

4-1928

Cases of the Law of Persons and Domestic Relations, by William E. McCurdy

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Recommended Citation

Brown, Robert C. (1928) "Cases of the Law of Persons and Domestic Relations, by William E. McCurdy," *Indiana Law Journal*: Vol. 3 : Iss. 7 , Article 7.

Available at: <https://www.repository.law.indiana.edu/ilj/vol3/iss7/7>

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NOTICES

(These *Notices* are *preliminary*; they do not preclude *Reviews* later.)

Cases of the Law of Persons and Domestic Relations, by William E. McCurdy. Callaghan & Co., Chicago, 1927. P. xxi, 1246. Price, \$6.50.

The most violent criticism that can be made of this book has already been implied by stating the number of pages. It is at least twice too long and the fact that a considerable amount of material can be readily omitted hardly compensates for this defect. The editor suggests that cases on this subject can be gone over more rapidly because of the more interesting facts which they contain, than those in most other subjects in the law. No doubt there is something in this, but a long assignment is regarded by the student as a hardship, no matter what human interest there may be in the cases.

On the other hand, the book has so many virtues as to induce one to overlook this one vice. In the first place, the primary emphasis is laid upon cases with respect to Marriage and Divorce. This has previously been almost a mere appendix in casebooks on Persons—in Kale's casebook, literally so—but there can be little doubt that it has now become the most important part of the subject.

For this change in arrangement, then, the reviewer has nothing but applause. The same is true with respect to the arrangement of the cases on the law of Husband and Wife, where the editor seems to have skillfully avoided the pit-falls which nearly always arise in trying to handle this subject, complicated as it is by equitable and statutory changes of vital importance but often of extremely illogical nature. The editor has also deemed it wise to handle the subject of Parent and Child together with the subject of Infants, and has also incorporated into the same chapter some cases relating to Guardian and Ward. As to the desirability of this arrangement the reviewer is not clear, but it seems worth trying, and the editor has suggested a method by which the cases may be taken up more nearly in accordance with the conventional arrangement of this subject, if this is desired.

On the whole the reviewer feels that this is a thoroughly good piece of work and one which is very much needed, in view of the very rapid development of this subject in recent years. The book deserves to be widely used.

ROBERT C. BROWN.