

## COMPANY LAW.

*Handbook of Australian Company Law*, by C. M. COLLINS, B.A., LL.B., Barrister-at-Law, pp. xix, 233, Index 235-271, 1940. The Law Book Co of Australasia Pty. Ltd. 15/-.

As the title which he has given to his work indicates, Mr. Collins aims at presenting a concise and systematic statement of the rules of the company law, not of one State, but of all States of the Commonwealth. He achieves both aims. The rules are expounded lucidly, and are excellently arranged. The subject-matter is apportioned among numerous chapters, within each of which it is gathered under appropriate headings and set out in paragraphs and numbered sub-paragraphs. It is thus both easy to refer to a point readily and to comprehend that point when found.

The matter of the book mainly consists of the provisions of the various Companies Acts, but these are everywhere explained and supplemented by the relevant case-law. Some chapters, for example that on "Promoters," are practically entirely devoted to the statement and illustration of principles derived from the cases. Of course, as his work is a "hand-book," the author has wisely refrained from entering into a discussion of any of the controversial points in company law. On the other hand, in his desire to condense his remarks, he has in one or two places sacrificed clarity to brevity. Such, for example, occurs in the first paragraph of the sub-division headed "Forfeiture" in the chapter on "Shares."

With regard to his second aim, Mr. Collins is notably successful. He does not give the law of one State in the body of the text, and refer to the corresponding law of the other States by means of footnotes, but states all the rules in force in all the States, at the same time indicating in which States each prevails. This method avoids the tiresome procedure of having to constantly refer to large footnotes written in small type. Nor does it make the text too cumbersome, for there is a considerable uniformity in the provisions of the Companies Acts of the several States, all, with the exception of that of Western Australia, following closely the English Companies Act, 1929.

The scope of its subject and the method of its treatment, we venture to prophesy, will make this work of Mr. Collins popular both with lawyer and layman.

—N. LANDAU.