

of the Mother Country. We need to 'know ourselves', to examine our own public life with care and honesty, and to tailor our public law to its particular conditions, needs and philosophies. An unthinking adoption of the English models for the judicial review of administrative action would do no service to our community.

I hope it is obvious that nothing I have written is intended to disparage Professor de Smith's great and valuable book. Although he must use it with some caution, for the various reasons I have suggested, no Australian lawyer working in the field of administrative law can afford to be without it. That is a claim often lightly made, but in this case I have no doubt whatsoever that it is justified.

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Law and Opinion in the Twentieth Century, edited by MORRIS GINSBERG. (Stevens & Sons Ltd, London, 1959), pp. i-viii, 1-407. Australian Price £2 19s.

During the academic year 1957-1958, a series of seventeen public lectures now published in this book was given at the London School of Economics by a distinguished group of English lawyers, philosophers, historians and social scientists. The scheme was suggested by Dicey's *Law and Opinion in England During the Nineteenth Century*. As the Editor, Professor Morris Ginsberg writes in his preface:

What we had in mind was at once a continuation of that work to take account of the developments since it was written and a widening of it so as to explore not only the field of legal changes, but the wider aspects of social policy. Dicey, in his day, saw a 'close and demonstrable connection during the nineteenth century between the development of English law and certain known currents of opinion'. Whether he thought this connection to be causal in character is not clear. In any case, no assumption of a direct causal connection was made in planning the course. The aim of the lectures was rather to explore the possible relations. It was expected that the answer would be found to be different in different fields, and it was left to each lecturer to define the connection as he saw it in his own particular domain.

The book is in three parts, the first of which is entitled Trends of Thought. This includes five chapters: the first by the editor on the Growth of Social Responsibility, a chapter on the Legacy of Philosophical Radicalism by Mr J. P. Plamenatz and three chapters on the major English political traditions and philosophies. Professor W. L. Burn writes on the Conservative Tradition and its Reformulations; Mr R. B. McCallum on the Liberal Outlook and the late Professor G. D. H. Cole on the Growth of Socialism. This section of the book is well written, perceptive and stimulating; it furnishes a philosophical and political framework in which the patterns of legal change and development are better discerned and understood. Mr McCallum's chapter on the Liberal Outlook is a particularly fine piece of writing.

The second part is entitled Legal Developments, and the contributions are by a group of well-known lawyers. Professor Dennis Lloyd writes on the Law of Association; Professor J. A. G. Griffith on the Law of Property (Land); Professor L. C. B. Gower on Business; Sir David Cairns on

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Monopolies and Restrictive Practices; Professor W. A. Robson on Administrative Law; Professor O. Kahn-Freund on Labour Law; Dr Mannheim on Criminal Law and Penology and Mr Justice Karminski on Family Law. These are acknowledged experts in their various fields, and for the most part the essays are well judged and discerning commentaries on the trends and patterns of legal development in twentieth-century England.

The third and final section, which is entitled Trends of Social Policy, is written by a group of sociologists and social scientists. There are essays on Health by Professor R. M. Titmuss, Education by Professor D. V. Glass, Social Security by Dr B. Abel-Smith, and Industrial Relations by Mr B. C. Roberts. This is an important part of the book, and for the lawyer it provides an opportunity to survey legal developments and change within a framework of major national social policies.

Unlike Dicey's book, which was the work—and the remarkable work—of a single man, this book does not have perfect coherence. This is confessed by the editor, but criticism on that ground would be perverse and uncomprehending. Seventeen authors have contributed their views and there is inevitable overlap and, more important, there is significant difference of outlook. But this adds to, rather than detracts from, the quality of the book. As lawyers, it is necessary that we should be exposed to a skilled examination of the social framework in which the law takes shape and grows; it is necessary that we should have an awareness of that framework and of the currents of social and political opinion and thought. Whether because of pressures of time, or more likely because of a lack of informed awareness of these changes, the law is too often thought of, and has been too often taught, as a self-contained system, impervious to the social currents of its time. This of course is nonsense, and dangerous nonsense at that. Books like this stimulate the law teacher particularly to think afresh on the framework of his teaching; and while it furnishes him with no easy answers, it helps to keep him at the task of thinking hard about hard things.

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Palmer's Company Law, by CLIVE M. SCHMITTHOFF, LL.D., of Gray's Inn, Barrister-at-Law, and T. P. E. CURRY, M.A., of the Middle Temple, Barrister-at-Law. 20th ed. (Stevens & Sons, London, and The Law Book Co. of Australasia Pty Ltd, Melbourne, 1959.) pp. i-civ, 1-1258. Price £8 8s.

Palmer's Company Law and its attendant or companion volume, *Palmer's Company Precedents*, need no introduction to lawyers, and consequently the scope for reviewing the 20th Edition might seem correspondingly narrow. However, there are several points which make the current edition noteworthy. First, on the general level, it has faithfully adhered to the aim of the original editor, Sir Francis Palmer, of making 'the work practically useful not only to lawyers and to students of law, but generally to businessmen; for nowadays, looking to the vast number of persons interested as directors, shareholders, officials, customers, creditors or otherwise in companies, there are but few businessmen who can escape the task of acquiring some knowledge of Company Law'. And this is so

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