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### DOMESTIC RELATIONS

# EPAPHRODITUS PECK OF THE CONNECTICUT BAR

THIRD EDITION
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# NATIONAL TEXTBOOK SERIES E. M. MORGAN GENERAL EDITOR



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#### PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

The first edition of this book was published in 1913, and the second in 1920. The publishers now advise me that a third edition is called for; and it is evident that a text book will be more serviceable by including references to the newest decisions, some of which are of great value to students because they review the state of the law to the present time and apply it to the new questions which have arisen, and some of which have made changes in the law sufficiently important to require an alteration of the text.

This book in its first edition was the outgrowth of a course of lectures on Domestic Relations, which I had delivered for the nine previous years in the Law School of Yale University. To serve the practical use and convenience of both instructor and student the selection of cases for the notes was chiefly of American rather than of English cases, and of the recent "ruling cases" which contain a broad discussion of the topic in question with a review of the prior decisions, rather than of the "leading cases," earlier in date, and in which the doctrines were first propounded which have been developed in later cases.

I have tried to make a book of a size and scope that could be reasonably used in such time as is usually given to this topic in the law schools.

I wish to call particular attention to the cases printed in black-letter type in the notes. It was my practice in giving this course by lecture to assign in connection with each lecture a group of illustrative cases, which the

students were expected to read and be prepared to recite upon together with the contents of the lecture. I found this method very serviceable. The cases illustrate the propositions stated in the lecture, and the reading of the cases fixes the doctrine in the minds of students and shows its practical application. If these black-letter cases were assigned for study in connection with the text book, some of the advantages would be obtained which attach to the use of a case book in connection with a text book. The latter method has of course the convenience of placing the selected cases in the student's hands; but I am sure that most instructors will agree with me that there are decided compensations in requiring the students to examine the cases in the actual reports.

To facilitate the use of these black-letter cases, I have usually selected cases which are reported in one or more sets of reports besides the official volumes, so that in a large class each student may be able to get access to a report of the case in the library.

The traditional title for this field of law was Domestic Relations. In recent years it has been common to treat it under the title, The Law of Persons; and the two phrases have often been considered as synonymous. But it seems to me that they are entirely distinct, although closely related, and should be so treated. The only point at which they overlap is in treating the disabilities of married women, which topic is really a part of the law of persons, but so connected with the relation of husband and wife that it seems necessary to treat it under that head.

Accordingly I entitled this book in its second edition, The Law of Persons and Domestic Relations, instead of Persons or Domestic Relations. The Law of Persons includes those topics which relate to persons not having

the normal powers of an adult citizen; while the phrase Domestic Relations covers those mutual relationships which exist, not in business nor in political life, but in the home.

The analysis of the topic is therefore as follows: the Law of Persons in three parts, viz., Infants, Insane and Incompetent Persons, and Aliens; the Law of Domestic Relations in three parts, viz., Husband and Wife, Parent and Child, Guardian and Ward. Marriage and Divorce, while a part of the general topic of Husband and Wife, is of sufficient interest and importance to be especially mentioned as a sub-topic.

In preparing the third edition it has not seemed to me necessary to make any change in the analysis of the subject which has just been stated, nor to alter the text except as required by new developments of the law in the past nine years.

I inserted in the first edition, and retained in the second, an appendix based on the statistics of marriage and divorce contained in the United States census reports on that subject issued in 1906 and in 1916. At the time of publication of the first edition those statistics were not very widely known, and had not received the general attention and discussion in the periodical press which they have since received. The general results of these investigations have now been pretty widely made known and there seems to be little reason for including them in an elementary text book; and the volume of statistical material has now become so great that an adequate presentation of it to the present time would require a greater amount of space than it seems to merit. I have therefore dropped this appendix altogether.

The principal change in the present edition is the addition in the notes of important cases decided since 1920,

with occasional changes in the text suggested by these new decisions. Of course it is not humanly possible to read all the cases that have appeared in the English and American courts on the subject covered by this text book, and still less would it be desirable to insert references Inasmuch as the different series of to all such cases. selected and annotated cases have been united, so that there is now only one series of selected reports, the American Law Reports, it has seemed to me that it would be sufficient to examine for additional material the successive volumes of the American Law Reports. adding to this source the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States, and the British Ruling Cases for decisions of especial value rendered in the British courts. Accordingly I have examined the American Law Reports down to volume 60, the reports of the Supreme Court of the United States through volume 277, and the British Ruling Cases to volume 14. This covers the field of reported law well into the year 1929.

In the process of noting down in the library, type-writing for publication and putting into print, several thousand reported cases with references to volume and page, the occurrence of some errors is practically unavoidable, and I have occasionally found such errors in the first and second editions. To eliminate them as far as possible I employed Mr. Edwin L. Ledbetter of the class of 1929 in the Yale Law School to examine each cited case in the library and note any errors in the citations. His work appeared to me to be thoroughly done; and I hope that errors in the prior editions may thus have been eliminated, and that the unavoidable crop of new errors in preparation of this edition may be found to be small.

I trust that this new edition may continue to deserve and to receive the gratifying support which the prior

editions have had from the teachers in those American law schools which use text books as a means of instruction; and I have always tried to make the book useful also to older members of the bar, and especially to those students who may have used the book in their law school classes and may afterward refer to it in their practice.

EPAPHRODITUS PECK

Bristol, Connecticut January, 1930

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