

able influence on younger scholars who improved on his methods.

See J. Barnaud, *Lefèvre d'Étaples* (1936). (B. H.)

LEFT-HANDEDNESS: see HANDEDNESS.

LEG, the general name for those limbs in animals that support and move the body; in man, the lower limbs. Specifically, the lower limb of man is subdivided into the thigh, from the pelvis to the knee; the leg, from the knee to the ankle; and the foot. See MUSCLE AND MUSCULAR SYSTEM; SKELETON, VERTEBRATE.

LEGA (BALEGA, WAREGA), a Bantu people, inhabit the rain-forest and savanna highlands of the east-central part of the Republic of the Congo. They numbered well over 250,000 in the 1960s and formed the bulk of the population in the Mwenga, Shabunda and Pangé districts; some groups were dispersed in neighbouring districts. The Babembe of Fizi district are historically and culturally closely linked to them. The Lega practise shifting hoe cultivation, the staple crops being bananas, peanuts, manioc, maize (corn) and rice. They live in small compact settlements, which they may leave for long hunting parties; hunting and trapping are important economically and in socioreligious life. There is also much food gathering and fishing. The Lega have patrilineal descent and virilocal residence; complementary filiation with mother's, mother's mother's and father's mother's lineages are significant; marriage payments (shell money, strings of pearls, goats) are high; a limited polygyny and widow inheritance are common. Social organization is based on segmentary, related lineages forming autonomous political groups. The closed association of *bwame*, theoretically accessible to all males and their wives, is based on a hierarchical succession of complex initiations. Ancestral, skull, twin and spirit cults are general. The Lega have a rich literature and are famous ivory and wood carvers.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.—C. G. F. F. Delhaise, *Les Warega* (1909); D. P. Biebuyck, "La monnaie musanga des Balega," and "Répartitions et droits du pangolin chez les Balega," *Zaire* (1953); "Function of a Lega Mask," *Int. Arch. Ethnogr.*, (1954); E. I. Burk, "The Lega School of Circumcision," *Zaire* (1956). (D. P. Br.)

LEGACY, in law, refers generally to a gift of property by will or testament. In the strict terminology of the older Anglo-American law, a disposition pertaining to real estate was called a devise, and the instrument containing such a provision was called a will; the beneficiary of the provision was called the devisee. A provision relating to personal property was called a bequest or, especially if it was of a sum of money, a legacy; the beneficiary in this case was called the legatee, and the instrument containing a bequest or legacy was called a testament. Since the latter part of the 19th century, these distinctions have lost much of their legal significance, so that legacy and devise are now used interchangeably to mean a disposition of property contained in an instrument in which a person, the testator, disposes of his property in the event of death.

A legacy of an identified object, such as an asset referred to as "the piece of land known as 1452 East 50th street" or "my 1959 Rolls-Royce car, motor number 15 012 781," is called a specific legacy. If at the time of the testator's death this object is no longer owned by him, the legacy can, as a general rule, not be satisfied and is said to be adeemed. A general legacy, on the other hand, is one of a sum of money or of a number of objects identified generically, such as the legacy of "100 shares of common stock of General Motors." Even if no such stock is found in the estate at the death of the testator, the executor can buy it in the market with funds of the estate and then hand the stock to the legatee. If the total value of the estate is insufficient to satisfy all legacies, the specific legacies are to be satisfied so far as they are not adeemed, while the general legatees may lose out (*i.e.*, their legacies may abate), but so that certain general legacies, for instance those made to support a needy relative, are to be paid in priority over others. If a testator has failed to express himself clearly, it may be difficult to determine whether a legacy is specific or general.

A legacy is called residuary if the beneficiary is to receive only what is left of the estate after the satisfaction of all specific and general legacies.

In the terminology of the civil law the terms legacy and legatee

have a meaning somewhat different from that in Anglo-American law. In Roman law, upon the death of a person the totality of his legal rights and duties passed to a universal successor, the heir. If there was no valid testament—the term simply meant disposition of property in case of death without distinction between real or personal property—the heir was determined by the rules of intestate succession. But an heir could also be instituted by testament, and in his testament the testator could charge his heir with legacies; *i.e.*, duties to a third party, called a legatee, to whom he had to pay certain sums of money or give certain assets of the estate.

This terminology is still used in the law of Germany and of those countries with a similar system, such as Switzerland or Japan. But in the French civil code and those that follow its pattern, the term heir (*héritier*) is limited to the universal intestate successor. A person to whom a testator leaves his entire estate is called *légataire universel*; if the estate is to be shared by several beneficiaries, they are called *légataires à titre universel*. A person to whom there is to be paid a fixed sum of money or to be handed a particular asset is called *légataire particulier*. See also WILL; ESTATES, ADMINISTRATION OF. (M. RN.)

LEGAL AID, the professional legal assistance given, either free or for a nominal sum, to indigent persons in need of such help. In criminal cases most countries, and especially those in which a person accused of a crime enjoys a presumption of innocence, provide the services of a lawyer for those who have insufficient means of their own. In some countries, and especially in the United States, defender offices with salaried personnel, either publicly or privately supported, have been found to be the most economical solution. In other countries where there is no shortage of lawyers skilled in criminal law and trial practice, private lawyers undertake this duty, being assigned by the court or preferably being chosen by the accused person himself. In many countries these private lawyers receive no remuneration or only a nominal fee paid either by the state or from charitable funds. In an increasing number of countries the provision by the state of a fund sufficient to pay an adequate fee and to cover all allied expenses is considered to be necessary to ensure that the legally aided person receives proper service. Traditionally, in many countries, as one of the public-service responsibilities attached to the practice of law, lawyers also undertake to give legal aid in civil cases. Although lawyers are generally willing to assume this responsibility, it is not possible for them to meet the need completely or effectively in the larger communities; the number of cases is too large and the cost of maintaining a city law office too great. Moreover, a lawyer who can afford to give his own services free cannot be expected to incur the additional expenses necessary for a full investigation of the case.

Great Britain.—In Great Britain the government has entrusted the Law societies of England and Scotland (which are the governing bodies of solicitors) with the responsibility of administering legal aid and advice programs under the provisions of the Legal Aid and Advice act, 1949, and the Legal Aid and Solicitors' (Scotland) act, 1949. Under those plans, persons of small or moderate means are entitled to receive oral legal advice, legal assistance in connection with disputes before proceedings are started and legal aid in connection with proceedings in court. In each case the assisted person chooses his solicitor and, where there are proceedings, his barrister from a list of those who have volunteered to undertake this work. A majority of the lawyers in the country have done so.

Legal advice under these acts is available to persons whose income and capital are below prescribed limits, either free or for 2s. 6d. Application is made to a solicitor who is a member of the panel; the latter will apply a simple means test and, if that is satisfied, will give oral advice after an interview not exceeding 90 minutes. The solicitor will then claim a fee of £1 for each 30 minutes from the Law society.

Those seeking legal assistance on a free or part-fee basis must satisfy a local or area committee of the Law society, normally consisting of four practising solicitors and one practising barrister, that they have reasonable grounds for taking, defending or being