

BOOKS RECEIVED

Baseball: The Golden Age. HAROLD SEYMOUR, PH.D. New York: Oxford University Press, 1971. Pp. viii, 492. \$12.50. The organization of a professional sports club or league presents legal questions which are of interest to both attorneys and laymen. While most followers of baseball are familiar with the fact that the leagues have been excluded, by judicial action, from the operation of the anti-trust laws, few are familiar with the long series of legal battles which have formed the basis for such well-known institutions as the "reserve clause" and "player draft."

Professor Seymour, in this second volume of what will eventually be the authoritative work on the history of professional baseball, continues his detailed examination of the forces which led to the current structure of the major leagues. As a historian his primary concern is not with the traditional matters of sports history, such as the establishment of record performances and the like, but with the management of the "baseball business" and with the various lawsuits which helped to delimit the structure of the professional game.

There is something here for every attorney with an interest in the sport. The analysis of the role of Judge Landis, both on the bench and as Commissioner of Baseball, shows both the advantages and disadvantages of the employment of attorneys in non-legal fields. The examination of attempts to overcome the power exercised by the owners over the players is an important case study in the operation and development of unionism in an elite profession. It can only be hoped that Professor Seymour will be able to complete his study in less than the ten years that were required for the preparation of this volume.

The Environmental Law Handbook. NORMAN J. LANDAU AND PAUL D. RHEINGOLD. New York: Ballantine, 1971. Pp. 496. \$1.25. The ecology movement in the United States has differed from most earlier mass reform movements in that the great bulk of its activity has been conducted in accordance with the law rather than in violation of it. While this approach may be more attractive to the general citizenry and governmental officers, it must be frustrating to the experienced activist who is thrown into an arena, that of civil law, in which he has no substantial knowledge or practical experience.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW HANDBOOK is an attempt to meet the needs of this individual, and also the average follower of the movement, by providing him with an introduction to the law relating to environmental protection and the legal procedures that may be used to protect environmentalist interests. The presentation made is an excellent one, but probably too technical for the lay reader. Extensive case citations are given which make the book useful to the attorney attempting research in this area, but may make it too difficult for one who is not experienced in the intricacies of the law.

The Injury Industry and the Remedy of No-Fault Insurance. JEFFREY O'CONNELL. New York: Commerce Clearing House, Inc., 1971. Pp. v, 253. \$8.50. This study of the automobile accident reparations industry focuses attention upon the innocent victims of automobile accidents and their plight when they seek adequate compensation from the archaic insurance industry. Citing overpayment for a few, and underpayment or nonpayment for the rest as the major evil of the present system, together with an indictment against the insurance carriers and the legal profession for soaking-up most of the compensation dollar without providing adequate services, Mr. O'Connell urges drastic and revolutionary reform in the insurance field. Together with Professor Robert E. Keeton of the Harvard Law School, he has drafted the Keeton-O'Connell Basic Protection Plan—the nation's first "No-Fault" insurance plan. The impact of this controversial and revolutionary plan has been so great that the dedicated commitments, angry cross-purposes, and impassioned partisanships of our age are mirrored in what people have said about "No-Fault." Mr. O'Connell's book explains his philosophy concerning this concept and the reasons why, in his opinion, such a drastic change is necessary to cure the ailing system.

Law for Everyone. HOWARD L. OLECK. New York: Association Press, 1971. Pp. 255. \$5.95. This book is a collection of newspaper columns prepared by Distinguished Professor Howard Oleck for the Cleveland Press as a part of his campaign to provide the lay reader with a basic and accurate understanding of the operation of the American legal system and the range of questions which are dealt with by the law. While the information in the book will be familiar to most of those who are engaged in the practice or study of

law, the volume presents an excellent overview of the law for the individual without legal training. Although it will not provide the layman with a capacity to deal with his own legal involvements, it will make him aware of the many pitfalls which can arise in proceeding with an action at law.

One of the most impressive features of the volume is the scope of the topics considered by the author, ranging from the "Absence of a Will" to "Youths' Brawls." Included also are chapters on everyday problems such as "Sales and Shoplifters," to such exotic topics as "Blood Money," "Electronic Snoopers," and the "Mohammedan Law." In addition, the book is spiced with brief memoirs about some of the great men of the law, such as Louis Brandeis and Clarence Darrow. The volume is highly readable and may well be recommended to those persons wishing to find an easy introduction to the majesty of the law.

