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Review of The Power to Please by J. W. Donovan

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BOOK REVIEWS


For nearly half a century Judge Donovan's Modern Jury Trials has been read by the lawyers of America. It has been an invaluable aid to the trial lawyer. Who has not been thrilled by the great eloquence and convincing arguments of such advocates as Carpenter, Webster, Graham, Evarts, Ryan, and Daniel Voorhees? The revised edition of Modern Jury Trials was reviewed in the January (1931) number of the Notre Dame Lawyer. As the profession welcomed this revision, so it will receive and welcome Judge Donovan's recent work entitled "Power to Please." This little book of sixty pages edited by H. L. Herschberg and dedicated to Henry Ford contains more meat than volumes many times its size. It contains quotations from the best and many interesting experiences and stories of this grand old lawyer. It is full of suggestions to lawyers and speakers and professional men in general. Friends of Judge Donovan, and they are legion, will be pleased to know that the Judge is still hale and hearty at ninety-two. The Judge celebrated his ninety-second birthday on March 2nd, at 4765 Fuller-ton Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, and I am sure all who have read his works will join in congratulations and wish him many more birthdays.

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In the selection of cases for the second edition of his Casebook on Insurance Law, Professor Vance has been guided by two considerations. The first is a shifting of emphasis from the historical background and development of the law of insurance to its economic aspects. The second consideration is a recognition of the fact that because American insurance law, aside from marine insurance law, has as far changed and diverged from the course of its English sources, that, except for historical interest, many English cases have lost their value for American students. Many such cases have been eliminated from the second edition, and in their stead the editor has used more modern American cases which are illustrative of the trend of American insurance law.

The editor has made frequent use of non-case material in the form of excerpts from texts, law journals, and statutes. In the second edition, as in the first, the footnotes are both numerous and enlightening.

The newer developments of insurance law as applied to group insurance, credit insurance, liability insurance, etc., are allotted space more in keeping with their ever-growing importance than that which they were accorded in the first edition.

By using carefully revised statements of facts in many of the cases printed, and by elision of considerable portions of opinions, not relevant to the questions under consideration, the editor has succeeded in collecting a greater volume of material within the space of his book, and at the same time has made it possible for the student to comprehend the problems presented with greater facility.

Homer Q. Earl.

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