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subject, and presents it to his readers in so comprehensive a fashion, that it would be difficult to pick out any one division of the subject, and say that Mr. Vance is more thoroughly acquainted with it, or gives it a better treatment than any other. It may be truthfully said that Professor Vance is extremely well versed in the law of fire insurance, as well as in the law of marine insurance, considered especially in its historical aspect. This is said without any disparagement to the author's very excellent discussion of life insurance, and also of accident and other less frequent kinds of insurances. Two chapters are devoted to the subject of fire insurance under the caption "The Standard Fire Policy," in which the various provisions of the fire policy are taken up and considered *seriatim* in a manner at once clear, comprehensive, concise, and exact.

The book is published as one of the "Hornbook" series, and has all the well-known characteristics of that series. Typographically, it is neater than many of the books of this series, owing, perhaps, to the fact that the black-letter paragraphs are printed in somewhat smaller type than was formerly used. This we deem a distinct improvement.

Upon the whole, the book is to be commended as an "up-to-date" exposition of insurance law, primarily designed for the student, but valuable also to the active practitioner. Principles are so stated as to be easily mastered by the student or layman, and to give to the practising lawyer a ready and accurate *résumé* of the subject. We know of no other book which gives within the same compass so accessible, correct, and thorough a treatment of insurance law.

F. H. S.

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THE DICTIONARY OF LEGAL QUOTATIONS. By JAMES WILLIAM NORTON-KYSHE, of Lincoln's Inn, Esq., Barrister-at-Law. Pp. xxi + 344. London: Sweet & Maxwell, Limited, Publishers. 1904. (Carswell & Company, Toronto, Canada, American agents.)

This work is quite a novelty among legal publications. It consists of *excerpta* from the opinions of celebrated English chancellors and judges from the earliest periods to the present day. They are, of course, mainly *dicta*, but are nevertheless extremely entertaining as quaint and epigrammatic specimens of judicial wit. The object with which this volume has been compiled, the author tells us, has been to disinter from the vast quantities of dull material scattered in libraries the most excellent expressions of judicial rules and of forensic wit, and

then to codify and exhibit these sayings in a compendious and accessible form. In this lies the reason for the existence of the book. That the author's work has been well performed it is needless to add.

The book is one which will probably be classified as more entertaining than instructive, but it is not without a useful and practical side as well; for the perusal of a work of this character cannot but tend to communicate "useful precedents to the furtherance of justice, the discouragement of iniquity, the honor of the laws, and consequently of the profession and the public at large." F. H. S.

#### NOTES ON RECENT LEADING ARTICLES IN LEGAL PERIODICALS.

ALBANY LAW JOURNAL.—January.

*The Expert Witness.* D. C. Westernhaver. Mr. Westernhaver begins by showing the trend of public opinion of recent years as it has run against the expert witness; he then takes exception to this opinion and goes on to defend these witnesses on the ground of necessity, and to show that the public has received a wrong idea both of the capacity and of the general truthfulness of these witnesses. He does not approve the suggestion that it would be an improvement to take away from the parties their freedom of choice in selecting and calling experts and to vest the right of selection in the courts. Experience has led him to believe that this would be to infringe upon the freedom of the parties and be productive of much injury. He ends by saying: "We are and have been living in a critical age, in an age in which every child born into the world has a question-mark branded on his forehead, and every institution must defend its life against the attacks of the iconoclast. That in an age of this kind the English system of evidence has remained almost unchanged is a proof that it answers admirably the purpose for which it is designed. Of this system expert evidence is an integral part, and while it may often perform no office in a trial except to produce confusion, it is still in all aspects consonant with the principles upon which the system is established, and ought to be changed only for good and sufficient reasons."

*The Ideal President.* D. F. Hanagan. We do not often stop to consider what our ideal of a President should be; we accept the nominations of the two great parties, and it has been the fashion under the last two administrations to claim that whoever is President is right; that whatever is done, having been done, is best. Some slight examination into the question whether we have any ideals on this subject and, if so, what they are does not, therefore, seem to be amiss. Mr. Hanagan somewhat hesitatingly does not place Washington before us as an ideal. He is probably in line with the verdict which will be given in later times when he gives us Jefferson, Jackson, Lincoln, and Cleveland as the types which go to make up a composite ideal. They are the men who stand out as the great Americans who have filled the office.

THE AMERICAN LAW REVIEW.—January-February.

*The Old Law of Real Property as Modified in this Country.* George H. Smith. "Laws descend like an inherited disease—from generation