Marriage Laws in Africa. ARTHUR PHILLIPS AND HENRY F. MORRIS. London: Oxford University Press, 1971. Pp. 229. £3.00. The study of African marriage law is peculiarly fascinating to the scholar who has been educated in a nation where a basic assumption of common cultural values has caused the law, even where there are multiple jurisdictions, to assume a basic sameness in its approach to questions involving marriage. In most African states three or more systems of marriage law exist simultaneously: colonial law, customary law, and Mohammedan law. Any attempt to determine the validity or invalidity of a marriage will depend on a preliminary decision as to which system of law should be applied, and secondarily, the detailed provisions of this law.

The reissuance under separate cover of Arthur Phillips' article, *Marriage Laws in Africa*, which originally was published in *SURVEY OF AFRICAN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE*, has once again made available one of the best introductions to the difficulties that exist in any study of this complex field. Professor Phillips, in his article, provides a clear and remarkably concise exposition of the basic nature of each of the three major sets of legal systems as they existed in 1953 (the time of the original publication), and of how they interact in the various African nations. The present volume reprints that original study in full, with the addition of a valuable essay by Henry F. Morris, of the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London. This essay brings the material discussed in the original article up to date, and clearly demonstrates

the paucity of effective family law reform since the original publication.

The need for reform in African marriage law has become increasingly apparent with the coming of independence to the states covered in this volume. It is to be hoped that its republication will call this need to the minds of African legislators and lead to the acceptance of new approaches to these problems.

The Strange Case of Pot. MICHAEL SCHOFIELD. Harmondsworth, Middlesex: Penquin, 1971. Pp. 205. \$1.25. Michael Schofield's study of the use of marijuana in Britain will contain little information that is novel for American readers who have over recent years been exposed to most of the arguments on both sides of the controversy. Nonetheless, this new study is welcome for its balanced presentation of the history concerning the regulation both of the consumption of marijuana and traffic in the drug. The author includes also a detailed analysis of the characteristics of consumers of marijuana in the United Kingdom.

As Mr. Schofield points out, regulation of marijuana in the British Isles evolved, not in response to local problems, of which there were few, but as a result of the marijuana provisions in international agreements regulating dangerous drugs. As a result, therefore, enforcement of the marijuana law has been, as in the United States, highly sporadic, and has been focused mainly on disadvantaged groups in the society rather than on the community of users as a whole. Since the author was unable to discover any evidence to prove that the use of marijuana is substantially harmful to the individual, either of itself or through the associations which it brings about, he supports the recommendations of most of the official organizations which have studied the question seriously—that the laws governing the use of marijuana be eliminated. He further indicates that such a termination may actually lead to a reduction in the use of marijuana, by removing it from its status as a symbol of opposition to the establishment and society.

Succession in the Muslim Family. N.J. COULSON. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1971. Pp. 287. £4.40. SUCCESSION IN THE MUSLIM FAMILY is the first in a projected series of works to be published by the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London describing the substantive elements of Islamic Law for the English language reader. The need for such a series has

become apparent in recent years with the growing importance of the Middle East in the political arena and the increasing acceptance of the Islamic faith in the Black communities in the United States.

In this first volume of the series, Professor Coulson has set a standard of quality which will be difficult for his successors to meet. The work sets out clearly the basic systems of the Sunni and Shiite schools of law and indicates the variant opinions held by the major Sunni schools on points of conflict. In addition, substantial attention is given to the policies which led to the development of particular rules and to the modern reforms in the law since 1946. Further, the provision of separate indices for Arabic terms, cases, countries, legislation, names and subjects makes the book remarkably easy to use as a research tool.

Tolstoy on Divorce, Seventh Edition. D. TOLSTOY, Q.C., AND C. KENWORTHY. London: Sweet & Maxwell, 1971. Pp. lxvii, 627. £3.90. The increasing interest in the United States in divorce reform should lead all attorneys with a concern for this area of law to examine the reforms introduced in England adopting "Marital Breakdown" as the exclusive basis for a divorce. The Tolstoy text, now in its seventh edition, has been completely rewritten to take account of changes in the law and will provide the reader with an excellent introduction to the advantages and the pitfalls in the adoption of this approach. While much of the material deals with procedural changes necessary to accommodate the new views, an excellent discussion of the implications of the adoption of breakdown for the law relating to support and custody is included and merits careful consideration.

