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LEARNING PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE,
by Alice Sturgis. McGraw- Hill Book Co., New
York, 1953. Pp. xvi, 358. \$4.00.

Herbert L. Hughes

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Dr. Overholser concludes with a recommendation for the abolition of capital punishment and the expression of hope for the "development of mutual understanding between the representatives of law and psychiatry."³⁶

This reviewer, in turn, can but conclude with the hope that the near future will see a psychiatric literary contribution which is significantly more conducive to the "development of mutual understanding between the representatives of law and psychiatry," than *The Psychiatrist and the Law*.

In the meantime he is prepared to welcome Dr. Overholser's book to the none too overcrowded shelves of most law libraries in this field.

*Richard Arens**

LEARNING PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE, by Alice Sturgis. McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York, 1953. Pp. xvi, 358. \$4.00.

There are numerous manuals on parliamentary law, but if any of us should be asked to name one of them offhand, he would most likely name *Robert's Rules of Order*, a book which, as

559 (S.D.N.Y. 1950), which have Dr. Overholser's apparent endorsement have been interpreted as threatening to the liberties of free people by more perceptive observers. See, e.g., Miller & Miller, Book Review, 20 U. OF CHI. L. REV. 598, 601-02 (1953):

"The psychiatric testimony of the experts called by the defense raised issues about civil rights as disturbing as the problem of multiple jeopardy involved in such trials. Hiss was one of the first victims of the 'new look' in justice—admit your guilt before the investigating committee and the grand jury, and become a hero; deny it, and face a perjury trial because the statute of limitations has expired and you cannot be convicted for the act. He also suffered from the recently modish procedure suggested by the phrases 'forgery by typewriter,' 'trial by newspaper,' 'guilt by association,'

"But it was Chambers who became the victim of a moot point in the administration of justice, when, in the second trial, Judge Goddard permitted psychiatrists to testify as experts to discredit the credibility of his testimony. Although Chambers was not a party in the case and could get no redress, his personality was given a most unsympathetic airing in open court and the press. One wonders whether this precedent gives the witness much more protection than he would have before some of the more blatant congressional investigating circuses. Adding to the shakiness of the whole episode is the fact that psychiatry has not yet reached the advanced level of competence which would properly permit its practitioners to claim expertness in the field of political affairs. Psychopathic personalities are not always liars, and the oversold field of psychiatry is not yet so advanced that its adherents can tell when Chambers' testimony was fact and when fable. Claims of ability to make such a distinction from observing the behavior in court of a person who has not even been interviewed or examined could scarcely increase public esteem for modern psychiatry."

Cf. JOWITT, THE STRANGE CASE OF ALGER HISS 218-224 (1953).

36. OVERHOLSER, THE PSYCHIATRIST AND THE LAW 134 (1953).

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we know, has been a standard for a long, long time. So much has this been the case that most of the shorter manuals on parliamentary law seem to be based on Robert.

Of late, however, handbooks on the subject have begun to appear which deviate from Robert in minor particulars. *Learning Parliamentary Procedure*, by Alice Sturgis, is such a book. This volume is much larger than most of the books on the subject and contains 358 pages. It is divided into three parts, Procedure, Motions, and Organizations. The thirty-odd chapter headings are such as, Our Voluntary Organizations; What is Parliamentary Law; Fundamental Principles of Parliamentary Law; The Pattern of Meetings; How Motions Are Handled; The Precedence and Classification of Motions; Discussion; Quorum; Vote Required; Methods of Voting; The Main Motion; Motions to Enforce Correct Procedure, to Change Motions, to Control Debate, to Defer Action, to Refer to a Committee, to Suppress Motions, to Terminate Meetings, to Meet Emergencies; Motions Affecting Previous Actions, Creating a New Organization; Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules; Officers, Membership in Organizations; Committees and Their Work; Committee Reports; Meetings; Minutes; Nominations and Elections; Conferences; Conventions; and Procedural Trends and the Future of Organizations.

The book has numerous diagrams and drawings and even bits of verse at chapter headings to enliven the printed page and illustrate the rules and principles of parliamentary law. The chapters are broken up into sections with appropriate headings, making it easy for the user to find what is wanted. Many of the items are arranged in a sort of tabular form, and each chapter has a generous list of "practice projects." A ready reference table of motions is provided on the inside front cover. Especially valuable are the chapters on conferences, conventions, procedural trends of organizations, and the eight pages of definitions of parliamentary terms.

The volume has a foreword by Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, Harold H. Burton, and the author has consulted and cited numerous authorities, legal decisions, sources, etc., to make the book as authoritative as possible.

The format of the volume is much larger than that of the ordinary parliamentary law handbook, thereby affording ample room for the use of clear type and well-spaced lines and headlines. Probably the most useful feature is the clear and full

discussion of the reasons for the rules; in other words, the backgrounds for rules and regulations, organization work, and the like. Thus, the book offers sound advice and counsel on practically every aspect of organization work and procedure and is an elaborate, friendly guide as well as a rule book.

The only thing that this reviewer would suggest toward improvement of the manual would be the inclusion of a generous supply of model forms needed in organization work, such as minutes, committee reports, treasurers' reports, tellers' reports, etc. All in all, however, *Learning Parliamentary Procedure* is probably the best book in the field, certainly one of the most useful. Those who want the rules of order will find them here, and those who want in addition the full philosophy of the subject of parliamentary usage will find it in full measure.

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