

*A Study of Statelessness.* United Nations, Department of Social Affairs. New York. Australian Agent: Goddard Pty. Ltd., Sydney. 1949. pp. xiii, 190.

This is a general survey of national legislation and international agreements relevant to statelessness. Two main problems are considered: the improvement of the status of stateless persons and the elimination of statelessness. The historical survey is clear, pointed and concise and the many disadvantages which a stateless person suffers are enumerated in detail. Some stateless persons have been provided with a status by Conventions of 1933, 1938, 1939. The recommendation submitted by the Secretary-General is that all stateless persons should be granted a legal status guaranteeing them the enjoyment of fundamental human rights and be assured of the protection of an international organ of an inter-governmental character: that State Members not yet parties to the earlier Conventions should be asked to become parties thereto: and that a further Convention should be drafted for submission to the Assembly. It is recognised that the fundamental problem is the elimination of the causes of statelessness. A most ingenious set of rules are laid down which would prevent any person from being stateless at birth because of conflicts between the rules of different countries. Nobody should be allowed to renounce nationality until a new nationality is acquired: and deprivation of nationality should never be used as a punishment. It is suggested that these rules should be embodied in a Convention. Those responsible are to be congratulated on producing a volume packed with the facts, the present law, the defects of that law and constructive proposals for reform.

G.W.P.

*“ Bullen and Leake’s Precedents of Pleadings.”* Tenth Edition. Edited by His Honor Judge Kirkhouse Jenkins, K.C., pp. clxxxiv, 973. London. Stevens and Sons Ltd., 1950. £5 (Stg.).

The many changes effected by statute and judicial decisions in England in the fourteen years which have elapsed since the appearance of the last edition of this well established book for practitioners justify this new edition.

No drastic change in the method of treatment has taken place. The table of cases has been improved by including references to all the reports. One defect is the absence of a table of statutes. A few statutes have been given the status of a main heading in the general index, but this cannot make up for the lack of a comprehensive table giving page references in respect of each section of a statute treated. Such a table would be particularly useful to the Dominion lawyer, who, when confronted by a local statute adopting the provisions of an English statute, desires to ascertain the impact of the comparable English provision on the form of pleading.