Book Notes


The late Alexander H. Pekelis was trained on the Continent and taught jurisprudence at Florence and Rome. In his maturity he came to America, studied law at Columbia Law School and became a brilliant scholar of American law. The dozen essays in this book deal with various aspects of the problems of law as an instrument of social control. The best known paper is "The Case for a Jurisprudence of Welfare." Its theme is that the end of law is to advance the well being of the society of which it is a part. However, says Pekelis, a jurisprudence of welfare is more than an end. Like democracy it is also a means. For in the search for welfare, that welfare will constantly take new form as knowledge grows and effective techniques for implementing the law develop. Pekelis writes with charm as well as with a deep insight into American legal institutions, which makes the essays readable as well as brilliant.


This casebook primarily deals with the fields of agency and partnership, although a few related corporate topics are also covered. The book is a welcome one. Agency and partnerships are the bases of most corporation law and difficulty with corporate problems may frequently be traced to poor groundwork in these fields. Professor Latty not only supplies the groundwork completely, but does so in an interesting, readable fashion.


This first American printing of a book initially published in London in 1949 is another of the many sociological studies based on personal observation and experience. This author is better qualified than most, having served as H.M. Commissioner of Prisons and lecturer in psychiatry at London University. Utilizing a very broad approach, the book discusses the sociological,
psychiatric, legal and administrative aspects of problems engendered by crime and the individual criminal. It should be of special interest to judges, penal and probation officers, and others concerned with the treatment of offenders, furnishing them with a basic and better understanding of criminal theory and practical considerations.


The first volume is the result of the recognized need for a reference source of forms commonly used in trial practice before the courts of this state. The committee on the Louisiana Formulary of the Louisiana State Bar Association are to be commended for their efforts in making the time-saving and instructive collection available. Loose-leaf construction will make possible continuing revision and additions. The book should be in the library of every practicing Louisiana attorney.

Of less immediate application and special interest to the bar of this state, the second book still is valuable to the law student and others having need of reference to numerous legal and business forms of general application. The book's scope is modest, but within that aim, its coverage is good.


This is the autobiography of Marriner S. Eccles, former chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, businessman, banker and millionaire. Mr. Eccles took a leading part in the policy and politics of high finance in this country from the bank holiday in 1933 to the struggle between the Federal Reserve Board and the Treasury over interest rates still going on today. He has much of value to contribute on the conduct of the country's financial affairs in peace, war and cold war. His story is also replete with many personal sidelights on Roosevelt, Truman and the men that surrounded them. Many will disagree both with Mr. Eccles' economics and politics. Whether or not one agrees with Mr. Eccles, his story is exciting reading for anyone who follows financial affairs.