

the legal rules were determined by consideration of the public interest, a circumstance not considered by the medical man looking at the accused person as an individual patient. The clear presentation and acceptance of the medical argument, by a lawyer whose standing is beyond dispute, and who palpably does full justice to the considerations regarded by lawyers as paramount, will give the medical argument standing in the eyes of judges which it has hitherto lacked. This may result in some variation by the judges themselves in the legal rules. It should at least reduce their opposition to change being secured by legislation.

It is not easy to level criticism against any aspect of this book. The author does not shirk the difficult problems and his treatment of them is so deft and lucid as to compel admiration. So many avenues of enquiry are opened up that it would be impossible to follow them to the end even in a work of this length, but the reviewer would have liked some further discussion of the intriguing case of *Steane* which is briefly disapproved by the author at p. 38; and some elaboration of the meaning of the proposition "involuntary drunkenness is a defence" (p. 372). Though the analysis of the law on attempts is impressive the reviewer still feels that some cases are explicable only in terms of prevailing judicial psychology. In these cases it is submitted that the judge will refuse to convict, though all the theoretical arguments support conviction.

The second part of this work, dealing with specific crimes, will be eagerly awaited.

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*Jacobs' County Court Practice*, 4th Edn., by CHARLES P. JACOBS and HAROLD N. WARDLE. (The Law Book Co. of Australasia Pty. Ltd., Melbourne, 1954), pp. i-xxxvi, 1-665. Price £7 10s.

The fourth edition of *Jacobs' County Court Practice* represents a welcome addition to the practitioner's library of essential works. Over twenty-four years have elapsed since the publication of the third edition and, apart from overcoming the difficulty experienced in obtaining a copy of that edition, the present volume collates the numerous amendments which have been made to the County Court Act and Rules since the last edition appeared. Naturally there had been also numerous practice decisions of considerable importance and the desirability of a new edition had been recognized over a long time.

The recent edition ably fulfils all that had been expected of it. The authors acknowledge the need for a further edition in their preface and it is fortunate that they were able to include in the work the extensive amendments to the Rules and Scale of Costs consequent upon the increase in jurisdiction made by the County Court Act of 1952.

The volume contains not only the County Court Act and the

Rules made thereunder, but also the Imprisonment of Fraudulent Debtors Act, so far as it relates to County Courts, the Service and Execution of Process Act and its Regulations, and Part I of the Instruments Act. In addition the Schedules to the various Acts and the forms scheduled to the Rules of Court, together with other forms provided by the authors, render the volume a source and reference work of practical value. The solicitor will doubtless derive satisfaction from a Scale of Costs which is currently effective.

The style of the work continues the pattern of the earlier editions and the practice more widely used in recent years, of annotating the sections of the Act and the particular Rules with the references and decisions of cases applicable to them. There are copious references to the more frequently used sections and Rules, each time attractively set out comprising a brief explanation of the decision as well as the citation of the case. In dealing with the Rules most frequently used in practice—such as those relating to final judgment summonses, discovery and interrogatories—the authors have included a great amount of useful general material, the value of which is enhanced by the collection of Victorian decisions. The introduction of a reference to the Australian Digest is to be commended.

The work is intended to be a guide for practitioners in the County Court. In serving this end, the volume ably carries on the traditions the earlier authors have founded. It is informative, useful and of immeasurable assistance to counsel and solicitors engaged in County Court litigation. The authors have produced an up-to-date volume of everyday use which, notwithstanding the unfortunately high price, will find its way on to every practitioner's shelves.

It may be thought an omission that the County Court Adoption of Children Rules were not included, particularly in view of the difficulties which have occurred in that sphere in recent years. In addition a practitioner is bound to find an occasional decision which is not cited in reference to a particular Rule. However, all criticisms of or omissions from the work are necessarily minor in nature. They do not detract from the general excellence and utility of the work.

I. J. C.

*Landlord and Tenant Practice and Procedure*, 2nd Edn, by C. P. JACOBS and ALLAN FREEMAN. (The Law Book Co. of Australasia Pty. Ltd., Melbourne, 1954), pp. i-xxvi, 1-248. Price £3 3s.

He who would keep pace with the law of Landlord and Tenant must run with the fastest. It is a matter of some regret therefore that the latest edition of Victoria's only current work on the subject is already out of date. In a sense it may be said to describe a mere twelve months in the fugitive life of this evanescent creature of the Legislature. It embodies the legislation of 1948 as amended by that of 1953 together with a complete reprint of and commentary on the 1953 Act. But Act No. 5847 of 1954 has now to be accounted for.