

Constitutional Law, by J. D. B. MITCHELL, 2nd Ed. (W. Green & Son Ltd., Edinburgh, 1968), pp. i-xxxix, 1-364. Price £3-5-0 sterling.

It is a pleasure to welcome the second edition of Professor Mitchell's text on constitutional law. Its virtues of clarity, comprehensiveness and easy readability remain and the determination of the author to emphasise the issues which are important here and now continues to be amply illustrated. The excellent balance between generality of discussion in the text and specialisation of reference in the footnotes is preserved. The circumstance that the book is written from the standpoint of a Scottish, as opposed to an English, scholar is an advantage, for it enables the author to convey well to the reader that he is writing about British, and not merely English, constitutional affairs.

For an Australian lawyer the content of the book is what would be more readily identified as the first half of constitutional law, or in some instances administrative law. The ground covered in the first section of the book is the general basic constitutional assumptions of the English-speaking peoples, such as the rule of law, and the further assumptions of the unfederated English-speaking peoples, such as the supremacy of Parliament. There is a particularly interesting discussion of the question how supreme, or free, Parliament in the U.K. actually is. The second major segment is a description and analysis of the actual machinery of government from cabinet down to local government, including the part played by the ubiquitous public boards and corporations. This section includes also an account of the Scottish courts, a particularly helpful piece of information for the outsider. The third and last major division of the book comprises a discussion of the interaction between the machinery of government and some of the values inherent in a democratic society, such as freedom of speech and freedom to dispose of what one owns. Here, as throughout, the author's capacity for restrained and balanced judgment is much in evidence.

Altogether an excellent account of current constitutional law in the U.K. and of the issues it raises which are of wider import. There is of course no resemblance between the subject-matter of this book and what is more immediately thought of as constitutional law in Australia, but that is largely because in this country we have only recently begun to consider seriously the conflicts between the interests of government and the interests of the individual which are all too familiar elsewhere.

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BOOKS RECEIVED

Bourke's Criminal Law, by D. S. SONENBERG, Barrister-at-Law, and C. I. NEW, LL.B. (Melb.), with Consulting Editor J. P. BOURKE, Q.C., M.A., LL.B. 2nd Ed. (Butterworth and Co. (Aust.) Ltd., Australia, 1969), pp. 1-704 and indices. Australian price \$20.25.

Equity—A Course of Lectures, by F. W. MAITLAND. Reissue of the 2nd Edition, revised and edited by John Brunyate, M.A. (formerly of Trinity College, Cambridge, and of Gray's Inn), Barrister-at-Law. (Cambridge University Press, England, 1970), pp. 1-329 and index. Price 75 shillings (U.K.).

Film Censors and the Law, by NEVILLE MARCH HUNNINGS. (George Allen and Unwin Ltd., London, 1967), pp. 1-458 and index. Price 63 shillings (U.K.).

Lawasia, editor P. E. NYGH, Vol. 1, No. 1 (The Law Association for Asia and the Western Pacific, Sydney, 1969), pp. 1-64. Price \$1 (Subscription \$2), twice yearly.

Outline of Law in Australia, by JOHN BAALMAN, Barrister-at-Law, 3rd Edition by JEAN MALOR, Barrister-at-Law (Law Book Co. Ltd., Australia, 1969), pp. 1-237, bibliography and index. Price \$4.00.

Precedent in English Law and other Essays, by JAMES LOUIS MONTROSE, LL.B. (Lond.), HON. LL.D. (T.C.D.), edited by Harold Greville Hanbury, Q.C., D.C.L. (Irish University Press, Ireland, 1968), pp. 1-368. Price 63 shillings (U.K.).