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## PROBATE LAW DIRECTORY

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PROBATE LAW DIRECTORY. By J. C. Fisher. St. Louis: The Legal Directory Publishing Co. 1930. P. 832.

The Directory claims to be the only standard, up-to-date reference book in this field for lawyers, judges, banks and trust companies. It contains a list of attorneys in important cities and towns in every state and territory, in the Dominion of Canada and in foreign countries, together with a synopsis of the laws in these states and countries relating to the estates of deceased persons, administration, descent and distribution, claims, wills, executors, minors, married women, divorce, inheritance taxes and income taxes, together with forms for wills and codicils, the text of wills of certain well known persons and probate forms and procedure. It is a multum in parvo, a handy assistant for ready reference by the practitioner in this field of the law.

The brevity of the synopses may be illustrated by the Michigan section which condenses the applicable statute law into less than nineteen pages. Curiously, on the subject Disposition of Personal Property, this includes on pages 251 and 252 an exact duplication, except for three or four slight verbal changes, of what appears again on pages 256 and 257. This duplication and the slight changes suggest some carelessness in editing.

Occasionally at the beginning or end of a paragraph there will be a general reference, such as "Laws of 1923," "Laws of 1927," "Approved March 12, 1919." It would be a material improvement if there were in connection

with every paragraph a reference to the section of the compiled laws or to the number and year of the public act from which quotation or synopsis was taken. While this is a handy volume from which banks and trust companies may derive useful information, the lawyer or judge is hardly safe in a matter of importance in accepting the statements here without checking with the official publications of the laws. It is to be hoped that the 1931 edition will add this useful feature.

E. C. G.

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