

BOOK REVIEWS

An Index-Digest with Table of Reported Cases in the Commonwealth Law Reports Volumes 1-127 (1903-1972) by P. H. LANE, B.A., LL.M., LL.D. (Syd.), s.J.D. (Harvard); Barrister-at-Law; Professor in Constitutional Law, University of Sydney. (The Law Book Co. Ltd, 1976), pp. i-clxx, 1-652. Recommended retail price \$47.50 (ISBN: 0 455 19303 7).

Practitioners and others who make use of the Commonwealth Law Reports are familiar with the index-digest covering volumes 1-100 (1-111 with supplement) compiled by Professor P. H. Lane. Professor Lane has now produced a replacement volume, taking in all the cases decided by the High Court of Australia contained in the 127 volumes of the C.L.R.'s up to 1972. The new volume continues to provide an accurate index of the cases and a classification of them under appropriate headings.

Nevertheless, users of the volume will be astonished by the author's prefatory statement, which the publishers have reproduced in the advertising material. It reads:

The content of the work consists of the material facts and ratio of each case, principles enunciated, theories and doctrines expounded, any historical excursus or legal rule discussed.

It would be miraculous if the entire work of the High Court over the traditional life span of man could be so comprehensively and conclusively presented in a single volume, but Professor Lane does not reveal in this book that he stands above the rest of us as a worker of miracles. The volume is as its title suggests—an index-digest—and as such will be as valuable as its predecessor. In the opinion of this reviewer, as a working tool, it is one of the author's best contributions to law.

J. E. RICHARDSON*

Land Law and Registration by S. ROWTON SIMPSON C.B.E., M.A. (Cantab.) of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-Law. (Cambridge University Press, 1976), pp. i-xlix, 1-726. Recommended retail price U.K. £30.00; Recommended retail price Aust. \$71.30 (ISBN: 0 521 20628 6).

On a comparative basis Rowton Simpson knows more about systems of registration of titles to lands than any one else writing today. Not only does he know and understand the theory, but he also knows what makes such systems tick. Even more importantly, he knows what stops

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