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Review of “Cases on Wills, Descent and Administration,” By George Costigan, Jr.

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Book Reviews

CASES ON WILLS, DESCENT AND ADMINISTRATION. Second Edition. By *George P. Costigan, Jr.* St. Paul: West Publishing Company, 1929. Pp. xxi, 888.

About twenty years having elapsed between the publication of the first edition and the present work, it is surprising that an author in revising his work would not be tempted to introduce a large number of cases recently decided. Many have yielded to the temptation to have recent cases, sacrificing many admirable cases merely for the sake of inserting decisions bearing a later date. The author has wisely avoided this pitfall and retained a vast majority of the old cases, and a large number of the new cases which have been included were decided prior to the publication of the first edition.

In the years that have passed since the first edition of this work the new cases of importance are principally cited in the copious notes which, apart from bringing the point under discussion down to date, have added a wealth of material by way of illustration of new points which further illustrate the principle under discussion. It is this phase of the work that is the most appealing to the writer, who has taught the subject of the text from both the old and new edition.

The second edition follows the general scheme of presentation of the first, with slight changes in classification and arrangement of cases. The additional cases which have been added make it easier for an instructor to select cases which appeal to him and at the same time to cover the subject thoroughly.

The appendix contains a very helpful and instructive section on the planning and drafting of wills, a matter of prime importance to every student and practitioner. The index is very comprehensive and the publishers are to be commended upon the improved quality of paper used in the book.

The writer has just finished teaching the subject covered, using this new work, and found the student-body exceedingly interested in the course, which speaks well for the author, especially since he is dealing with a subject that has so crystallized itself around statutory enactments with a variance in some respects in almost every jurisdiction.

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