



**PennState**  
Dickinson Law

**DICKINSON LAW REVIEW**  
PUBLISHED SINCE 1897

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Volume 45  
Issue 1 *Dickinson Law Review - Volume 45,*  
*1940-1941*

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10-1-1940

## Book Review

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### Recommended Citation

*Book Review*, 45 DICK. L. REV. 84 (1940).

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## BOOK REVIEW

## NOTES OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW AND PROCEDURE

By John H. Maurer. George T. Bisel Company, 1940. Vol. I, Pp. lxxxvi, 1-670; Vol. II, xciii, 671-1380.

This book is a digest of decisions of the courts of Pennsylvania upon questions of criminal law. It includes decisions upon both the substantive and adjective law of crimes and reported decisions of the trial courts as well as those of the Superior and Supreme Courts. The main sections are arranged in alphabetical order; there is a table of contents and an exhaustive index of eighty pages. As a consequence the contents of the book are readily accessible.

A preface states that the "notes were gathered" by the author "in connection with the preparation of trial and appellate briefs during the period of thirty years of his incumbency as assistant District Attorney of Philadelphia County." The manner in which the "notes were gathered" may account for the fact that some of them are inartistically phrased; some are obscure, and some are so brief as to materially decrease their informativeness.

The preface also states that "these notes are in no sense complete." The extent of this incompleteness cannot, of course, be determined definitely without a careful comparison of the contents of the book with all of the Pennsylvania cases. It is quite obvious, however, that the book cannot be relied upon as a definitive and complete index of the decisions relating to the criminal law of Pennsylvania.

Finally the preface states that the book "may be of great usefulness to the members of the Pennsylvania Bar." Of this there can be no doubt. To those lawyers who are called upon to prosecute or defend in criminal cases the book will prove to be of value. The reviewer has found it to be very useful to him in his work as a teacher of criminal law.

A feature of the book, which increases its usefulness, is the fact that under the name of each crime are digested cases relating to the elements of the crime, defenses to the crime, participation in the crime, jurisdiction, process, preliminary hearing, indictment, trial evidence, and sentence. A lawyer who is engaged to prosecute or defend a person charged with crime "X" may, by reading the paragraphs digested under that head secure information which may be useful to him at all stages of the prosecution.

The book is well printed and handsomely bound and the proof seems to have been carefully read. The fact that the digest paragraphs are not numbered and are not in alphabetical or logical order detracts from the usefulness.

This book will not satisfy the need for a complete, philosophical and critical treatise on the criminal law of Pennsylvania but to a lawyer in the bustle and hurry of the preparation and trial of a criminal case it will give helpful information.

W. H. HITCHLER