

tralia is designed, to quote from the preface, "to reach those members of the community who, without any intention of adopting law as a profession, regard some knowledge of the rules which regulate their daily conduct as a sheer cultural necessity". The first chapter is devoted to the sources of law in England and in Australia, and the second to the administration of the law. The remaining five chapters deal respectively with personal relations (including capacity, nationality and citizenship, domicile, corporations, and family law), property, contracts, torts, and criminal law. There are no footnotes, names and citations of cases are omitted, and particular sections of statutes are not referred to. There is, however, on pages 239-241 a bibliography and reading list arranged under subject headings for those who wish to pursue any particular topic further. The historical background to the law is never neglected, and, in the way in which it is treated by the author, legal history adds immensely to the interest and readability of the text.

Within the limits which the author set for himself, *Outline of Law in Australia* is a very good book. It admirably achieves its object of providing for the layman a conspectus of modern Australian law in its historical setting. The editor of this third edition has, very properly, confined herself to bringing the subject matter up to date.

G. W. Hinde

**POLICE KILLINGS IN AUSTRALIA**, by R. W. Harding, LL.B. (Lond.), LL.M. (Columbia). Australia. Penguin Books Australia Ltd. 1970. 266 pp. (including index). New Zealand price \$1.20.

This Penguin Special deals with a neglected area of criminology: the powers of the police and the way they exercise them. The author, a Senior Lecturer in Law at the University of Western Australia, considers a number of killings by the police in the course of their duty, and, in addition, he looks at deaths caused by nightwatchmen and ordinary citizens when making arrests. The book is an extremely readable one; Mr Harding sets out the details of each case in a vivid and economical manner. He also outlines the relevant law in a necessarily brief and condensed chapter.

He makes some sharply critical comments about police procedures and about the suitability of an inquest as a forum for the examination of evidence regarding killings by the police of offenders and suspected offenders. The author makes his views very plain: in several of the cases dealt with, he suggests, there was not a completely unbiased and thorough scrutiny of police actions. He talks bluntly about the spinelessness of many coroners, the frequent non-representation of the relatives of the deceased, and the fact that the police themselves gather and sift the information that eventually goes into the Inquest Brief, a fact which "provides an opportunity for information to be censored or rearranged at source, before even the Coroner or the person assisting the Coroner gets to it." (p. 220)

In none of the cases discussed could it be confidently asserted that the result was an unjust one. However, as Mr Harding's careful analysis clearly demonstrates, the evidence relating to some of the kills reveals doubts and inconsistencies. Yet in no case was the policeman concerned charged with a criminal offence, let alone tried.

Mr Harding convincingly argues that there is a need for impartial and effective procedures for testing police conduct. More than this, these procedures must manifestly be fair and searching, if public confidence in the police is to be strengthened. Any suspicion about police integrity is very damaging to the community. It is in the police's own interests to dispel any doubts which may exist: if they fail to do so they risk forfeiting the public support which is so necessary to law enforcement.

J. A. Seymour

NEW ZEALAND, THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS LAWS AND CONSTITUTION, by J. L. Robson, LL.M., Ph.D., and specialist contributors. Second edition. London. Stevens and Sons. xx and 532 pp. (including index). New Zealand price \$13.95.

It is a pleasure indeed for this reviewer to have the opportunity of reviewing the second edition of the fourth volume in the series published under the general title, *The British Commonwealth, The Development of its Laws and Constitutions*, and under the general editorship of Professor George W. Keeton. For this volume is entitled *New Zealand, The Development of its Laws and Constitution*, and the reviewer has very fond memories of the assistance that the first edition, published in 1954, rendered to him when as a new recruit to the academic ranks he was confronted with the task of explaining legal development in New Zealand to first year law students at a time when almost the only other published material was a somewhat elderly volume of Hight and Bamford, *The Constitutional History and Law of New Zealand* which was published in 1914. Since the first edition of *New Zealand* was published in 1954 there have been other works published which deal with some of the matters considered in it (principally, Scott, *The New Zealand Constitution* (1962) and McLintock (ed.), *The New Zealand Encyclopaedia* (1966)), but *New Zealand* remains the most informative and interesting single book on the development of the laws and constitution of New Zealand.

The second edition of *New Zealand* is compiled, as was the first, under the editorship of Dr J. L. Robson, but it is patent that his has not been a purely supervisory role, and seven of the fifteen chapters bear the mark of his pen. Professor I. D. Campbell who contributed the sections on criminal law and family law in the first edition has retained responsibility for the former, but has relinquished the latter to B. J. Cameron, who is a newcomer to the panel of contributors and has taken over also the chapter on the judicial system prepared for the first edition by J. W. Bain, who has retired from the panel for this edition. E. J. Haughey, who contributed a chapter to the first edition upon the historical development of the civil law retains his responsibility for this section although he has now divided it into two chapters. The fifth member of the original panel of contributors, Professor K. J. Scott, unfortunately died in 1961 and his place has been taken by Professor C. C. Aikman who, with the assistance of K. J. Keith and R. S. Clark, has contributed the chapters on Parliament and administrative law, and has co-operated with Dr Robson in the revision of the introductory chapter.

In its general lay-out the second edition of *New Zealand* follows much the same pattern as the first edition except that the chapter on adminis-