

“*Ridge’s Constitutional Law.*” Eighth Edition. Edited by G. A. Forrest, pp. xxviii, 550. London. Stevens and Sons, Ltd. 1950.

This edition of *Ridge’s Constitutional Law* reflects a considerable amount of rewriting by Mr. Forrest, who in addition to bringing the bulk of the book into line with the many relevant statutes and decisions since the last edition in 1939, has provided entirely new chapters on Administrative Law, Delegated Legislation, Judicial Control of Public Authorities, Actions by and against the Crown, and several other subjects. These new contributions go far towards making the book, primarily oriented to the teaching of Constitutional Law in England, also of service to the Australian practitioner and student. It is, however, essentially a lucid and concise students’ textbook. For Australian purposes it is now a more useful work than was the previous edition, being much less concentrated on English Parliamentary, Civil Service, and Local Government practice. The general approach is traditional; for example, in the discussion on Administrative Tribunals only two footnote references are made to the views of Professor W. A. Robson which are nowhere canvassed in the text. But to criticise such a comprehensive work for what it omits is unfair—there is a great deal of well-organized and well-presented information in this book which should be available as a source of reference on a subject far from otherwise adequately served with textbooks.

N.M.

“*Slater’s Mercantile Law in Australia.*” Second Edition. Edited by K. D. Hilton, LL.B., F.F.I.A., A.C.I.S., pp. xxiv, 534. Melbourne. Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Ltd. 1949. £1.10.0.

According to the preface to this edition, this book is intended primarily for law and accountancy students and business men.

The book ranges over many topics. Commencing with a general view of the law of contract, it proceeds to deal with agency, partnership and companies and then particular commercial contracts comprising sale of goods, negotiable instruments, carriage by land and sea, insurance, suretyship and guarantee. It then covers securities, and in a collection of miscellaneous matters it treats of arbitration, industrial property, shipping, executors and trustees, landlord and tenant and receivers.

Whilst the treatment of the law of contract will be too short for the needs of the law student, he will find certain chapters, such as those on industrial property, useful as a general statement of the law.

Part I of the book, giving a general view of the law of contract, includes a small section on conflict of laws. It is pertinent to question whether accountancy students and business men should be encouraged to believe that they are capable of coping with the problems raised by a transaction containing foreign elements without the assistance of a lawyer. One may well be surprised to find any treatment of conflict of