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Notes on New Books Received at Supreme Court Library

Dicta Editorial Board

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NOTES ON NEW BOOKS RECEIVED AT SUPREME COURT LIBRARY*

English Reports Full Reprint. 176 volumes. Stevens & Sons, Ltd., London. American Representatives, Carswell Co., Ltd. Toronto. The publication of these reports, in a modern and attractive edition, begun in 1900 and just recently completed, was a great undertaking. The importance of the early English cases is well known to American lawyers, and the modern law library is incomplete without them. It is generally conceded that for practical purposes an authentic copy of an old book is a better tool than the original. Lawyers prefer the modern publication rather than the early editions, the pages of which are often flimsy and difficult to read, and the printing obsolete.

"English Reports Full Reprint" consists of a re-issue of hundreds of volumes of early reports of the courts of England, dating from 1220 to 1865, at which time a system of law reporting was established known as the "Law Reports", comprising a separate series for each of the Courts, and which has since been in operation. Reprints of the originals in the "English Reports Full Reprint" are in chronological order as follows: House of Lords, 11 volumes, and Privy Council, 9 volumes. (Since the House of Lords is the Court of final appeal for cases arising in the United Kingdom, and the Privy Council is a court of last appeal for cases arising outside of the United Kingdom, the reported decisions of these courts are of primary authority.) Following these are the Chancery Reports in 27 volumes. (In connection with the Chancery Reports it might be interesting to note here that "Sir Francis Bacon was made a Chancellor of the Court, with the title of Lord Keeper, in 1617, and later became Lord Chancellor of the Court".) Following the Chancery are the reports of the Rolls Court, in 8 volumes; Vice-Chancellor's Court, 16 volumes; King's and Queen's Bench, 51 volumes; Common Pleas, 22 volumes; Exchequer, 16 volumes; Ecclesiastical, Admiralty, Probate and Divorce, 7 volumes; Crown Cases, 2 volumes, and *Nisi Prius*, 7 volumes.

By consulting the "Chart of Reports", which is published separately for use in connection with the "Reprints", we find that Lord Coke's Reports, in 7 volumes, which are probably better known to American lawyers than are the other early English reports, are reprinted in volumes 76 and 77, "E. R. F. R.". Coke's Reports contain many well known and important cases, most of which are published verbatim in law school text books at the present day. The first volume of Coke's Reports contains such notable cases as Chudleigh's Case, "which provided the most acute legal controversy of the age, in which case Bacon and Coke both appeared"; Slade's Case and Shelly's case.

In addition to the foregoing, the Supreme Court Library contains all the current reports of the courts and also the statutes of England.

*EDITOR'S NOTE.—It is sometimes convenient to know what recent texts, reports, etc., are available at the Supreme Court Library, and Mr. Fred Y. Holland, of the Denver Bar, Librarian of the Supreme Court Library, has kindly consented to supply *Dicta* monthly with brief notes as to new books received. It is hoped this service may be beneficial to our readers.