lucidity of the whole work.