

account of the differences between an analogue and a digital computer (p. 4) is really irrelevant or, at least, unimportant—rather he should explore all possible applications within his own field and consult with an expert on feasibility and practicality.

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Principles of Australian Administrative Law, by D. G. BENJAMIN, D. PHIL. (OXON.), LL.B. (SYD.), and H. WHITMORE, LL.M. (YALE), LL.B. (SYD.), Fourth Edition, (Law Book Company, Australia, 1971), pp. i-xxxviii, 1-367. Australian Price \$8.75 (Paper), \$10.75 (Cloth).

The appearance of a fourth edition of this book only five years after the publication of the third is a testament to the rapidly changing face of administrative law. Mainly in England, but also in Australia, there have been several decisions of fundamental importance and there has been an increasing concern by legislators about the reform of administrative law. A summary of these activities is given by the authors in a new, final chapter.

Within its 367 pages, this book ranges across many important topics and, as a result, their treatment is brief. Although the book is primarily directed towards students and, no doubt, is intended to complement a casebook, a more expansive treatment of the doctrine of *ultra vires* and the rules of natural justice would have been desirable: for most administrative law litigation centres around these matters and each provides special difficulties for the student.

In several areas, recent cases have necessitated rewriting. In relation to the question of the alleged uncertainty of subordinate legislation, the authors discuss the recent House of Lords decision in *McEldowney v. Forde*¹ and its 'liberal approach' (p. 125), a view with which the reviewer is inclined to disagree. It will be interesting to follow the Australian attitude to this decision. At the time of publication of the third edition, the significance of *Ridge v. Baldwin*² for Australia was unclear. After some earlier hesitation, the High Court has, in *Banks v. Transport Regulation Board*,³ adopted the House of Lords view of natural justice. It represents a radical departure from the so-called 'conceptual' approach and the authors refer to numerous cases which have followed *Ridge v. Baldwin*. The question whether a breach of the rules of natural justice renders a decision of an administrative tribunal void or voidable (which was left unresolved in *Ridge v. Baldwin*, and was further confused by the apparently opposite views of the Privy Council in *Durayappah v. Fernando*⁴ and the House of Lords in *Anisimic Ltd v. Foreign Compensation Commission*⁵) is discussed fully by the authors. In recognizing this 'unfortunate state of confusion' (p. 155), they attempt a coherent answer to the question.

The authors' approach throughout is refreshing and critical. At many points they demonstrate the inadequacies of modern administrative law and examine the merits of the solutions found in the American and continental systems. Their final chapter, entitled 'Reform in Administrative Law', is an illuminating one. Unfortunately, as it clearly indicates, Australian reform is proceeding very slowly because of legislative reluctance to accept the recommendations of law reform committees.

This edition possesses the conciseness, completeness and critical insight which has characterized earlier editions, and has succeeded admirably in achieving the authors' object of rewriting and updating the contents of the third edition.

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¹ [1969] 2 All E.R. 1039.

² [1964] A.C. 40.

³ (1968) 42 A.L.J.R. 64.

⁴ [1967] 2 A.C. 337.

⁵ [1969] 2 W.L.R. 163.

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BOOKS RECEIVED

The American Series of Foreign Penal Codes: Number 16 Greenland, (Sweet and Maxwell, London, 1970), pp. i-x, 1-47. Australian Price \$9.00.

Professions and Professionalization, edited by J. A. JACKSON, (Cambridge University Press, England, 1970), pp. i-viii, 1-226.

Concise College Text of Family Law, by JUDGE H. B. GRANT, (Sweet and Maxwell, London, 1970), pp. i-xix, 1-172. Australian Price \$3.85.

Introduction to Legal Theory, by JOHN D. FINCH, (Sweet and Maxwell, London, 1970), pp. i-viii, 1-145. English Price £1.10.

Civil Procedure and Evidence, by P. StJ. LANGLAN, (Sweet and Maxwell, London, 1970), pp. i-xx, 1-374. Australian Price \$6.45.