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Ballantine's Problems in Law, edited by Henry Winthrop Ballantine

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NOTICES

(These *notices* are preliminary; they do not preclude *reviews* later.)

Ballantine's Problems in Law, for Law School and Bar Examination Reviews. Edited by Henry Winthrop Ballantine. West Publishing Company, 1927. Pages 1110. St. Paul, Minnesota. Price \$5.00.

Here is a book prepared for reviewing purposes in law schools or for the bar examinations that is constructed on quite a different plan from the usual "law quizzers". Perhaps the reader immediately thinks of Haight's *Questions and Answers* (2d edition) which has hitherto been the most useful and the most scholarly work in this field. It may be said in brief that Professor Ballantine has constructed his book along the same general lines as Mr. Haight used in the second edition of his book which was published in 1919. It must be added, however, that this same plan has been so far amplified and developed by Professor Ballantine in the present work that the result is quite different from anything which has appeared before. In the mere matter of quantity the present book contains 1110 pages while Mr. Haight's book consists of only 585 pages. Furthermore, the present volume is larger in size and has more content to the page. Mr. Haight attempted to give questions and answers for twenty-eight different subjects in the law and he directly or indirectly prepared all the questions and answers himself. Professor Ballantine, however, covers thirty-four different subjects while the questions and answers are prepared by twenty-six different law teachers of national reputation. Thus in most instances the contributor prepares the questions and answers for only one subject, although the editor himself contributes three subjects to the total. It may be stated definitely that the questions and answers prepared under each subject are contributed by men who are masters in their respective fields. The result is as we would expect; both questions and answers show a degree of clarity and a scholarly thoroughness which have been absent from most law quizzes in the past.

Each subject is usually introduced by a general question which gives the contributor an opportunity to make some comment by way of defining and delimiting the subject in his answer. The succeeding questions and answers are grouped under appropriate divisions of the subject itself so that the whole gives a logical and scholarly treatment of the field in its entirety. In some instances the contributor gives his authorities for his answers in the course of his comment but in most instances the authorities are given after the answer itself. In every instance there are references to the decennial digests for further authorities. In many cases the con-

tributor refers to recent articles or to text books for further explanation of the points involved.

In considering such a book perhaps it is important for the law teachers to remember two things; first, that there is nothing criminal in putting its academic training into practical use; and second, that a book which has this practical aim need not be unscholarly in its make-up if it is also to be eminently practical. It seems to the reviewer that Professor Ballantine has had happy success in achieving a practical tool for the lawyer as well as a scholarly handling of the materials in view of their purpose. The questions are admirably specific, dealing with the real difficulties rather than generally dealing with matters which are well settled, in the manner of most law quizzes of the past.

We should remember that the editor and the contributors would be the first to deny that such a book should in any way intrude upon thorough preparation by the present methods used in law schools. The book is purely for review purposes or for reference. It is not unfair to suggest, however, that many students have a sort of constitutional inaptitude for taking adequate notes, although they may have the making of good lawyers. Such a book as this which could be used in some measure as an outline for their work might be peculiarly helpful for reviewing purposes. It may be stated definitely that the answers contain references to a number of recent cases and to references in legal periodicals which are valuable for any lawyer to have in convenient form.

The reviewer ventures a prediction that this book will supplant other law quizzes. The questions and answers cover real difficulties rather than fictitious ones; it should be of decidedly more practical value than other law quizzes or questions for review published thus far. The scholarly analysis of the problems and the convenient citation to recent authorities should make it a valuable reference book for the young lawyer after its immediate purposes have been fulfilled.