

stated will continue generally to be in force and to provide the basis of future development.

The authors of the present work have not sought to engage in controversy. They state the established law concisely and indicate doubtful points without entering into a detailed discussion of their solution although they do not hesitate to express their opinion where that seems desirable. This is a wise course to follow in a book which is intended for a wide circle of readers. They refer, without indulging in an excess of footnotes, to the more important authorities both Australian and English and their quotations are apt and as extensive as the circumstances require. They also indicate relevant statutory provisions, but it would be an improvement if in subsequent editions more exact reference were made to the statutes of the various states (see, e.g., the not very helpful reference to the *Infants Relief Acts* on pp. 77 and 292.¹)

The index appears to be comprehensive and the cross-references adequate; useful appendices contain the full texts of the *Commonwealth Bank Act* 1945 and the *Banking Act* 1945. The printing and general presentation is good. This is a practical and well written book and should form a useful addition to any good legal or commercial library.

E. N. B.

(1) In Victoria, Supreme Court Act 1928, ss. 69-71.

Students' Conveyancing Precedents, by P. MOERLIN FOX; pp. 1-84. The Law School, University of Melbourne. 12/6.

The appearance of this booklet of *Students' Conveyancing Precedents* from the pen of the recently appointed lecturer in Conveyancing has been happily timed to coincide with the somewhat belated recognition of Conveyancing as a subject worthy of independent status in the curriculum of the Law School. For most law students the study of the principles of real property has had its prime significance in fitting them to be practical conveyancers, but the composite subject "The Law of Property in Land and Conveyancing" hitherto covered in a one year course of lectures has perforce relegated Conveyancing to the neglected condition of a Cinderella.

As its title indicates, this book of precedents is designed for students' requirements. A book of unrelated precedents makes dull reading. Alive to this danger the author has skilfully connected the precedents to tell a story. The hero is Richard Roe. Becoming a landed proprietor in 1939, our hero proceeds thereafter until his death in 1946 to exhibit a commendable zeal for dealing with his land. These activities, stimulated as they are by marriage to a prudent wife and a trip overseas, allow the author to illustrate the commoner and more important dealings with land by appropriate precedents arranged in chronological sequence. Mr. Roe's death, though no doubt a shock to his recently acquired wife, proved a happy event for students, as it permits of further dealings, this time by his executor and his dutiful widow.

The precedents are carefully selected. They are simple and, as befits precedents prepared for purposes of illustration rather than use in practice, concise. The complexities and refinements which would have been at once confusing to students and expensive for Mr. Roe are avoided.

Clarity is achieved by spacing and paragraphing. But notes where necessary are given with many of the Precedents. These do not pretend to be detailed or exhaustive but certainly enhance the usefulness of the work.

A laudable feature is the Division of the Precedents into two series—the first consisting of the forms appropriate to the assumption that Mr. Roe had been unwise enough to invest in General Law Land, the second applicable where the land is under the *Transfer of Land Act*. The *Transfer of Land Act* Precedents bear the same numbers as the corresponding General Law precedents, thus facilitating comparison and contrast.

For the assistance of students in note taking each left hand page is wisely left blank.

Students—and this does not exclude general practitioners—have good reason to be grateful to Mr. Fox and to the publishers and printers concerned, for their industry and enterprise in producing this useful, attractively set up and excellently printed little volume.

A. D. G. A.

The Allied Military Government of Germany, by W. FRIEDMANN, of the Middle Temple, Barrister-at-Law, Professor of Public Law at the University of Melbourne: London: Stevens & Sons Ltd.: 1947: pp. x., 362.

This is an interesting, penetrating and critical work written by one who has had first-hand experience in the military government of Germany. The problems that faced the authorities are fully analysed. "Military government officers knew soon enough that the problem was not that of keeping down a Germany bursting with vitality and potential productivity, but of keeping her barely alive under conditions of unparalleled chaos." The hope of administering Germany jointly soon disappeared. Four separate zones were set up and this difficulty was intensified by the fact that the boundaries of the zones were not based on any political, administrative or economic principles, but on the accidents of military occupation. The Russians and French were dominated by the desire for retaliation and reparation: the British and Americans were more objective. But in each zone, policy has wavered. "It is freely acknowledged that the Americans have not altogether been good ambassadors of their own civilisation in the many European countries which they have entered as allies or conquerors during or after the war. This is mainly due to the contrast between the extremely high ideals constantly proclaimed by the Americans and the average conduct of their armies." Until the beginning of 1946 the British Zone was the most acceptable to the Germans, but since then the position has deteriorated.