

do; before winding up general creditors have no lien whatever. It may seem like a hardship on creditors that the only fund they can look to should be fore-stalled. The answer is, this is the meaning of "limited liability." If creditors take the trouble they can always find out what they are trusting to.—*Ib.*

"WHAT is your proposition of law?" the late Lord Justice James would say to a counsel who was bungling his opening with a confused statement of facts. "What is your proposition of law?" the distracted reader of the Chancery Law Reports might well exclaim in coming upon the portentous head-note of nearly two pages of small print to *Sheffield Building Society v. Aislewood* (44 Ch. D. 412), and the exclamation might be repeated in a "crescendo" of despair as case after case met his eye with nearly a page of head-note. An epitome of a case is not, as the editors of the Law Reports seem to think, a head-note at all. A head-note is or should be the key to the case, the clue of legal principle which we can follow as we progress through the intricacies of the report. On the clearness, conciseness, and accuracy of the head-note the value of the report very much, if not mainly, depends. It is therefore a great pity that more pains are not taken by those responsible for the Law Reports to give the "legal pith" of the decision and no more. The latest Law Reports Digest, it is only fair to say, shows a marked improvement both in brevity and arrangement.—*Ib.*

Reviews and Notices of Books

A Digest of the Criminal Law of Canada. By G. W. Burbidge, A.B., D.C.L.
Toronto: Carswell & Co., 1890.

This work has now been some months before the profession, and it has therefore in a measure established its own reputation as a valuable addition to the as yet scanty library of Canadian law books. It is based on Stephen's Digest of the Criminal Law of England, and follows the plan there adopted. The work is well done, after a good model, and so we have an excellent codification of our criminal law. The reference to Canadian statutes and cases will greatly assist the practitioner. It is to be regretted that others of our bar, who have a special knowledge of some particular branch of the law, do not see their way to follow the lead of the few who have already published in book-form the law as at present construed by our courts. We have nothing but words of commendation to those who thus endeavor to discharge a duty they owe to their profession; and nothing but praise for the excellent compilation now before us.

The Law of Collateral Inheritance, Legacy, and Succession Taxes. By B. F. Dos Passos. New York: L. K. Strouse & Co., 1890.

A logical treatise on the law of succession taxes in the United States, as applied in the nine States of the Union where it has been adopted, with reasons in favor of such a tax being imposed, and embracing the United States and many English decisions.