classified and distinguished, it may be very helpful in pointing the reader to the place where he will find a solution of his problem. If it is to a mere collection of cases which are not classified or distinguished, it may save a little time by relieving the reader of the necessity of searching through books of reference for himself, but he is still left to do most of the work in examining original sources and ascertaining the true force and value of the cases cited. If it is to a section of digest, it merely saves him the time which would otherwise be required to turn to the scheme of the subject in the digest to ascertain which section deals with the subject-matter under examination which, when found, is the mere crude material from which briefs, reports and annotation proper is made; for experience shews that as cases are collected in a digest section, with nothing to shew their distinguishing or harmonizing features, the material found is little better than a reference to so many cases to look up.

Another class of annotation which is of value within certain narrow and well-defined limits is that which shews where the reported case has been cited, criticized, followed, explained, distinguished, or overruled. This class of annotation has two principal values: First, it shews how the case under consideration has been treated by other courts, and, therefore, to an extent, its value as a precedent; and, second, it sometimes, in cases containing novel points, assists in finding other similar cases which might not be readily found in the ordinary reference books. If the citing cases are unclassified, the reader may have to examine a large number of references without finding anything of value to him, the citations being to minor or unimportant points in the cases. This annotation is more valuable if the citing cases are classified, but a serious objection to it is that it is likely to furnish only cases in harmony with the case under consideration, and thereby mislead by failing to disclose what there may be on the other side. If this annotation is properly classified, and its limitations are kept in view, its value is sufficient to justify its addition to the library.

Another class of annotation consists of a collection of leading