

torical and comparative of Bankruptcy and Insolvency law and Winding Up statutes and cases. For these one goes elsewhere. Nevertheless, Volume 9 is the only one volume "text book" there is on Canadian Bankruptcy Law, and it will fill admirably the useful purpose it was meant to serve. To the practitioner it is indispensable.

The death of one of the editors, Mr. S. H. Bradford, K.C., one of the Lecturers of the Law Society of Upper Canada, is much regretted. Mr. Greenberg finished the book after his death in the midst of the work.

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NOTES ON RECENT BOOKS.

BY THE EDITOR.

A LAMP FOR THE LAWYER'S FEET.¹—Master Jelf, in his *Where to Find Your Law*, says of the familiar Maxwell: "This work fulfills a purpose for the lawfinder's benefit which no other book fulfills so adequately." How excellently the word "lawfinder" describes the rôle of one who is compelled to thread the tenebrous paths of legislative terminology!

Mr. Bridgman has not disturbed the late Sir Peter Maxwell's plan of the work, and yet he has not hesitated to delete matter in earlier editions which is not of high importance at the present time. The busy counsel of to-day will also appreciate the practice of the editor in citing the short title of statutes instead of the full title wherever this could be done. With respect to the part played by the title of an Act in case of ambiguity arising upon the language used in any of its provisions, the text (at p. 36) lays it down in capital letters that "it is now settled law that the title of a statute is an important part of the Act;" and the editor adds that "this rule seems to apply to the 'long' and the 'short' title alike." We are not so sure that the weight of authority supports the last clause of the passage quoted.

We also think that in view of the new light thrown upon the constitutional history of England since the treatise was originally written that the following passage on p. 117 should have been de-

¹ *Maxwell on the Interpretation of Statutes*. 7th edition. By G. F. L. Bridgman. London: Sweet & Maxwell. Toronto: The Carswell Company Limited, 1929.

leted or else explained so as not to constitute a gin for the feet of the unwary: "It has been said that the law is *primâ facie* presumed to be made for subjects only." But these instances of doubtful soundness in doctrine are mere flaws in the texture of a work of great usefulness to the profession.

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THE TOLL OF THE MARSHES.—Along with Lord Hewart's blast against the encroachments of the Bureaucracy (*The New Despotism*), which will be reviewed in our January number, the Ernest Benn Limited sent us a volume of short stories by C. E. Heanley, portraying somewhat of the life of the people who live in the Lincolnshire marshes and agonising a good deal over the sort of death to which they are disposed by reason of their macabre environment. There is a thread of continuity running through all the stories—the author using the artifice of transforming the minor characters of one tale into the principals of another. The book opens with a harrowing tale of the rotten treatment of a young clergyman—leading to his untimely death—by denizens of "these desolate spaces that go down to the sea, breeding-grounds of cancer and madness." The atmosphere of the book is as unwholesome as that of "Wuthering Heights," but it is without any touch of the genius that relieves the gloom of Emily Brontë's amazing performance.

One closes the book with a sense of gladness that he lives in a land yielding sunshine for the body and hope for the soul, as Canada does, instead of in the Lincolnshire marshes.

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COMPENDIOUS LEGAL HISTORY.—Mr. Franklin Ferriss Russell, a professor in the Brooklyn Law School of St. Lawrence University, has recently published an *Outline of Legal History* based on Sir W. S. Holdsworth's monumental work on the history of English Law together with certain lectures by that great scholar heard and noted by Mr. Russell at Oxford. The author hopes that his undertaking will prove useful for a post-graduate course on legal history, and we believe his hope is well-founded. Part II., dealing with the history of the particular fields of Contract, Tort and The Land Law, makes an appeal to all lawyers who have not allowed "brief life" to stifle their taste for the higher side of legal literature.