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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

HANDBOOK OF LEGAL MEDICINE. By Louis J. Regan and Alan R. Moritz, St. Louis, Missouri: C. V. Mosby Co., 1956. 201 Pages. Price: \$3.90.

The *Handbook of Legal Medicine* offers to the students of law and medicine and to practicing lawyers and physicians a small and concise handbook on the subject. Confessedly, it is not an exhaustive treatment of legal medicine; rather, it offers the reader the skeletal structure of the subject which the reader can flesh out, so to speak, through the study of reference material listed in the bibliography. In other words, the book is designed to meet the need for a quick reference work and to provide the starting point for detailed study of any of the many facets of legal medicine.

The book is arranged into two principal sections: "Physician and Patient—Physician and the Law" and "Scientific Medicolegal Investigation." Each of the principal sections is comprised of vignette-like treatments of its various subdivisions. The first mentioned section concerns itself with such subjects as abortion, adoption, malpractice, and the testimony of medical witnesses, to name but several. Among the subjects dealt with in the second section are: "The Identity of the Dead Person", "Injuries by Mechanical Violence", and "Injuries of the Head and Spine."

The combination of an alphabetical arrangement of the subject matter and a detailed table of contents insures rapid finding of the material the reader might be seeking. The authors inclusion of a legal-medical glossary relieves the reader of the necessity of frequent references to law and medical dictionaries. The bibliography affords the reader references to works providing more detailed information on the various subjects.

The *Handbook of Legal Medicine* is a volume that should prove valuable to both the students and practitioners of the fields of law and medicine. Not only will it be found to be a practical reference work for both lawyers and physicians, but it will also contribute considerably to the better understanding of the intimate relationship of the two professions in the administration of justice.

JOHN C. STEWART.

ATTORNEY FOR THE DAMNED. Clarence Darrow In His Own Words, Edited by Arthur Weinberg. New York: Simon and Schuster, Inc., 1957. 552 Pages. Price: \$6.50.

This volume presents "Clarence Darrow in his own words". It is a compilation, by a zealous admirer, of the best of Darrow's speeches and summations in court. The book need not be read in continuity; each chapter is an entirety. An excellent feature is the forward which, before each plea, presents the setting and background of the proceedings. Following the plea is the verdict and the after effects of the trial. Included, *inter alia*, are Darrow's summations in the *Kidd* case, the *Sweet* case, the *Leopold-Loeb* case, the Chicago Communist trial, and of course, the summation in the *California* case in which he was tried for bribery—which summation Darrow admitted was one of his best.

Darrow is displayed as a person of verbal affluence and prodigious forensic ability, as a defender of the weak and the oppressed, and as one possessed with an incisive perception of man's nature, evidenced by a profound and almost infinite tolerance of that nature with its many foibles. Darrow's philosophy, his sociological and psychological conceptions and his familiarity with philosophy and literature are readily manifest. One cannot fail to observe that what was then Darrow's premature social philosophy has, in many instances, been accepted or codified.

The book is provocative and indeed conducive to thought. It is interesting generally but should be of particular import to judges, lawyers, sociologists, psychologists and legislators.

JOHN M. ORBAN.

THE GUILTY AND THE INNOCENT. By William Bixley, London, England: Philosophical Library, Inc., 1957. 176 Pages. Price: \$6.00.

The *Guilty and the Innocent* presents a short narration of some of the more notorious and infamous criminal cases which have been tried in Old Bailey, England's historically famous criminal court. The author, William Bixley, retired in 1956 after serving for fifty years as a supervisory official of the Central Criminal Court. He begins the book by giving a brief summary of Old Bailey's history and the punishment inflicted under the early English judicial system. The remainder of the book is devoted to

cases which were before the court during Mr. Bixley's fifty years of employment.

A good portion of the book is devoted to a summary of the factual situations involved in these cases, the author adding his own picture of interesting events in the court room. Most of the latter concerns the behavior of the accused during the trial. The cases commented upon include, among many others, the trials of William Joyce, Julius Klaus Fuchs, and George Christie. William Joyce, better known as Lord Haw Haw, was an American by birth, but returned to Ireland with his Irish father at the age of three. He was educated in England where he became a Nazi sympathizer. A few days before the start of World War II, Joyce went to Germany where he became notorious for his many broadcasts of propaganda adverse to the English. After the war he was tried and convicted of espionage and received capital punishment, although he became a German citizen shortly after entering Germany. The trial of Fuchs, who is credited with giving Russia the atomic bomb secrets, lasted only ninety minutes. He was more fortunate than Joyce, for Russia was not considered an enemy country and consequently the maximum penalty was only fourteen years, which he received. Probably the most spectacular trial commented upon was that of George Christie, who confessed to murdering seven persons and who, the author felt, was ignorant of the duration of his criminal exploits, and the actual number of his victims.

