

BOOKS NOTED

Legislative, Executive and Judicial Powers in Australia, by W. ANSTEY WYNES, LL.D., 3rd ed. (The Law Book Company of Australasia Pty Ltd, Sydney, 1962), pp. i-lxiii, 1-734. Price: £5 10s.

The Third Edition of this standard text will continue to be of great value to both the student and the practitioner. There have been no substantial alterations in the presentation of the material, the main purpose of the new edition being to acquaint the student of Australian constitutional law with the main changes in this branch of the law up to 1962. The usefulness of the book is enhanced by the wealth of footnote references to learned articles in the various law journals, which will allow those so inclined to follow up the by-ways of the law. Since the publication of this edition there have been decisions effecting important changes in the law, notably the *Cigamatic* case.¹ However, these do not detract from the value of the book, as the author had fully discussed the issues and problems which these cases touched upon.

Learning the Law, by GLANVILLE WILLIAMS, LL.D., F.B.A., 7th ed. (Stevens & Sons Ltd, London, 1963), pp. i-ix, 1-215 and Index. Australian price (including Supplement of Notes for Australian Readers): £1 1s.

The appearance of the Seventh Edition of Dr Williams's *Learning the Law* only serves to confirm the permanence of its reputation as a 'guide, philosopher and friend' to the budding law student. In this admirably readable and stimulating little book Dr Williams is writing principally for university students embarking on a course of legal studies, but its usefulness extends well beyond this limited group. The chapter on case-law technique (Chapter 6) provides a particularly interesting and helpful discussion of the problems involved in discovering the *ratio decidendi* of a judicial decision, and the chapter on the construction of statutes (Chapter 7) covers many important issues which arise under this head. Dr Williams argues convincingly in favour of the 'golden rule' of statutory interpretation where such an approach is necessary if an unjust or absurd result is to be avoided.¹

Inter alia the advice which Dr Williams furnishes on methods of study, the answering of problems (particularly when in the examination room), legal research and moot court work is sensible, to the point and of undoubted value to all law students. Purchasers of this book should remember to check that the Supplementary Notes for Australian Readers are included with their copies. These notes cover those areas where differences arise between English and Australian practices and conditions.

¹ *Commonwealth of Australia v. Cigamatic Pty Ltd* (1962) 36 A.L.J.R. 97. See 4 *M.U.L.R.* 127 for a case note.

¹ The case he uses as an example—*In re Sigsworth* [1935] Ch. 89—certainly illustrates the need for such a rule. It would seem, however, that in England the highest tribunal in their hierarchy at present favours the 'literal' approach to construing a statute. See *Inland Revenue Commissioners v. Hinchy* [1960] A.C. 748 and especially the judgment of Lord Reid where His Lordship states that if the words are clear and unambiguous 'then we must apply them as they stand, however unreasonable the consequences, and however strongly we may suspect that this was not the real intention of Parliament'. (*Ibid.*, 767).