

*Odgers' Principles of Pleading and Practice*, 15th ed., by B. A. HARWOOD, of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-Law, a Master of the Supreme Court, (London, Stevens & Sons Ltd., 1955; Australia, Law Book Co. Pty. Ltd., 1955), pp. i-xxxviii, 1-505, and Index. Price £3 10s.

In spite of the fact that the editor in his preface warns 'Lest any practitioner should seek to hoist the editor with his own petard by quoting this book to him in the "Bear-Garden" it may be as well to recall the words of Lord Wrenbury when Buckley on the *Companies Act* was cited to him: "You must not substitute for the judgments of the Court the irresponsible conjectures of a text-book writer"; the fact that this fifteenth edition of Odgers is prepared by a Master of the Supreme Court will enhance its value in the eyes of most practitioners.

This edition, like the fourteenth edition, is considerably larger than the first thirteen editions, prepared by the Odgers, father and son. The two chapters on chancery procedure by Mr Raymond Walton, introduced in the fourteenth edition, have been retained. Mr Walton has revised those chapters and brought them up to date for this edition.

Master Harwood has revised the text of the fourteenth edition throughout, and has made numerous minor amendments to that text, quite apart from bringing it up to date with respect to amendments to the Rules of Court. A new chapter on amendments to pleadings, writs, judgments, orders, and other proceedings has been added, and also a section on actions by money-lenders and a short note on the history of Order XIV procedure. There is an increasing number of points at which a book like this, written for English conditions, differs from one which would be written for Australian conditions. Quite apart from differences in the rules of court—for example, in the procedure provided by Orders XXX and XXXI, with respect to discovery and interrogatory—there are differences which arise from English legislation such as the Crown Proceedings Act 1947, the Legal Aid and Advice Act 1949, the Companies Act 1948, and the County Courts Act 1955.

In spite of those differences between England and Victoria and other Australian States this book, which has for many years been relied on by students, is still likely to be of great value to practitioners in all courts which have the Judicature Act system of pleading. Even in procedurally backward New South Wales, practitioners may well profit from consulting this book, at least to clear their minds as to the principles controlling some of their procedural steps.

D. P. D.