The book is similar to a compilation of newspaper stories covering notorious criminal cases. Although it provides enjoyable reading, it has little, if any, legal value.

RICHARD A. RAHLFS.

THE MIND OF THE MURDERER.. By Dr. W. Lindesay Neustatter,
London, England: Philosophical Library, Inc., 1957. 232 Pages.
Price: \$6.00.

The *Mind of the Murderer* is written for the layman and psychiatrist as well as for the lawyer. The author, an eminent psychiatrist who has had wide professional experience in working with murderers and other criminals, believes that there are many cases in which the murderer may be found to be sane, if tested by the McNaughten Rule, but has a mind so deranged that he is not fully responsible for his act.

The book begins with a short introduction, followed by a series of case histories of English men who have been convicted of par-

ticularly atrocious types of murders. The case histories begin with the early childhood and continue through the life of the murderer until the date when the book was written. The author, as an expert witness, testified at the murder trials of several subjects of the study and has had an opportunity to interview most of the others. In order to obtain a background study of their lives, the author or his assistants conducted personal interviews with the relatives, former teachers, employers, and former friends and acquaintances of the murders. The case histories are essentially biographies of the subjects with special emphasis placed on acts which may have indicated a deranged mind. While the author recognizes that mental derangements are difficult to classify he does attempt to classify the cases studied into the different types of mental derangement including schizophrenics, hysterics, mental defectives, paranoiacs, epileptics, psychopathic sadists, the melancholic murderers, and those who commit murder while under hypnosis.

The life histories of the subjects follow no definite pattern. However, certain qualified generalities may be made as to some of the characteristics common to a high proportion of the murderers. Many had an unhappy home life in their youth and had difficulty in making adjustments at school. While there were some exceptions, the great majority in early life became social introverts. A less than normal sex interest was not uncommon, and several, although young men, were sexually impotent. Most of the murderers had symptoms of an abnormal mental condition prior to the commission of the crime, and the majority of them had been patients in some type of mental or corrective institution. Some of these had been discharged as much improved.

The author offers little in the way of a solution for the complex problem which he presents. However, he does succeed in making the reader acutely aware of the complexity of the problem which society faces, not only in determining the fate of the murderers, but more important that of deciding what should be done to prevent the commission of the crimes. One of the most thought provoking statements made by the author is "yet the more dreadful a crime is, the more likely is the criminal to be deranged."

MERVIN A. TUNTLAND.

VERDICT! By Michael A. Musmanno, Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1958. 384 Pages. Price: \$4.50.

Verdict relates the adventures of its author, Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Musmanno, as a lawyer and legislator in the years prior to his 1932 election as the youngest judge in Pennsylvania.

As a young lawyer Michael Musmanno first practiced in Philadelphia under the tutorship of John R. K. Scott, "one of the most famous trial lawyers of the generation", where he won his first forty cases. Highlights of several of these cases appear in the book. Later, after having left Scott's office and journeyed to Europe for further study, the author volunteered as an unofficial aide of Sacco and Vanzetti¹ in their last attempt for a stay of execution. He then returned to his home, Pittsburgh, where he was elected to the state legislature. As a representative he worked for the repeal of Pennsylvania's Coal and Iron Police laws.² The author ends this autobiography with his election as a judge.

Although of little significance in legal study, this book will, with humor and a tang of excitement, give the reader an insight into a man of astounding energy who has devoted his life to "Miss Law."

CECIL E. REINKE.

1. The author has related the whole story of the Sacco-Vanzetti case in his book, *After Twelve Years*, published by Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1939.

2. "The Coal and Iron Police were private employees, paid and controlled by coal and steel companies but commissioned by the State of Pennsylvania. They constituted a hybrid in government because while enjoying the immunity of state officers they were not held to the governmental responsibility of state officers. Many of them were recruited from among thugs, gunmen, . . ."