IMPORTANT FEATURES OF PLEADING AND PRACTICE, UNDER THE NEW YORK CIVIL PRACTICE ACT

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Important Features of Pleading and Practice, Under the New York Civil Practice Act by Harold R. Medina

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OF

Pleading and Practice

UNDER THE

New York Civil Practice Act

HAROLD R. MEDINA, A.B., LL.B. OF THE NEW YORK BAR INSTRUCTOR IN NEW YORK PLEADING AND PRACTICE AT THE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

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PREFACE.

This series of ten lectures was originally delivered in New York City in October 1921, immediately after the Civil Practice Act went into effect; the course was repeated in New York in November 1921, and again at White Plains, in April 1922. Portions of it were also delivered in the form of single evening addresses to groups of practicing lawyers at New Rochelle, Tarrytown and other places. They were finally given, substantially in the form as here printed, in New York City in May 1922. Because of the many requests from all parts of the State of New York for the subject matter in printed form the present volume has been published.

It is the purpose of the lectures to set forth briefly the changes in the New York law of pleading and practice accomplished by the Civil Practice Act and the Rules of Civil Practice which took effect on October 1st, 1921, and to discuss in some detail the effect of such new provisions as may be regarded as substantial or fundamental.

No attempt has been made to refer specifically to every change to be found in the new law, as it contains an infinite number of slight modifications of the language formerly used in the Code of Civil Procedure, many of which have been inserted merely for the purpose of clarification, and the enumeration of these slight changes would serve no useful purpose and would prove very tedious and uninteresting reading. It is believed, however, that all of the really important modifications in the law have been discussed.

As is already well understood, a number of changes

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PREFACE.

in the arrangement of the material formerly included in the Code of Civil Procedure consisted in removing certain of this material to the various Chapters of the Consolidated Laws, and in creating certain new and separate Acts, such as the Surrogate's Court Act, the New York City Court Act, the Justices' Court Act and so on. As these former sections of the Code of Civil Procedure may easily be located by reference to the table now published with the new Civil Practice Act, no enumeration of such changes has been made in any of these lectures.

A perhaps not surprising but at least significant fact is that since October 1st, 1921, there have been over 650 decisions relating to sections of the Civil Practice Act and the Rules of Civil Practice appearing in the New York Law Journal alone. All of these decisions, and also a considerable number from other parts of the state, have been carefully considered in connection with these lectures. It is a great pleasure to note that, with a very few exceptions, the distinct tendency of the courts in all parts of the state has been to interpret the provisions of the new law in a broad and liberal spirit.

No doubt some errors will be found herein. It is hoped they may be few and that they may not be judged too harshly.

Many thanks are due to the practicing attorneys and clerks of courts who, while attending the lectures as originally given, made a large, number of helpful inquiries and suggestions, a considerable number of which are included in the material in its present final form.

HAROLD R. MEDINA.

New YORK CITY, June 5th, 1922.

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