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The Law of Municipal Contracts With Annotated Model Forms

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Law". However, those who have used that book will be equally pleased with the expanded and more timely treatment of the subject.

In reviewing this book one is tempted to enumerate instances in which details of our law might be studied in relation to information disclosed by the authors. However, that would require too much space. Those who expect to find the extremes in suggested changes in the law will be disappointed. On the contrary, they will find that many states have already acted to bring their laws in line with the authors' ideas of proper treatment of the problems. As to many points not already so treated, model acts covering the subject have been prepared; and for other problems, specific proposals are made by the authors.

Finally, this book is one which clearly and sharply draws the contrast between what "ought to be" and what "is" the law on many phases of mental disorder. The book has been written in a style that should appeal to the public generally, and the many case histories should serve well to illustrate and impress the layman with the differences between the "is" and the "ought". If widely read, though only by lawyers and psychiatrists, improvements in many areas may follow. Even without statutory changes, courts could accomplish much by changed rules of procedure and by re-examining precedents in light of advances in the field of psychiatry.

MARLYN E. LUGAR.*


The law in the field of municipal corporations is of relatively recent origin, or at least it is of recent origin in comparison to other fields of law such as real property, contracts and torts. Perhaps for this reason there is a scarcity of form books in the municipal corporation field.

As a result of this scarcity the book being reviewed will be welcomed by those having the responsibility of the preparation or letting of municipal contracts. And as a further result of this

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scarcity the very least that can be said of the book is that it is good in comparison.

While the book is surprisingly small for one not only purporting to cover the subject of municipal contracts but to supply annotated forms for such contracts, the author has done a credible job in the few pages in the work.

If it were meant to be a treatise on the law of municipal corporations, or even the law of municipal contracts, it would fall far short of either purpose. But that is not the reason for its publication. It is apparently meant to serve as a guide for municipal officers in the letting of municipal contracts and for city attorneys in the drafting of such contracts. Municipal officers are laymen who are only interested in what they can do under the law and how they can do it, and not in all the legal reasoning as to why they can do it. They want to know how other municipal corporations have done the thing they themselves are now contemplating doing and the book gives them that information in considerable degree. For city attorneys who generally have the responsibility of drafting municipal contracts this book will be valuable as an annotated form book, but even to them it will not be of any great value insofar as the law of municipal contracts is concerned.

Perhaps the value of the book lies in its brevity. Laymen could not understand the law if it were set out in detail and attorneys have available other sources to find the law. Therefore, a book which adequately covers the law of municipal contracts as well as supplying forms would necessarily be much larger and would entail a great amount of additional work in preparation with a consequent price increase without a proportionate benefit to either those in charge of municipal affairs or city attorneys. What each of these classes needs is forms for the contracts and the author has provided the most common types of such forms and, for the benefit of the attorneys, these forms are annotated.

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