

## BOOKS NOTED

*Bills of Exchange*, by B. B. RILEY, Q.C., M.A. (Oxon.), 2nd ed. (Law Book Company of Australia, 1964), pp. i-xx, 1-307. Price: £3 3s.

The second edition of this text, the first of which appeared in 1953, will ensure its continued value for all students and practitioners interested in the law concerning negotiable instruments. The main purpose of the second edition is, as the writer says, 'to bring the book up to date in the light of all recent decisions and literature relevant to the Bills of Exchange Act 1909-1958 of the Commonwealth of Australia'. In doing this Mr Riley has preserved the usefulness of this comprehensive annotation of the Act. It is perhaps the most satisfactory textbook on this part of the law, and it is certainly the most useful for Australian practitioners and students. One printing error which appeared in the first edition re-appears in this edition on p. 263 (second paragraph), where section 97 should read section 96.

*Cases on the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia*, selected and annotated by GEOFFREY SAWER, B.A., LL.M., 3rd ed. (The Law Book Co. of Australasia Pty Ltd, Sydney, 1964), pp. i-xxxii, 1-674. Price: £4 15s.

The third edition of this standard work of selection and reference will continue to be an important instrument in the teaching and studying of the law of the Constitution. It now contains sixty-one edited cases of importance in this field. Professor Sawyer has omitted some of the older cases and inserted in their place, *inter alia*, the *Cigamic* case, the *Second Uniform Tax* case, the *Dennis Hotels* cases, the *Marriage Act* case, and recent cases on section 92 of the Constitution. References to secondary materials have been brought up to date. Pagination from the *Commonwealth Law Reports* is retained and is now marked in the text as well. This collection of cases and incisive notes thereon clearly remains of the greatest value to students and practitioners and to all those interested in problems of 'legalism' in a federal system of government.

*How to Read an Act of Parliament*, by KENNETH H. GIFFORD (Law Book Company of Australasia Pty Ltd, 1963), pp. i-vi, 1-124. Price: £1 7s.

This book is designed, as the author points out, for persons such as accountants, architects, engineers, town planners, company secretaries and estate agents, who need today to have some knowledge of statutory provisions relating to their professional work. They will find the main rules of statutory interpretation set out in a clear and accurate fashion. After a brief account of the types of ambiguity that may turn up in statutes and regulations the author explains the effect to be given to various parts of a statute, the influence of some common law presumptions and the principal types of approach which a court may make to solve such uncertainties. He wisely has not attempted any discussion of difficult matters such as *mens rea* but has contented himself with raising such considerations as may put a non-lawyer on his guard and induce him to seek legal advice. He states his propositions briefly and lucidly and supports them often with precise citations from decided cases. In its arrangement and appearance this treatise competently fulfils its purpose.