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COMPARATIVE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW. An Analysis of the Administrative Systems, National and Local, of the United States, England, France and Germany. Vol. I, Organization; Vol. II, Administration. By FRANK J. GOODNOW, A.M., LL.D. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1893.

It was with great pleasure that we received the first work in English on the important subject of Administrative Law. As a people we seem to have been heretofore so taken up with establishing popular government that we have neglected to regard, as worthy of special treatment, the question of how the officers of government should execute the laws or how the officers should be held up to their work. Mr. GOODNOW makes a very good beginning. As he says himself, in his preface, he has not attempted to treat the subject exhaustively. His intention has been to set forth in the first place the methods of administrative organization adopted in the four countries whose law is considered; namely, the United States, England, France and Germany; and to state, in the second place, the means of holding this organization up to its work, and of preventing it from encroaching on those rights which have been guaranteed to the individual by the constitution or laws.

The first volume treats of the question of the organization of the administrative departments of the central and local governments; and the second volume of the way in which the individual can obtain redress for wrongs inflicted upon him by the administrative officer.

The whole forms an excellent introduction to a more particular study of the subjects treated. As is the intention of the author, at no point is the discussion full and exhaustive. and, therefore, the interest which the work will excite in the minds of the readers will depend largely upon his previous acquaintance with the particular subject under discussion. For instance, where the author treats of *mandamus*, what is said is very good, but it is necessarily too cursory to be of interest or of value to the lawyer. On the other hand, few lawyers will fail to be interested and benefited by the short and concise account of the administrative courts of France and Germany. It is not that the discussion is any more full in the one case than in the other, but that in treating of administration in continental countries, he treats of something which is entirely new to ninety-nine hundredths of the members of our bar. In the same way the local administrative government of Germany and France is intensely interesting, while most lawyers will skip the account of the office of President of the United States.

It must be remembered that we are reviewing the book simply from the standpoint of a lawyer, and not from that of the general reading public. To the lawyer the book as a whole would be more interesting if the author had confined himself to administration in the foreign continental countries, that is, France and Germany. This, however, would have marred its usefulness in colleges, into which it will doubtless be largely introduced; both because it is the only English work on Comparative Administrative Law, and as an excellent introduction to the more minute study of the subjects treated.

W. D. L.