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Trial Tactics and Experiences by Simon N. Gazan

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codification of that law until we have determined what means we shall take at the termination of the war for maintaining the regime of international law as against the totalitarian gospels and their consequent regimes, which are founded upon zoological considerations and which appeal to race and force as the determinants of international relations and the bases of a so-called new order. Such an 'order' involves the negation of nineteen centuries of human striving to maintain justice and morality among men and nations through the reign of law.⁴

This volume is rich and mellow reading — rich in the ideas from a successful private practitioner, mellow in the faith of a lawyer who has devoted time and talent to the great public and human problems of his generation. Lawyers and law students alike will learn not only law but also a professional spirit from Mr. Coudert's collection of legal writings.

OLIVER SCHROEDER, JR.*

⁴ *Id.*, at p. 348.

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TRIAL TACTICS AND EXPERIENCES, by SIMON N. GAZAN. Atlanta, The Harrison Company, 1954. 613 pages, \$15.00.

In writing his book of observations made in the long course of his experience of over fifty years as an active trial lawyer, Mr. Gazan's principal thesis has been, as he himself states it, that

The versatility required of a good trial lawyer is as broad as the doctrine of universal salvation. There is no field of art, science or technology in which he is not called upon, from time to time, to familiarize himself. He may be in a case involving the genuineness of a painting attributed to one of the old masters and he must know art; he may defend a criminal charged with murder by poisoning and he must know about poisons; he may be trying a case of copyright infringement involving music and he must know music; he may be in a patent dispute which calls for technical knowledge of machinery; it may be a maritime cause which requires knowledge of ships and their navigation instruments and the rules of the sea, it may be a case where chemistry and the properties of gases are the subject-matters of inquiry and he must know basic chemistry.

What is more, the author's own experiences bear out his thesis. They are drawn from twenty years before the bar of Georgia and from thirty years before that of New York City, so that they are varied and rich in the sense that the homely and whimsical character of a small city practice in the Deep South presents its own striking contrast with the pressure and high financial stakes of a northern great city's practice.

Not only does the reader find these comparisons in Mr. Gazan's tale, but there is also a wealth of historical anecdotes, ranging from a brief discussion of the trial of Socrates, through extensive excerpts of Edward Carson's

masterful and devastating cross-examination of Oscar Wilde (when the last anthology of cross-examinations is written, that one should still come first!), to the humiliation and destruction of Sigmund Spaeth as an expert witness at the hands of Louis Nizer, in the famous "Rum and Coca Cola" case. Nor is this all that comes out of Mr. Gazan's poke. A list of merely the names of some of his chapters will indicate the scope of his work: The Equipment of the Trial Lawyer, Is the Defendant Insured?, Helpful Aids in Negligence Cases, Handwriting, Evidence, Damages for Death, Handling the Medical Expert. These are only a few. Many items which are the subject of comment are personal experiences; some are the experiences of the author's friends and acquaintances. More often than not he supports his advice with helpful citations, and some are otherwise unreported cases, always of value when no standard report can be found. This reviewer found several entirely novel points raised and questions answered.

Of course, no such a work is entirely new. All, however, have value, since lawyers thrive on each other's experiences. This author has taken the time toward the close of a long career to give us the benefit of his own experience and of what he has thought worth while in the lives of our predecessors and our contemporaries. His work is obviously one of love for our profession, and it is to be read as such. If it has a fault, it is that it rambles extensively, but then, so has the author's experience rambled. For any reader who will give the work his time it is an engaging trip.

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