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Accidental Injuries

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BOOK REVIEWS

Accidental Injuries, by Henry H. Kessler. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, Pa. 1931.

As expressed by the author, "the purpose of this book is primarily to discuss the medical questions which arise in the litigation of accident claims." With the growth of the law in the field of liability without fault, as expressed in the Workmen's Compensation statutes, it has become increasingly necessary to have a compilation of accurate data on such injuries in order that compensation bureaus may make a proper evaluation of the earning capacity of the claimant.

After a brief review of the legal and medical aspects of the development of compensation laws, the author makes an exhaustive study of the various injuries possible to each section of the human body, setting out both the possible and improbable causes for such a functional impairment. Methods of determining the extent of the injury and the evaluation of the damage are pointed out by reference to the standards used both in this country and in Europe. The basis for the rules set out and for the comparative tables of facts is a study of 63,000 cases in New Jersey, supplemented by foreign statistics.

While the book is probably of greater value to the doctor than to the lawyer, if used by either alone, its value is incalculable if used by the doctor and lawyer together, each bringing his own specialized knowledge to the interpretation of the facts contained therein. There is an excellent bibliography at the end of each section, giving references to more detailed and specific medical works on the injury or disease under discussion.

After each type of injury, there is a list of case citations involving decisions where that particular injury was involved. The manner of citation of these cases could be improved considerably for the lawyer's use, by including both the official and the reporter system citation, and by using a uniform system of abbreviations. As the citations stand, the lawyer would find it necessary to spend some time going over a table of cases in order to locate many of the cases, the dates of which are not included.

The book is a valuable contribution to the legal profession toward solution of such problems as the determination of the relation between injury and disease, the determination of the period of temporary disability and the evaluation of permanent disability.

LEON H. WALLACE.

Of the Terre Haute Bar.