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BOOK REVIEW

VOICES IN COURT: A Treasury of the Bench, the Bar and the Courtroom.
Edited by William H. Davenport. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1958.
Pp. 588. \$6.95.

Here is a book to send a warm glow through the veins of the most battleweary veteran—or the youngest neophyte—of the courtroom and law office. Laymen will read it with pleasure but only lawyers will savor it with relish. It is a pipe-slipper-and-fireside book for the interim between the harried day and the restful bed. Anyone with shears and paste may throw together an anthology of sorts, but only a connoisseur who has read widely and who has selected with taste can assemble a true “treasury” such as this. Dr. Davenport is no mere dilettante; while an English professor at Southern California (Ph.D., Yale), his interest in the law-literature relationship resulted in his undergraduate course in this subject and in a comprehensive and excellent bibliography in this field published in the *American Bar Association Journal* (October, 1955; September, 1957; November, 1958).

The weakness of many anthologies is that the excerpts are too brief to permit the reader to get the “feel” of the author. Dr. Davenport has avoided this by giving selections which are full enough to be enjoyed as a unit. He has also avoided another weakness of anthologies: his choice from thirty-nine authors is sufficient to be representative without being so extensive as to be burdensome and exhaustive. The selections are grouped under four divisions: The Lawyer, The Judge, The Courtroom and The Law. The selections are from men and women; from lawyers, judges, law professors and laymen; from the past and the present; from America, England and the Continent. Here you will find old favorites (Benet’s “The Devil and Daniel Webster”, Dickens’ “Bardell v. Pickwick”) and some just as good which you had overlooked (Brown’s “The Jim Wheat Murder Case”, Cozzens’ “Old Judge and Young Lawyer”, Woolcott’s “Knight with the Rueful Countenance”). Here you find a Judge Cardozo writing of law with the poetic profundity and singing simplicity of a prophet; a Lord Macmillan expounding with that British urbanity and literary elegance which is so often the despair of the American lawyer; a Mencken snapping sharply at the failure of modern law to fix appropriate and effective punishments for crime; a Montaigne blending shrewd insight with his philosophical observations; a Beveridge recounting the story of *Marbury v. Madison* with clarity and objectivity; a Macaulay etching in acid a vivid portrait of a despised judge; a Justice Frankfurter reminiscing informally but informa-

tively concerning the five Chief Justices he had known; all these—and many others—are here. There is a striking variety of both subject and style in these literary samplings of legal writing, but it is all effective English deftly used by workmen who understand and appreciate the tool being used.

Legal writing is too often poor and more often dull. This volume brilliantly demonstrates that it need not be either. Lord Macmillan has wisely observed, "Words, the spoken and the written word, are the raw material of the lawyer's trade, and the possession of a good literary style which enables him to make effective use of that material is one of the most valuable of all professional equipments." (p. 104) One would have to search far and wide to find a better model—or rather many excellent models—than the contents of this book. In addition, it is "good reading, which cannot be said of many law books." The reviewer's cliché, "the author has rendered a service to the profession," would be highly appropriate here if too-frequent usage had not made it tawdry. In kindly autographing the book for me, the author charitably remarked that I have "long known the value of the law—literature relationship." Simple fairness demands that I say in return, "His book has materially broadened and deepened and enriched my appreciation of the close relationship between law and literature." I sincerely hope that it will do as much for many other lawyers.

Dillard S. Gardner

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COMMENTS, CASES AND MATERIALS ON CORPORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS. By Hugh L. Sowards. Buffalo: Dennis & Co., Inc., 1958. Pp. 614. \$9.00.

Professor Sowards' new book on corporations and partnerships is not just another casebook in the field. The significance of this volume lies in the fact that it was obviously and happily written for the law student, who should receive from its pages a sound, practical and thorough knowledge of the law of business associations.

This reviewer has taken the time to examine other casebooks in the field over the last ten years. Through them all runs a common factor—bigness. One recent volume, for example, contains in excess of 1,400 pages on corporations alone. The apparent inability of an instructor to cover all or even a major portion of the material in such a volume in the time allotted is obvious. This leaves the student at a loss insofar as those portions omitted are concerned; he must dig it out for himself from a law quizzer or a hornbook, thus making that part of his study of the subject little more than a correspondence course. It should be pointed out that the author