

COMPANY LAW. By WALTER WOON [Singapore: Longman. 1988. lvii + 541 pp. Softcover.]

THE development of Company Law in Singapore has proceeded at a fast rate in recent years. From the double-disqualification rule under the old section 149 introduced in 1984 to its abolition and the introduction of the concept of judicial management in 1988 via the Companies Amendment Act 1987, there have been many changes in the local company law structure. Until the publication of this book, students have had to refer mainly to English and/or Australian textbooks and have had to read up and interpret the sections in the Companies Act Cap 50, 1985, (Rev. Ed.) by them-

selves. Previous books written on Singapore Company Law have basically been written with the aim of being an introduction rather than as a regular textbook. This book is the first real attempt at bridging the gap between a mere introduction and a reference text for more serious researchers of the law.

The author of this book states in his preface that it is primarily a teaching tool, and in so far as this is concerned, this has been admirably achieved. Within the 532 pages of text divided into 20 chapters, the author has covered topics ranging from the basics of company law (for *e.g.*, incorporation and corporate personality) to membership and management matters (*e.g.*, director's duties) to corporate finance and finally, reconstruction, the new concept of judicial management and liquidation of companies. The cases discussed are from diverse jurisdictions, ranging from English to Malaysian to Australian and even Canadian and Hong Kong cases, and of course, Singapore cases as well.

The style of writing is easy for the reader to follow and the details are presented in a manner easy enough even for a weak student to understand. In fact, the drawback, if it is one, is that the book seems to have made this subject, usually considered as "heavy", seem rather "light and easy". The main cases are all discussed and the facts presented in a style reminiscent of Charlesworth¹, and within just one reading the student is able to grasp the points made by the author.

All in all, this is an excellent book for a student of Singapore Company Law and even practitioners will undoubtedly find it very useful with its references to the relevant statutory provisions in Singapore as well as cross-references to statutory provisions in Malaysia. The serious researcher who finds the discussion of cases and/or provisions insufficient will nevertheless have already received useful pointers on the relevant provisions and/or decided cases for further research. This is one book worth its price.