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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEW

PIRSIG, CASES ON JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION, (1946)

There are discussions in various professional groups at the moment of the advisability and methods of extending the length of time required for the completion of a formal legal education. One solution to this problem is to simply tack another year on the required pre-legal college residence. A serious consideration of the needs and future of the legal institutions of this country is likely to engender more complicated answers to this and the multitude of other questions which bear on the continued successful operation of our system for the administration of justice. Professor Pirsig's book answers none of these questions. It does, however, provide in easily accessible form a wealth of material on which a thoughtful consideration of the problems of judicial administration can be based.

Posing in its first chapter the perennial questions as to the *Meaning of Justice*, the book moves through a consideration of such basic concepts as *The Adversary Method* and *The Doctrine of Precedent* to a conclusion which contains a presentation of such encouraging professional developments as *Bar Integration* and the *Judicial Councils*. Particularly interesting is the chapter on *The Adversary Method* which, with materials illustrating the nature and operation of our traditional system of settling legal controversies, includes a group of selections which points up the advantages and disadvantages of the traditional system by comparing it with the administrative method. Mr. Pirsig presents no brief for either side of this controversy. The selections range from Dean Pound's powerful attack on the methods of administrative adjudication to President Roosevelt's vigorous support of that method for use in the ". . . masses of controversies, growing out of regulatory and remedial statutes. . . ." as expressed in the message to Congress vetoing the Walter-Logan Administrative Procedure Bill.

Whatever the length of preparation that is going to be required for admission to the legal profession, it is hard to dispute the proposition that room should be made for a consideration of the function of that profession in the evolving order of things. Something more is certainly required than the usual courses in Legal Ethics. Mr. Pirsig's book was in use at the School of Law of the University of North Dakota during the school year of 1946-1947. It will be used again in the fall of 1947 as the framework for a course in Judicial Administration. Whether, with the aid of this book, we can give our students a feeling for the broader problems of their future profession, it is as yet too early to say. It is apparent, however, that Mr. Pirsig has taken a long step toward aiding law schools in the accomplishment of this purpose.

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