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Handbook of the Law of Code Pleading, by Charles E. Clark

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That this is the most valuable text on the subject of Code Pleading is obvious. The book deserves higher praise than that, in fact, because previous efforts along the same line have been quite perfunctory. Dean Clark has made a distinct contribution on the subject, and at the same time has produced a most usable book. Although the book is small in its proportions, it covers the ground thoroughly, and Indiana Lawyers will find a large number of Indiana cases cited. It is the reviewer's opinion, based both on experience with use of the book in practice and teaching, that a lawyer in a Code state who is actively engaged in the trial of cases can not afford to be without its assistance. There is an informed, mature, intelligent and scholarly discussion of the principles of Code Pleading, and the cases decided under the Code. That is altogether too rare an attribute of most legal textbooks. Too often the legal text book is just another digest in disguise.

The reviewer is far from convinced that all of Dean Clark's theories are sound and workable. Primarily it is doubted if his definition of the Code "cause of action" can be sustained as a proper interpretation of the Code. certainly however it is an arguable point, and it will be found that the argument is stimulating, and has not influenced the discussion and statements as to what the cases decide. It is recommended most highly to the bench and bar of the state.

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