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### Book Reviews

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## BOOK REVIEWS

THE FIRST LAND COURT OF KENTUCKY, by *Samuel M. Wilson*, of Lexington, Kentucky, as delivered before the Kentucky Bar Association in 1923 with the addition of many valuable notes and illustrations; 164 pages.

The volume is a useful contribution to the literature concerning the early legal and political history of Kentucky. The causes for, the origin of, statutes creating, history of, and methods of doing business of the Land Court are set forth. In addition, there are copies and facsimiles of the first land warrants and other records of the court, with lists of place names and land marks, and pioneer roads and traces from the records, together with quotations and citations of opinions of the Kentucky Court of Appeals referring to the Land Court or its work.

The value of this little book to one interested in the land law of Kentucky may be inferred from the following quotation from Justice Story as given by the author, "The land law of Kentucky, while it stands alone in its subtle and refined distinctions, has attained a symmetry which at this moment (1821) enables it to be studied almost with scientific precision. So little assistance can be gained from the lights of the common law for its comprehension, that, to lawyers of other states, it will forever remain an unknown code with a peculiar dialect, to be explored and studied like the jurisprudence of some foreign nation."

J. W. GILLON, JR.

LEGAL PHILOLOGY, edited by *Fred C. Mullinix*. A book of epigrams and excerpts from the legal opinions of Hon. Henry Lamm while justice of the Supreme Court of Missouri; the F. H. Thomas Law Book Co., St. Louis, Mo.; bronze-green leatherette, embossed, semi-flexible cover; 315 pages; indexed.

In addition to a general index, the book contains indexes for giving the case from which each epigram or excerpt is taken, and for locating the literary references. It is a fine illustration of how cases may be illuminated and clarified by a mind with a wide knowledge of literature of every kind at its command, and of how the musty legal expressions of our early law may be revived without any loss of meaning by strikingly terse ex-

pression in modern language. Some of the epigrams appear to possess the force and accuracy of the old maxims of the law. It would be hard for a reader of this volume to contend that legal argument must be dull in order to be instructive.

J. W. GILLON, JR.