

BOOK REVIEWS

Crawford's Proof in Criminal Cases, 3rd ed. by I. G. TYSON and C. H. MCKAY (Law Book Co. of Australasia Pty. Ltd. Sydney, 1956), pp. i-xx, 1-308, price £2 2s. od.

This work is of daily value to the practitioner in N.S.W. who is concerned with the trial of criminal cases. The major offences triable by jury in that State are briefly defined and the requirements of their proof listed. The usual forms of indictment for offences defined by the N.S.W. Crimes Act are set out. There are a few 'trial notes' dealing with certain problems of evidence and there is a list of alternative verdicts. In sum, a prosecutor's pocketbook, and as such of immediate interest to the defence.

N.M.

Laws concerning the Nationality of Ships (United Nations Legislative Series, United Nations, New York, 1955) pp. i-x, 1-203. American price, \$1.50. (Our copy from the Publishers.)

This is another of the very useful collections of laws and regulations, prepared by the Office of Legal Affairs of the U.N. Secretariat, in connection with the International Law Commission's work on the codification of the Regime of the High Seas. The present volume contains the legislation of more than sixty states on the nationality of ships.

Most of the material published in this volume was made available by the governments concerned, but where such material was not forthcoming other sources were used. However, there are some regrettable gaps. For example, while legislation from such newcomers to the international family as Libya (Maritime Code, 1953) was obtained and included, legislation from our next-door neighbour Indonesia is missing.

The collection reminds us in its references to the pertinent legislation in Commonwealth countries that Australia is now the only non-Asian member of the British Commonwealth to have its law concerning the registration and nationality of ships still fully governed by the Imperial Merchant Shipping Act of 1894.

J. LEYSER

Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs. (United Nations Publication, New York, 1955). Vol. i: pp. i-x, 1-742. American price \$3.50. Vol. ii: pp. i-v, 1-467. American price \$3.50. Vol. iii: pp. i-v, 1-596. American price \$3.50. (Our copy from the publishers.)

The compilation of this repertory of practice of U.N. organs, which in all is to comprise five volumes and an index volume, was undertaken by the U.N. Secretariat in compliance with a resolution passed by the General Assembly during its eighth annual session in

November 1953. In requesting this compilation, the Assembly had two purposes in mind, a short-term purpose and a long-term purpose. The short-term purpose was to assist the Assembly in considering, during its tenth annual session in 1955, whether to call a special conference to discuss a general review of the Charter. This session has since taken place and, as was hardly unexpected, the question of a Charter review conference has been shelved. The long-term purpose of the compilation was to assist generally in a better understanding of the working of the U.N. Charter in the practice of the various U.N. organs. This purpose is certainly being achieved.

Of the volumes under review, volume i deals with Articles 1 to 22 of the U.N. Charter which include the principal articles relating to the General Assembly. Volume ii deals with Articles 23 to 54, and concerns mainly the Security Council, while volume iii deals with Articles 55 to 72. The remaining articles of the Charter will be covered in the final two volumes of the repertory.

In presenting within manageable limits of space a documented treatment of the application and interpretation of the U.N. Charter in practice, a rigid process of selection had to be applied. The repertory is limited in the main to what the introductory note calls 'decisions' of the U.N. organs—'any act of a United Nations organ adopting or rejecting, by vote or otherwise, a proposal in whatever form made'. Advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice have been included, as also decisions by the U.N. Secretariat in those matters in which they are competent to apply and interpret the Charter. The arrangement of material is as follows: each article or paragraph of an article of the Charter is made the subject of a separate study. Following an introductory note, the main body of material covered in decisions on the article (or paragraph) in question is then presented first in a general survey, and then in a detailed analytical summary of practice.

In assessing the importance of individual Charter provisions in their practical application, it is not without significance to see the great body of decisions dealing with the interpretation of the domestic jurisdiction clause, Art. 2 par. 7 of the Charter—the defence raised to withdraw a matter from the competence of the United Nations. Almost 100 pages in volume i concern this one paragraph alone.

This publication affords a unique opportunity for studying the Charter in operation. It will prove doubtless a necessary tool for all persons actively concerned with proceedings before U.N. organs. At the same time it is a most useful book of reference for all students and scholars of international law. The present repertory of practice covers the period from the establishment of the U.N. until 31 August 1954. It is to be hoped that yearly or two-yearly supplements will keep this valuable compilation as up-to-date as possible.

J. LEYSER