

BOOK NOTES

THE CHURCH AND STATE LAW IN THE PHILIPPINES. By Jorge R. Coquia, Manila: Central Book Supply, 1959. Pp. xii, 412., P_____.

From the pen of a law professor and assistant solicitor-general comes this book, a treatise intended to remove clouds of doubt hanging over our jurisprudence on the relations between the Church and the State. In it we find an authoritative source of ready solutions, supported by statutes and judicial decisions, to problems arising from church and state relations.

The author starts with a review of the religious history of the Philippines from the primitive *anitos* to the comparatively new sect that is the *Iglesia ni Manalo*. He discusses extensively the different religious faiths and their tenets. In his discussion on the Roman Catholic Religion, he traces the coming of the different orders and their achievements and contributions to the Philippine way of life. He then expounds on: the extent of religious worship and its limitations; the appropriation of public funds for religious purposes; the juridical personality of the Church; the jurisdiction of ecclesiastical tribunals; the tax exemption of religious properties and income; the principles of religion and education; a comparative study of marriage and divorce; and, finally, the principles on wills and bequests for religious purposes.

Here are a few of the many legal questions answered by the author. May a chapel be legally constructed on public property? May a city prohibit the sale of religious articles in public streets? What are the rights of a priest or a minister to conduct religion classes in a public school? May school children be compelled to salute the flag? May able-bodied men refuse to undergo military training, or bear arms in defense of their country, on religious grounds? May the government appropriate funds for the commemoration of a religious event?

Dr. Ambrosio Padilla, a prolific writer in his own right, considers the book to have filled the gap existing in Philippine legal literature. "This book will be a valuable aid not only to clergymen, the religious associations that actively participate in religious work, but also to college scholars, school officials, judges, lawyers, and all others interested in the subject of church and state relations," he concludes.

COMMERCIAL LAW BAR REVIEWER. By Simeon P. Gopengco. Manila: Valentine Publications, 1959, Pp. 407. P18.00.

Unlike the Civil Law or the Penal Law, Philippine Commercial Law is not found in the Code of Commerce, as the former are in the Civil Code of the Philippines and in the Revised Penal Code, respectively. Philippine Commercial Law is a veritable hodge-podge of statutes running the gamut of trade practices from corporations to business names. A recurrent problem to every bar candidate, these laws comprising it have led so many to confusion. But difficult problems have a strange way of solving themselves — the more complicated they are, the simpler their solutions. After thirteen long years of practice, Government Corporate Counsel Simeon P. Gopengco has come out with a 1959 Commercial Law Bar Reviewer, which we highly recommend for it unquestionably places the mastery of the subject almost at the finger-tips of each groping bar candidate. Very enlightening and widely comprehensive, the Reviewer covers twenty-five commercial laws.

Like others of its kind, it is in the question-and-answer style. Unlike most, however, distinctions are presented by placing the contrasting features opposite one another, which undoubtedly makes for easier absorption and longer retention.

The Reviewer is up-to-date with Commercial Law jurisprudence. Latest rulings to the very day of its printing are included. Case treatment follows a new pattern: facts and then questions based on those facts, instead of the facts-and-decision method. Where legal points involve conflicting views, the author gives all the views, including his, and then states the better one, if any. The same is done with conflicting theories emphasis being laid however on the one followed in this jurisdiction.

For the past many years the author as professor and reviewer has helped countless students become lawyers. The extent of his help has however been limited to reviewees under him in the pre-bar review. With his Reviewer, one need not be under him anymore to have the benefits of his help. His book is the answer. The wide range and wealth of visions which gear it to general usefulness make of it a truly invaluable companion. His book truly belongs to the library of every student and every member of the Bar and the Bench.