

*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.

The effect of such statutes as the *Limitation Act 1939*, the *Law Reform (Frustrated Contracts) Act 1943*, the *Law Reform (Contributory Negligence) Act 1948*, is reflected by changes in the precedents where necessary and in the copious footnotes. The great bulk of these statutory reforms has yet to be adopted here, and until such adoption, the Victorian practitioner is unlikely to obtain the full benefit of this new edition.

However, the assimilation of recent cases into the footnotes provides the pleader with an up to date means of checking not only that his pleading is correct, but also that all the requisite elements of a cause of action are present in his case.

This work should retain its place as part of the standard equipment of the lawyer whose practice includes litigation on the common law side.

H.A.J.F.

*Current Legal Problems, 1950.* Edited by G. W. KEETON and G. SCHWARZENBERGER. London. Stevens & Sons Ltd. pp. vii, 305.

The profession is indebted to the Faculty of Law of University College, London, for making available each year the lectures delivered on current legal problems. The subject matter ranges from the Judicial Committee to the fields of equity, property, common law, criminal law, modern planning, constitutional and international law. No lawyer could have interests so narrow that he could find nothing to interest him. If certain of the fifteen articles are picked out for discussion, it is merely because they happened to interest the reviewer and not because the others are of less intrinsic merit. L. C. Green discusses the colour problem in the light of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, with special reference to South Africa, U.S., and Australia's immigration policy. "The case of the Russian wives has become a *cause célèbre*, but the world is less vociferous about the somewhat similar policy applied in Australia." The reference is to Mr. Calwell's declaration in 1948 that no Japanese wives of Australian servicemen would be allowed into Australia. The lecturer has no brief for Soviet inhumanity, but urges that some of the democracies deny in practice the validity of the Declaration to which so much lip-service has been paid. Dr. Schwarzenberger emphasises the futility of the Genocide Convention which is based on the assumption of virtuous governments and criminal individuals: if the crime is committed by individuals against the will of the state, the criminal law already possesses sanctions: if the crime is committed by order of the State, the Convention suggests that the Courts of that state should hang the government. "Thus the Convention is unnecessary where it can be applied and inapplicable where it may be necessary." J. Ll. J. Edwards treads the worn path of Possession and Larceny but ends with the sound suggestion that the criminal law should be codified and obsolete refinements abolished. The advice might be taken to heart in Victoria, where the Chief Justice has asked a committee under the Chairmanship