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Supreme Court of Appeals

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SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS—Judges George Poffenbarger and Harold A. Ritz, after many years of faithful, efficient and able service on the Supreme Court of Appeals, retired from the bench at the close of 1922. The Honorable M. O. Litz, of Welch, and the Honorable James A. Meredith, of Fairmont, were appointed to fill the respective vacancies. Honorable William H. McGinnis, elected to the bench in November, assumed his duties the first of the year.

BOOK REVIEWS


Until the appearance of this remarkable little book, or rather until the brilliant judge stated its contents in a series of illuminating lectures before the Yale Law School in 1921, the nature of the judicial process was largely a matter of non-judicial speculation. Of course a court's opinion generally reveals part of the process but there is always an unstated, and in part almost unstatable, residuum. It is much as Mr. Justice Holmes has said in a famous opinion: "General propositions do not decide concrete cases. The decision will depend on a judgment or intuition more subtle than any articulate major premise." At all events in this valuable little book, one of the best and most influential judges on the bench has given us, in a series of absorbing lectures, a sort of expose of this mysterious process, at any rate as it functions in the mind of this very able judge, or as it should function in the judicial administration of justice generally.

"What is it that I do when I decide a case?" asks the learned judge and author. "To what sources of information do I appeal for guidance? In what proportions do I permit them to contribute to the result? In what proportions ought they to contribute? If