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Committee of the Association of American Law Schools: SELECTED ESSAYS ON FAMILY LAW

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SELECTED ESSAYS ON FAMILY LAW. Compiled and Edited by a Committee of the Association of American Law Schools. Brooklyn: The Foundation Press. 1950. Pp. xv, 1122. \$9.50.

Prior to the publication of this volume of *Selected Essays* there was no easy way of getting hold of the worthwhile literature in the field of Domestic Relations. Articles, documents, and notes were scattered in a thousand different places, and the average lawyer had access to only a trifling part of the material that would have been useful to him. The only satisfactory hornbook in the field (Madden) published in 1931 is somewhat out of date, and the same is true of the comparative study, *American Family Laws*, by Chester G. Vernier, also published in 1931. Although much of the material in the domain of family law has been distinctly second rate and its unavailability no great loss, some articles and notes have been quite valuable. These, for the most part, have been brought together in the present volume, which should prove of considerable utility to students and practitioners.

The "essays" consist, for the most part, of law review articles, students' notes, and case comments, but some miscellaneous material is also included, e.g., the Encyclical of Pope Pius XI, *On Christian Marriage*, which has hitherto not been easily available.

Articles and comments are arranged under the following general headings: The Place of the Family in Civilization, The Creation of the Family Unit, The Family as a Going Concern, and Family Disorganization.

It should be emphasized that the present volume is not a text book on family law and it will not take the place of such works as Madden and Vernier, out of date as those works now are. Because this is a compilation rather than a treatise prepared for a specific purpose, the editors had to take what they found. In some instances they found little or nothing; in others they found almost too much. Llewellyn's article on "Behind the Law of Divorce" runs through 69 pages and uses up what seems a disproportionate amount of space. To find fault with the selection of materials is, of course, easy, and when one finds fault he should keep in mind the difficulty of the task which faced the committee. No doubt the fifteen members of the three committees which worked on this project were themselves often in doubt as to what to take and what to leave out.

It is to be regretted that the editorial committee somehow fell down in its proof reading, with the result that unnecessary and unpardonable errors crept in. The most famous authority in the literature of family law is referred to as "Verier" and the name of one of the volume's editors is given as "Feisinger." These, and some other errors ought to have been caught. They do not, however, detract much from the value of the volume as a whole, which will be of the greatest assistance to teachers, students and lawyers for a long time to come.

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