

cludes are to be drawn from the decided cases are bound to be of the greatest assistance to practitioners; and not the least valuable part of his book is likely to be the concrete problems, for example, those of conflicting priorities arising under the Act, which he sets out with his opinion of their correct solution. Again here his historical notes are most interesting.

The book is written with an admirable clarity of style and arrangement, and there can be little doubt that it will take its place at once as the standard Victorian text-book on the extremely important parts of the Instruments Act with which it deals.

J.B.H.

BANKRUPTCY LAW.

Australian Bankruptcy Law. By A. N. LEWIS, LL.D. The Law Book Company of Australia Ltd. Price, 25/-.

By virtue of Section 51 (xvii) of the Commonwealth Constitution the Federal Parliament has power to make laws with respect to bankruptcy. Not until 1924, however, was this power exercised by the enactment of the Commonwealth Bankruptcy Act, and even then the coming into operation of the Act was suspended until 1928. The Act, of course, is now paramount to all State insolvency legislation. "In it, and the cases decided on similar sections of the English and older colonial and State Acts," says Dr. Lewis, "is to be found the whole authority for bankruptcy law." The Act has undergone many amendments since 1924. Dr. Lewis's book is concerned primarily with the practical application of the difficult principles contained in this branch of the law and for this reason the book is of special value to the practitioner. Every section of the Act is thoroughly analysed, and, wherever possible, illustrated by the relevant cases. The book is well written, and has been selected as a prescribed textbook by the Faculty of Commerce at the University of Melbourne.

J.S.

AUDITING AND ITS LEGAL ASPECTS.

Practical Auditing. By ROUAL A. IRISH. The Law Book Co. of Australasia Ltd. Price, 10/-.

We quite agree with Mr. Marley, who states in his foreword that this book is an important and original contribution to accountancy literature. It is indeed one of the best Australian textbooks which have been written on the subject. A knowledge of accountancy and auditing is an invaluable aid to the practitioner, and especially to those whose work brings them into contact with Company and Bankruptcy Law. *Practical Auditing* is an extremely useful book for this purpose. The chapter on duties and liabilities of auditors is of interest equally to lawyers as to accountants. The author discusses a number of legal decisions which form the basis of this branch of the law. It is the duty of the company auditor to make himself

familiar with the Articles of Association; but it is no part of an auditor's duty to give advice; nor is the auditor to be a detective. He should always commence with the assumption that the officers whose books he is to inspect are honest; and he will not be guilty of negligence if, in the absence of suspicious circumstances, he relies upon the statements of trusted officers. These are some of the deductions the author concludes are to be drawn from the decided cases.

The legal decisions on the distribution of dividends and on secret reserves will be found useful, as will the section on the auditing of accounting systems adopted by solicitors. In short, *Practical Auditing* will undoubtedly become an important book of reference for the student of company law, accountancy and auditing.

J.S.

PUBLIC SPEAKING.

The Art of Debating. By J. BAGGARIDGE and P. MASEL. Robertson & Mullens Ltd. (Price, 1/6.)

How to Become an Effective Public Speaker. By WILLIAM BOTTOMLEY. Robertson & Mullens Ltd. (Price, 1/6.)

These two small books on the forensic art contain much that is likely to be of value and assistance to members of a profession in which public speaking plays so important a part. In addition to epitomizing a great deal of the wisdom of experience the books are well arranged and in handy pocket form. Both are well worth the modest price at which they sell.

Some Aspects of the Citizen's Remedies Against Public Authorities in Victoria. By Prof. K. H. BAILEY. *Is it a New Despotism?* By P. D. Phillips. Papers and Proceedings of the Victorian Regional Group of the Institute of Public Administration. Price, 1/-. Nov., 1931, Vol. i, No. 3. Obtainable at the Melbourne University Press Book Room.