

NOTES AND NEWS

AMINTAPHIL CONFERENCE:

The North American Branch of the IVR, Amintaphil, held its seventh plenary conference on 12-14 October, 1979, at the University of Texas, Austin Texas. His Honour Mr. Justice Hutley of the New South Wales Court of Appeal visited the United States between September and December 1979, as a senior Fulbright scholar, and attended the conference. He has kindly given us the following report:

'About fifty members of Amintaphil American and Canadian legal philosophers met at Austin for their regional meeting. The topic of the conference was 'Accountability' and papers were presented at sessions dealing with the concept of accountability, accountability in bureaucracies, accountability and democratic government, accountability in the professions, and accountability in education. Almost all paper writers were present to deliver and defend their papers, as were the official commentators.

'The conference was very well organised. The members had received most of the papers and official criticisms in advance. Each paper writer had five minutes to summarise his argument and each official commentator three minutes to summarise his criticism. The topic was then thrown open for general discussion, so that there were about two hours for discussion at each session. The chairmen enforced the rules and made a real effort to see that the discussion was fairly allocated to each paper. A number of those who presented papers had visited Australia in 1977, among others, Professors de George and Pincoffs.

'Understandably the papers were centred on the American legal and medical scene. Legal philosophers are mainly found holding chairs in colleges and in what would be Arts departments in Australia; comparatively few came from Law Schools. However, medical ethics is becoming one of the most popular courses in American colleges. "Uplift" was the dominant tone but the problems raised were very concrete and have not been dealt with in Australia. Ethical theorists have tended to decline to touch professional ethics or even to consider whether the problems are really ethical. On the basis that in America one can see the future, a great change in the kind of problems dealt with by legal philosophers during the next decade can be expected. To be permitted to participate was to me a startling experience, and I felt I was entering a

new world. I felt driven to intervene on two occasions and was listened to politely as one would listen to the representative of some stone age community. At the end of the sessions there was a discussion as to how the next meeting was to be conducted. One suggestion was that procedures adopted in Australia be followed. Though this was not adopted, it shows how highly the 1977 meeting in Australia is rated by those who participated in it. It is intended to publish the papers delivered at the conference.'

AAP CONFERENCE:

Members of the ASLP might wish to attend the 1980 annual conference of the Australasian Association of Philosophy which will be held at St. John's College, University of Sydney, from Sunday, 24 August to Friday, 29 August.

Those wishing to read a paper should submit a title to the Conference Programme Secretary, Traditional and Modern Philosophy, University of Sydney, N.S.W. 2006 by 1 July, together with a 250-300 word abstract. The Programme Committee strongly requests that papers be limited to 45 minutes.

The Committee also calls for the submission of title of short papers, in no cases to run over 20 minutes. It is hoped that a morning can be set aside for such papers. An abstract should be submitted at the same time.

Details of any papers of jurisprudential interest will be given in a later issue of this Bulletin.

DEVELOPMENTS IN JURISPRUDENCE:

The University of Wollongong hopes to develop an opening for Jurisprudence within the Legal Studies section of its Department of Accountancy. Among the legal staff who have expressed interest in this development are I.L. Dunn, LLB (Lond.), Barrister (N.S.W.), J.G. Jackson, B. Com., LLB (N.S.W.), AASA (Prov.) and P.R. Mackay, BA, LLB (A.N.U.), Solicitor (N.S.W.), Barrister and Solicitor (Vic.). The Editor would be interested to learn of any new developments in the areas of jurisprudence and philosophy of law in other Australian tertiary institutions for inclusion in 'Notes and News'.

HISTORY OF LEGAL IDEAS:

The History of Ideas Unit in the Research School of Social Sciences of the Australian National University is interested in applications for Ph.D. scholarships tenable in the Unit and in applicants for Research Fellowships or Senior Research Fellowships tenable for periods of from one to three years, and will welcome expressions of interest from persons interested in the history of legal ideas. Enquiries should be addressed to the Head of the Unit, Professor Eugene Kamenka, History of Ideas Unit, RSSH, Australian National University, P. O. Box 4, Canberra, ACT 2600. The Unit has a special interest in the interplay of legal and social thought, in continental European ideas and in contemporary legal thought and ideology.

S.J. STOLJAR:

Professor S.J. Stoljar's book *Moral and Legal Reasoning* is to be published by Macmillan in London on 17 April, 1980. Professor Stoljar recently returned to the Law Department in the Research School of Social Sciences in the Australian National University after spending a year as Visiting Professor of Law in the Universities of Paris I and II (Sorbonne-Panthéon), where he lectured to Masters and Doctoral students on Common Law Contract and its relation to other legal institutions from the (French) comparative point of view.