

Paul's Justices of the Peace, by GERARD NASH, LL.B. (Melb.), LL.M. (Tas.), 2nd Ed. (Law Book Company, 1965), pp. i-lii, 1-664, Index 665-791. Price \$18.90.

Since its first introduction some 30 years ago the late William Paul's "Justices of the Peace" has been the standard work of reference in all matters relating to the jurisdiction and procedure of Justices, Magistrates and Courts of Petty Sessions.

The great number of amendments to the relevant legislation since that date has reduced the practical usefulness of the first edition and has made a new edition very welcome to the legal profession.

This edition is designed more for the practitioner than the student, and it is regrettable that space could not be found for the Introduction to the first edition which provided a splendid historical note to the present legislation. In other respects the author has followed the scheme of the first edition by setting out the various Acts dealing with the subject matter and providing annotations to each Section.

The original text has been improved by the very full notes of the author who has included a useful summary of the substantive law affecting the various subject matters (civil and criminal) covered by the jurisdiction of Courts of Petty Sessions.

Recent legislation has increased greatly the civil and criminal jurisdictions of Courts of Petty Sessions in Victoria and there has been a number of amendments to Court procedures previously well established. These matters are fully discussed and explained.

The 40 pages of notes to sections 67 and 68 of the Justices Act (relating to causes of action in Court proceedings) and the 15 pages relating to sections 155-162 (Orders to Review) are typical examples of the thoroughness with which the author has dealt with his subject matter.

The index of some 125 pages is comprehensive and very useful to the busy practitioner who can find quickly the text dealing with most of the matters which arise in cases heard before the lower Courts.

To every person who deals with Courts of Petty Sessions or Justices, this edition of 'Paul' will be the text book to which he must at some time turn for practical information ably prepared in language readily understandable by lawyer and layman.

R. H. DUNN*

The British Commonwealth of Nations in a Changing World, by ZELMAN COWEN, (F. W. Cheshire, Melbourne, 1965), pp. 1-88). Price \$2.00

In 1964 Professor Cowen gave the Rosenthal lectures at Chicago; they were published in the U.S.A. in 1965 by Northwestern University Press, and now appear in an Australian edition with an additional chapter. They were excellent lectures for a learned American audience — clear, good-humoured and without either sentimentality or sensationalism. Cowen takes a cool look at the development of the Commonwealth, chiefly since the second world war, and brings out the main features in its institutional development and constitutional theory, so far as it has either. As an introductory study for Australian students of government, and for interested foreigners, this little book will take its place in the literature of the subject.

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