

on the whole topic, and for this reason the frank and candid criticisms of views expressed by contemporary commentators are particularly welcome.

The research involved in the work and the admirable and condensed presentation of the facts, in conjunction with abundant references to both original documents and commentators' views, also distinguish the work.

In recent years the attention of students of constitutional matters has been considerably occupied with defining the relationships of members of the British Commonwealth of Nations. Mr. Justice Evatt, by his book, has caused attention to be concentrated on the Crown's prerogatives with a view to similar definition. His treatment has a particular appeal to lawyers, but the plea made in the book is one which should receive the consideration of all who feel that the mode of government under which they live is their vital concern.

C. I. MENHENNITT.

*Survey of the Legal Profession in New York County.* 1936 Report of the Committee of Professional Economics of the New York County Lawyers' Association.

The Report is the work of a standing committee created in January, 1932, for the purpose of making a comprehensive survey of the profession in New York County. The Committee makes an annual report dealing, by means of statistical tables and graphs, together with comments and recommendations thereon, with general economic aspects of the profession. The information contained in the 1936 Report is of a most detailed and comprehensive nature, and it is difficult to imagine any aspect of professional economics not covered by it.

Of particular interest are the Committee's conclusions and recommendations. It submits two main conclusions reached as a result not only of the 1936 survey but also of its four years of general study. They are (1) That the local Bar is materially over-crowded; (2) that the Bar as a whole has failed to function adequately in rendering to the community the service which the profession should reasonably be expected to perform. Its recommendations include not only the reduction in numbers of lawyers engaged in practice by raising the standards of merit for admission, but the increasing of the field of work by the establishment of legal clinics, the wider employment of lawyers in Government service, employment of Attorneys in Arbitration proceedings, and by publicity campaigns to expound to the public systematically and continuously that it is in their interest to consult a lawyer on such occasions as the signing of a lease, the making of a will, the buying of a house or business, the making of contracts and the like.

The Report has added interest in Victoria by reason of the articles which have appeared recently in the Law Institute Journal on the over-crowding of the profession here. It may be noticed that the survey carried out by the Committee indicates that in the County of

New York more than half of the profession are in the income class below 3,000 dollars per year, and a substantial number are on the verge of starvation, with almost 10% of the New York City Bar virtually confessed paupers, as indicated by the applications for public relief. One-third of the total profession earn net incomes below 2,000 dollars a year.

*Current Legal Thought, 1935-1936.* Published by Current Legal Thought Inc., New York.

The object of this new publication is to provide an annual index to legal periodicals. The first number indexes 114 periodicals published during the year, August 1, 1935, to July 31, 1936.

The Prefatory Note states that the periodicals indexed include every law school reviews and every Bar association Journal available, as well as a few selected American and foreign Journals which offered material of interest to the profession. Amongst these latter, *Res Judicatae* is included in company with the *Cambridge Law Journal*, the *Canadian Bar Review*, and the *Law Quarterly Review*.

The index is constructed on *Digest* lines, and should be of great assistance in searching for articles on any legal topic. It is of interest to note that articles and a number of the notes in the first issue of *Res Judicatae* have been indexed in this fashion.

J. B. HARPER.

*Injustice Within the Law.* By Mr. Justice H. V. Evatt, M.A., LL.D., of the High Court of Australia. Published by The Law Book Co. of Australia Ltd. Price, 2/6.

The familiar expression, "all men are equal before the law," tends to give a very wrong impression of the law and its operation. Theoretical equality before the law has concealed and conceals many cases of real injustice. Such a case was that of the six Dorchester labourers, sentenced in 1834 to seven years' transportation to Australia for administering unlawful oaths, better known, perhaps, as the case of the Tolpuddle Martyrs. In his work, *Injustice Within the Law*, Mr. Justice Evatt has set himself the task of rescuing the case from the "comparative obscurity" to which it has been consigned. It is true that the story has been told before, but it is just one of those stories the re-telling of which cannot but have a salutary effect. Mr. Justice Evatt shows clearly that, though the men were prosecuted for a fairly technical offence, the administering of unlawful oaths, the real reason for the prosecution was the hostility of the rising capitalist class to any organization of its workmen to secure even tolerable living conditions. Coming in the period of the intense development of capitalism, the case shows the lengths to which the property-owning class was prepared to go in measures of self-protection. The abuse, or perhaps only use, of the legal process, causes Mr. Justice Evatt to remark, "In one sense, the case represented the very coronation of injustice, and yet