

resumption of land by Commonwealth, State and local government instrumentalities has now become such that it affects almost every member of the community. For this reason alone Mr. Collins's book must be regarded as an indispensable unit in the practising lawyer's bookshelf. Moreover, the book is written in a most attractive style. Its clarity of expression and orderliness of arrangement is so apparent that one's comment becomes almost superfluous. The book contains a great wealth of reference to judicial authorities which have been collected and utilized with great skill for illustrative purposes.

The first eight chapters deal with the valuation of land. This part is of interest to both lawyers and valuers and affords a necessary basis for the ninth chapter which deals with the acquisition legislation. This chapter is more particularly within the traditional sphere of the lawyer. The constitutional lawyer will be interested to find a discussion of "just terms," while the more humble practitioner will come upon an excellent treatment of the other problems connected with compensation. Chapters xii to xvi are concerned with New South Wales legislation and the last three chapters are devoted to a study of Federal land tax.

Mr. Collins's book is of inestimable value to the Australian practitioner insofar as it renders no longer necessary a detailed study of the voluminous English works on Compensation. In this regard it should be regarded as a pioneering effort in a large and important sphere of the law. Unlike other Australian legal works which look more like encyclopaedias than text books, the author of this book has expounded the subjects traversed in a systematically arranged body of principles in a way which characterizes and distinguishes the true text-book.

JOHN LURYE.

*The Local Government Handbook (Victoria)*—Second Edition, by F. H. LONIE: pp. xxiii, 291, Appendices and Index. 1948. The Law Book Co. of Australasia Pty Ltd.

Those who have used and appreciated F. H. Lonie's handbook in the past will welcome the publication of this second edition, which brings the matter treated by him up-to-date—and in particular brings it up-to-date with the *Local Government Act 1946*.

The handbook is primarily a precis of the *Local Government Act* and, as such, it deals with and explains, briefly but simply, all of the more important matters which concern local government authorities. The author is widely experienced as a legal adviser on problems arising in municipal administration and the value of that experience is apparent in his presentation and selection of his material.

Local Government concerns every Victorian, but very few Victorians are concerned with Local Government. The publisher's cover claims, not only that all engaged in municipal administration directly should have this handbook on their shelves, but that it may be "commended to every citizen and ratepayer who desires to take an intelligent interest in the government of his" (should we add "or her"?) "municipality."

The reviewer confirms that claim, but warns that the citizen or ratepayer must in fact "desire," for the handbook is neither presented nor written in a form designed to quicken desire, but merely to satisfy it.

The author has condensed into a very small space the essentials of a mass of legislation, and in doing so it was inevitable that usefulness and brevity should be preferred to other more literary qualities. It is remarkable that, in so small a space, the author has been able to balance his text with so many references to Acts, other than the *Local Government Act*, which are vitally connected with municipal administration; and at the same time to include an adequate treatment of procedure at municipal council meetings.

The handbook is not intended to be a book for legal practitioners and, but for two things, it would be of little or no practical interest to the profession. They are the extraordinarily complete and carefully prepared index which complements the text and the detailed references to statutes by sections which attend every page. To those members of the profession who are not closely in touch with the law relating to Local Government these aids alone may warrant the inclusion of this book in their libraries.

In conclusion, it should be remembered that those entering the profession for the first time come from a University course too crowded with other subjects to permit the study of Local Government law. The consequent knowledge gap has to be filled, often painfully, in the early years of practice. No better introduction to municipal matters and machinery can be recommended to the student than this little handbook.

D. P. D.

*Australian Patents*, by H. N. WALKER, pp. xxiv, 157. Appendices 158-188. Index 189-197. 1949. The Law Book Co. of Australasia Pty Ltd.

This book does not purport to be a legal textbook; its object is primarily to assist inventors by providing an elementary and non-technical guide to the requirements of the law relating to the preparation of patent specifications and to the practice of the Patent Office in dealing with patent applications. It therefore has but a limited appeal to the lawyer, for true to its object, it contains no reference to decided cases, and often paraphrases the sections of the Act and the Regulations. But it does not follow that the work cannot be read with advantage by professional men who are called upon to advise upon this somewhat esoteric branch of the law. For instance, chapter 4, entitled "How to apply for a Patent," contains a precise set of working rules in relation to applications, and explains the function of the various forms in the schedule to the Regulations as well as the practice of the Patent Office. But the most valuable part of the book is that which is devoted to the preparation of the basic document—the specification. It is here that Mr. Walker's experience as an Examiner of Patents can be of considerable assistance to the lawyer who is rash enough to undertake the preparation of a Patent Specification