
Book Reviews.

A Treatise on the Law of Evidence as administered in England and Ireland; with illustrations from Scotch, Indian, American and other legal systems, by His Honor the late Judge Pitt Taylor. Ninth edition; by G. Pitt-Lewis, Q.C., with notes as to American Law by Charles F. Chamberlayne. In two volumes. London; Sweet & Maxwell, Ltd., 3 Chancery Lane. Boston, Mass.; The Boston Book Company. Toronto; The Carswell Co. Ltd., 1897.

This is the most recent, up-to-date edition of this standard work, in part re-written and reduced in size, containing 1,234 pages of text, instead of 1,600, as in the last edition. It claims to be, and is, an edition specially useful on this side of the water. A number of American and some few Canadian decisions are referred to and are introduced in appropriate places under the heading of American notes. This edition eliminates much of the details of practice, dealing mainly with the substantive law of evidence. Much space has been saved, possibly at the sacrifice of style and rhetorical effect, by "remorselessly pruning all exuberance of expression." One has in the past read "Taylor on Evidence" with so much pleasure that this pruning process, though necessary, seems almost sorrowful.

A new system has been adopted in the citation of cases. The table of cases refers for the first time to every report of each case which can be ascertained to exist, whilst in the body of the work where the case is cited it simply refers to the year when the case was decided. The reader has, therefore, to refer from the page where the case is noted to the table of cases; much space is, however, saved, and on the whole this new arrangement seems a good one. It is very desirable to have the date of the decision given in the citation, as the value of a case largely depends upon whether or not it is of recent date.

The preface says that the table of cases is to be prefixed to each volume. This, however, has not been done. This is a serious defect which should be remedied without delay.