

Stevens' Elements of Mercantile Law, 12th edn., by JOHN MONTGOMERIE. (Butterworth & Company Ltd. London, 1955), pp. i-lxiv, 1-662. Australian price £1 6s. 6d. (Our copy from the publishers.)

There is a tendency to draw a distinction between the law which is presented in an examination answer and the law which is applied by the Courts. This tendency is encouraged when examples illustrating principles of law are drawn from social conditions which have ceased to exist. The students' transition from the learning of the law to its application in day to day affairs is made less difficult, when principles of law are illustrated by examples drawn from modern social conditions. There is a refreshing tendency in this edition of *Stevens' Elements of Mercantile Law* to illustrate principles on a background of current commercial practice by drawing as much as possible on recent decisions as examples.

This work follows a logical scheme of construction, and is clearly expressed and annotated. The student is admitted to the mysteries of legal abbreviation and Latin phrases by a comprehensive table of abbreviations and glossary. Although primarily a student's book its wide coverage of modern mercantile law and in particular its chapters on the 'Protection of Commercial Ideas' and on 'Stock Exchange Transactions' make it a work of value to the practitioner as well.

R. E. MCGARVIE

Learning The Law, 5th edn., by GLANVILLE WILLIAMS (Stevens & Sons Ltd., London, 1954), pp. i-ix, 1-216 and Australian supplement. Australian price 18s. 9d. (Our copy from the Law Book Co. of Australasia Ltd.)

The Young Lawyer, by JOHN L. CLAY, JOHN B. FRANKENBURG, and JOHN A. BAKER (Butterworth & Co. Ltd., London, 1955), pp. i-vii, 1-167 and index. Australian price 17s. 6d. (Our copy from Butterworth & Co. (Australia) Ltd.)

People who set out to review the first edition of *Learning The Law* were fortunate if their reviews were published before the second edition appeared. The book proved an immediate and deserved success, for there are few writers with sufficient skill to teach the framework of a legal system to the young innocent without dampening his youthful enthusiasm.

Yet we may complain that it is nearly time for the production of an Australian edition of this invaluable book. There are important differences in the English and Australian legal methods which cannot be adequately discussed in the Australian supplement. For instance in Australia there are two distinct jurisdictions—a state jurisdiction and a federal jurisdiction—and the structure of the judicial hierarchy requires special consideration. In both *Learning The Law* and *The Young Lawyer* the chapters dealing with employment in

the legal profession would have been much more valuable for Australian readers if they had incorporated some of the material contained in the excellent pamphlet *Careers for Graduates, No. 2. Law* published by the University of Melbourne Appointments Board.

A chapter on the interpretation of statutes has been added to *Learning The Law* but most teachers will normally require more detailed study of this problem and the problem of how we determine the *ratio decidendi* of a case. Nevertheless if the author had attempted to satisfy all his critics he would probably be approaching the sixth volume rather than the sixth edition of his work.

The Young Lawyer has little in common with *Learning The Law*. It is a book written by practitioners for the person who is more interested in a successful professional career than the intricacies of academic speculation. The English student will consider it a valuable asset. The Australian student will find its value is impaired by its devotion to English practice and procedure. Nevertheless it helps to fill the large gap existing in Victoria between the University and practice. A few hours spent among its wise pages will prove a valuable investment.

D. J. M.

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