

The Year Book of World Affairs, 1950. Edited by G. W. KEETON and G. SCHWARZENBERGER. London. Stevens & Sons Ltd. 1950. pp. viii, 392.

In addition to twelve articles, this volume also contains a useful seventy-page section reviewing over eighty books under the headings, Sociological, Economic, Geographical, Psychological and Educational, Legal and Institutional Aspects. Such a treatment is of great service to scholars and librarians in checking over the literature in a given field and the Editors are to be commended for this feature. Professor Corbett of Yale writes with realism on Law and Society in the Relations of States : he is disturbed by the gulf between so many academic theories of international law and the realities existing today and pleads for a closer co-ordination between the theory of the state and the theory of world law and world society. Among the factors which determine the conduct of persons acting for States, law is one factor, but it is only one. "To draft laws, therefore, without the most expert weighing of the other factors is to invite frustration." Dr. Schwarzenberger deals with the much discussed issue of sovereignty. Professor Gordon Ireland writes under the challenging title of Uncommon Law in Martial Tokyo. One can feel much sympathy with the substantive thesis that there were many features concerning the trial of the Japanese war criminals which cause disquiet. Normally in a criminal trial one would not expect that leave of absence would be granted to a member of the Court, that new members should be appointed during the trial, that a defendant should be tried in his absence, and that the Bench would not understand at least one of the official languages. But the effect of the objective criticism is spoilt by a personal attack on Sir William Webb in terms which it is surprising to see in a Year Book of this quality.

Professor H. A. Smith discusses the legal problems relating to the Danube. It may be possible to agree on freedom of navigation so far as it means only absence of any discrimination in tolls, traffic regulations and similar matters. But real freedom entails freedom of general intercourse and this is to the Communist regime a peril to be averted at all costs. L. B. Schapiro deals with the post-war treaties of the Soviet Union. There are many other articles of general interest but these are the ones of particular concern to the lawyer.

G.W.P.

Legal Maxims—Translated and Explained. By E. A. STEELE, Solicitor. p. 105. The Halifax Law Classes (England). 5/-d.

Some years ago the Faculty of Law of the Melbourne University abolished as a pre-requisite for entry upon the law course the passing of an examination in Latin. In ignorance (or disregard) of this concession, judges and text-book writers continue to illuminate their judgments and writings with Latin tags and maxims. This little book provides

the solution to the difficulties thus caused to students (and others). It is a collection of over one hundred Latin maxims frequently used by lawyers, and it contains not only their translations but also comments on their meaning and use. These comments are delightfully written, not only with wit and humour, but with a keen appreciation of the student's point of view.

One would like to quote freely from this book, but space will not permit. One example will be sufficient to indicate its character:—

“Acta exteriora indicant interiora secreta

Overt acts proclaim a man's intentions and motives.

An alternative rendering (not put forward with any confidence) is ‘outward acts show the nature of the internal secretions—as in expectoration.’

There was a young man who said ‘Why
Did that gentleman spit in my eye?
I would very much rather
He had spat at my father
Or anyone else who passed by’.”

All students of the law will enjoy reading this work, which is more than can be said of most reference books. The price of the book, which is well printed and bound, and also illustrated, is a mere five shillings. You'll get your moneys worth and more.

P.M.F.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

UNESCO Copyright Bulletin. Vol. 11, No. 4. UNESCO, Paris. 1949.

This Bulletin, published under the auspices of Unesco's Copyright Division, is issued as part of a programme designed to achieve adoption of a completely international system of copyright protection. In addition to illuminating comment on the problems to be solved before this goal is reached, it contains the text of Unesco resolutions concerning copyright, and other material related to the programme. The major part of the Bulletin's space is occupied by a useful annotated list of bilateral treaties and other instruments concerning international copyright relations among the various countries.

BOOKS NOTED.

Death Duties, by K. MCFARLANE, LL.D., of the Estate Duty Office. Second Edition. London. Stevens & Sons Ltd. 1950. pp. viii, 110.

This useful volume in the series entitled *This is the Law* gives an authoritative account of death duties written in as clear and popular style as the subject matter allows.