71 Signature by Mark.

A person who cannot sign his own name must *request* some other party to do it for him. The following will illustrate the usual form:

Witness: J. C. SUMMERS. WILLIAM $\overset{\text{his}}{\underset{\text{mark}}{\times}}$ WINTERS.

A person signing his name this way may take hold of the pen while his name is being written, or he may not; he may make his own cross or he may direct some other person to make it for him. There must, however, be a witness to the signature.

72 Signature by One Who Cannot Read.

When a person who cannot read is executing an instrument, it is required that it be read over and explained to him in the presence of the witness, so that he may fully understand what he is doing. The witness, in signing such an instrument, should mention the fact in some such words as the following:

Signed, sealed and delivered after first having been read over and explained in the presence of J. C. SUMMERS. WILLIAM $\overset{\text{his}}{\underset{\text{mark}}{\times}}$ WINTERS.

Of course for a promissory note the word "sealed" should be omitted, as a seal would destroy the negotiability of the note.

75 Witnesses to Documents.

It is not essential to the validity of any document or agreement that its execution be *witnessed,* except in the case of Wills and where a person signs "by mark," as in the two preceding sections. The only object in having one or more witnesses to a lease, a deed, or bond is to prove the contract in case the parties should thereafter dispute their signatures; and also to comply with the requirements of the Registration Act for documents that have to be recorded.

In all documents to be registered, as deeds, mortgages and bills of sale, it is necessary for the witness to verify his witnessing and signature by an affidavit, which is written on or attached to the document.

76 Erasures and Corrections in Documents.

If any such should become necessary to make it should be done before the document is signed. In making the corrections do not use a knife or rubber, but simply draw a line through the words with pen and ink so that the original words may be clearly seen. Then write the correct words between the lines, using a caret to show where they should be read in. The witness should put his initials on the margin opposite every such correction or interlineation as evidence that it was made before the execution of the document.

77 Documents Requiring Several Sheets.

When a document is written on more than one sheet they should be fastened together and paged before being signed. The witness sometimes places his initials on each sheet and mentions the number of sheets with his signature.