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## Book Review

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## ***Book Review***

### LEGAL PSYCHOLOGY

By Harold Ernest Burt, New York, Prentice-Hall, Inc.,  
1931, pp. 467.

The science of applied psychology has developed within the last thirty years but it has developed rapidly and its scope is now so broad that specialization has become necessary. The present book is confined to a very limited portion of the field of the science—its legal and criminal aspects.

The book may be divided into three main parts which treat respectively the psychology of testimony, the psychology of the criminal, and crime prevention in so far as psychology can contribute to that problem. It discusses in some detail errors in testimony due to difficulties in perception, attention, memory, and suggestion; techniques for measuring emotions with a view to crime detection; the psychological make-up of certain types of criminals; preventing crime by eugenics, the control of drugs, the elimination of sources of criminal suggestion, and, finally, by education. At many points cases are cited in which the rulings of the courts were in accord with the psychological principles mentioned, or in which the psychological implications were obvious, although not recognized by the court. Each chapter concludes with an excellent summary, and, in addition, the whole book is well summarized in the last chapter.

Lawyers who read this book will doubtless conclude that although they have been using a good deal of psychology of a common sense sort, the time has now arrived for the adoption by the law of many additional pertinent psychological principles.

The author is an enthusiastic protagonist of the science of which he writes, but he does not indulge in the extravagance of statement which has done so much to bring the science into disrepute.

To lawyers who are engaged in trying cases, or in preparing them for trial, and to all who are engaged in the prevention, detection, or prosecution of crime, the book is unqualifiedly recommended.

W. H. HITCHLER.