

*Show Business and the Law*, by E. R. HARDY IVAMY (Stevens & Sons Ltd., London, 1955), pp. i-x, 1-188. Australian price £1 14s. 6d. (Our copy from the Law Book Co. of Australasia Pty. Ltd.)

The object of this little book is to set out the principal branches of the law which affect what the author conveniently, if a trifle vulgarly, refers to as Show Business. The latter includes not only the theatre and the cinema, but also radio and television. The author has tried to be comprehensive and to cover all aspects of the presentation of public entertainment from the preparation of the script to the completed performance.

The book is written from an English standpoint, and a good deal of its contents, such as the law governing the licensing of theatres and cinemas, entertainments duty, quotas for films, and so on, is of purely local application. Doubtless, however, problems of a similar nature arise in Australia, and the book could accordingly be a valuable check-list and reminder for those concerned with public entertainment in this country.

Although the author states that he had in mind the needs of the legal advisers of those engaged in show business, it is probable that his book will be of greater value to the prospective lay clients than to the lawyers. For the latter, indeed, it can be no more than a reminder of points which should not be overlooked in dealing with a particular problem. The size of the book makes any attempt at depth of treatment out of the question. Thus it is pointed out (on p. 131) that the management owes the usual common law duties to members of the public who enter a theatre or cinema. This statement is followed by a brief résumé of the duties owed to persons entering under contract, to invitees, to licensees, and to trespassers, together with a citation of the main cases which have been decided under these heads in connection with the theatre and the cinema. Incidentally, it is reassuring to know that damages have been awarded to a cinema patron who inadvertently sat down on a discarded piece of chewing gum.

In dealing with the less familiar branches of the law, such as concern licensing of theatres and cinemas, censorship, and so on, the author has allowed himself to undertake a more extensive treatment. This was a wise decision, as it is in these less well charted areas that the explorer needs guidance.

It would be idle to deny that this book will be of comparatively limited appeal, addressed as it is to a limited section of the community and their special problems. Within the limits which he has thus set himself, however, the author has discharged his task with accuracy and clarity.