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# The Law: Business or Profession?, by Jules Henry Cohen

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But he insists that that moral code must be found in our present experience and not made to conform to any theological dogmas.

The book deals mainly with law and social conditions in Great Britain, but it is not difficult for the lawyers to translate these English problems into our situation in America. The author's social outlook is Victorian. He likes individual freedom and class distinctions and the love of property with all the rich associations and traditions which they involve. His attitude toward the more complicated social organization of today is gloomy.

Unless a lawyer has time to read longer books which give detailed content to their suggestions, he would do well to read this book. He may not take much away from it, but at least it will take him where he can see the woods inspite of the trees. Perhaps this is the best possible recommendation at a time when lawyers feel they have no leisure for reading about the general questions of the law.

PAUL L. SAYRE

*The Law—Business or Professional?* By JULIUS HENRY COHEN.

Revised Edition, 1924. G. A. Jennings Company, Inc. New York, 1924. pp. xviii; 513.

This book is small in compass and conveniently bound. It is made up on the general plan of a flexible leather cover in the pocket size. One must have rather large pocket, however, to avail himself of this convenience since the book contains 500 odd pages. The content and character of the book make it serviceable to the practicing lawyer in his professional work, to the law student in his study of legal ethics, and to all lawyers who are interested in the organization and work of bar associations. The first recommendation for this book is of a general nature: the book is readable and while it presents certain matters with admirable brevity and clarity, it nevertheless contrives to present some of the spirit of professional tradition that lies behind many of the rules and practices of today.

Here the reader will find a careful presentation of many of the doctrines of legal ethics, and the new appendix of the revised edition is particularly useful in setting forth some 200 questions that were put to the Committee on Legal Ethics of the New York Bar Association. The questions with detailed answers are given in full. While the major questions of legal ethics are set forth in detail, a number of minor questions are also considered, and among these are some instances of professional conduct which the average lawyer of good character might not consider reprehensible unless he had the issues involved clearly explained to him. This is a real service to the practicing lawyer and indirectly it is a stimulus to the further development of legal ethics.

Perhaps the book is of primary use to the student. The appendix contains the code of legal ethics of the American Bar Association and other reference material of importance. The text is liberally supplied with references to decided cases that involve legal ethics so that by reference to these cases the student will get a fuller realization of the issues involved than he could by abstract rules alone. It is to be understood that the book itself is not in the usual form of a text book. For all its definite information, it is a readable, entertaining account of how lawyers have come to look on their job in life and how the rules of the game have grown up and are now applied in practice.

An unexpected element in the book is its full consideration of the question of bar organization with particular reference to the work of the conference of bar association delegates, a subsidiary branch of the American Bar Association. The author discusses the different forms of bar organization with some detail and considers whether a statutory organization

predicated upon American conditions of today will ever be able to maintain the same traditions of professional conduct that are obtained through the private organization of the English Inns of Court.

In view of the conference of bar association delegates that was held at Washington on April 28, last, this phase of the subject is particularly interesting to lawyers generally. The movement for integration of the bar is well under way. Surely it is important for lawyers to know the history of bar organization so that they can decide fairly about what can be accomplished by such methods and so that they can perhaps avoid some of the errors that have occurred in the past.

A number of excellent books on legal ethics and practice of the law generally have recently appeared. It would be hard to prefer Mr. Cohen's book over some of the other distinguished books in the same field. Certain it is, however, that the practicing lawyer as well as the student should have definite information on this subject such as he cannot fairly obtain without the possession of some traditions that deal with it. Mr. Cohen's book is unusually complete, readable and accurate...      PAUL L. SAYRE