

relation between them may readily be seen. The effect of each new Civil Code provision is pointed out in clear and unmistakable terms. The whole book is further enriched by the author's opinion sparingly advanced, either to supplement rulings and opinions on a particular rule or to reconcile apparent contradictions. The use of footnotes is a convincing proof that the author intends to facilitate research work. With these means on hand, resort can be easily made to cases supporting, illustrating, or supplementing the law or to any of the author's personal opinions.

Mr. Moran's Comments on the Rules of Court is a monumental accomplishment. . . . a masterpiece of research work. To the practising lawyers, Moran's book has no substitute as a ready and valuable reference. As the author puts it in one of his forewords, it is believed "that there is enough in this edition to orientate the legal profession and the law students to the fundamental principles and intricacies of Remedial Law."

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CIVIL LAW, CIVIL CODE ANNOTATED. By Ambrosio Padilla. P. C. F. Publications, 1951, 3 Volumes, Leather Bound, P100.00

To the legal mind, no question lies unanswered; to the young legal mind, each question is a challenge. It therefore comes as no surprise for a young law student to cast his eyes on Civil Law, which from time immemorial had always presented ever recurring problems. In the Philippines, these problems have increased with the passage of the New Civil Code, Republic Act No. 386. To guide him in his quest for knowledge, the law student has depended much upon textbooks. Among the textbooks now available, Dr. Padilla's Civil Code Annotated, can readily be accepted as a helpful guide. With a thorough and brisk hand, the author has placed upon himself the arduous task of making an exposition on the Civil Code of the Philippines.

The author treats the subject matter in codal form. He begins with the first article of the Code and ends with the last. After each article an explanation is given and in most of the articles he cites interpretative decisions of both the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals.

The explanation of each article in a more common and understandable language helps a great deal the law student whose mind has not yet been imbued with the capacity to grasp immediately the meaning and reason behind a provision of law. Moreover, the meaning and breadth of each article is more easily seen by its correlation with other articles. For every section which appears complicated a brief summary is given at the end, to give a bird's-eye-view of the matter covered. Where a provision calls for a more

graphic presentation, concrete examples are given. The meaning of the more important terms are defined and distinguished, citing authoritative sources like the Spanish commentators, Manresa and Sanchez Roman. Special laws supplementing the codal provisions are cited.

After each explanation, leading decisions interpreting an old article or from which a new provision had been derived are cited and whenever any ambiguity or contradiction presents itself, footnotes either clarify or show the contradiction. Recent decisions of the Supreme Court of the Philippines as of May, 1951, some of which are not reported but are very helpful to questions arising, are cited.

However, as to provisions altogether new, the author has merely explained or correlated them with other provisions, without making any definite statement or commentaries on the same. This "deficiency", however, was expected, for the author has deemed it advisable to limit himself, as the eminent authority on Civil Law, Justice Jose B. L. Reyes, had once said, "to what is known, accepted, and certain." But where the law or decisions are clearly erroneous or vague, the author has unhesitatingly ventured to advance an opinion. Furthermore, the book has been criticized for unnecessary citation of decisions. A careful reading however, will show that the purpose is to bring great prominence to the meaning of a provision.

The student, however, must be on his guard against the detailed manner which characterizes this textbook and should not permit himself to be lulled into a sense of false security or contentment. Confronted with the painful knowledge that the Civil Code of the Philippines harbors a great many ambiguities and contradictions, he must maintain that inquiring attitude so characteristic of a legal mind. But with due allowance for criticism, the author has, by painstaking effort, accomplished something which undoubtedly both the members of the bar and the student of law will deeply appreciate.

*Ramon Buenaventura*

LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHURCH IN THE PHILIPPINES. By Dr. Jorge R. Coquia. The Catholic University of America Press. Washington, D.C., U.S.A. Leatherbound, P8.00.

No other institution has influenced the political, social and even the economic life of the Filipino people more than the Church.— For most Filipinos, everyday life bears out the interlocking of civil law and church law. Most of the recent issues affecting the seeming conflict of the Church and the State arise from a hazy notion of the true relationship of the Church and the State.

LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHURCH IN THE PHILIPPINES, a comprehensive and exhaustive treatise by Jorge R. Coquia, A.B., LL.B., LL.M., S. J. D., is the first successful effort to correlate