

titioners.

The expressed intention of the book, as stated in the preface, is to provide an authoritative reference which emphasises the needs of the practitioner. In this regard, the meticulous preparation of facts and figures evident throughout the book is a firm step towards this end. The practitioner will no doubt find the evaluations of various transactions in terms of costs and benefits particularly interesting. The editor also expressed a hope to "maintain a scholarly standard of discussion." Whether or not the book is successful in this aim is harder to assess. It is difficult to argue with an essentially quantitative treatment of the subject. There are few issues raised which are debatable. This is not primarily a law book, so legal grey areas and potential legal complexities are not addressed in great detail. There is a separate chapter, admittedly of substantial length (40 pages), devoted to the legal aspects of international financing; just as there are whole chapters dealing with accountancy and taxation aspects. Not surprisingly, one chapter alone is incapable of pursuing the issues raised to any reasonable depth. Having said that, the chapter on legal aspects does identify a number of factors affecting the legality and enforcement of a transaction that a practitioner should take account of.

On the whole, the book represents a commendable effort in documenting the operations of international finance. It is perhaps not an easy read for the beginner. The reward for the comprehending reader is a convenient collection of data on contemporary market practices at his fingertips. For somebody who is fairly conversant with corporate finance and the financial markets, without necessarily being an expert, it will serve its purpose as a handbook very well.

CHAN LENG SUN

CROSS ON EVIDENCE. By COLIN TAPPER. [London: Butterworths. 1990. cx + 736 pp. (including index). Softcover: S\$80.45]

IN the preface to the first edition of *Cross on Evidence*, the late Sir Rupert Cross indicated that his objective was to accommodate the needs of students and practitioners. He said:

... I have catered for the students by including a good deal more theoretical discussion in the text than is customary in the case of a book designed solely for the practitioner, and I have catered for the latter by including many more cases in the footnotes than any student could conceivably wish to consult.

Subsequent editions including the one under review have preserved this approach. Mr. Tapper states in his own preface that he has "tried to maintain the balance between practical guidance and

theoretical enquiry". The present edition is a good hundred pages longer than its predecessor mainly because of the case law that has been built up around the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. New statutes of evidential significance have also been in the making including the Criminal Justice Act 1988 and the Children Act 1989. Although the substance has increased, the form remains much the same as in the previous edition. The few main changes concern the amalgamation of the topics of burden and standard of proof in one chapter in contrast to their separate treatment in the previous edition, and the more detailed treatment of identification evidence which, appropriately, has been moved from the introductory chapter to the chapter entitled "Proof of Frequently Recurring Matters". The seven hundred and thirty-six pages and the profusion of case law give the appearance of a practitioner's text. Although it does fulfil this function it is still very much an academic textbook as well. Indeed, many of the problems thrown up by the law of evidence are analysed in considerable depth. Accordingly, it should be welcomed by practitioners and students alike. Singapore and Malaysian practitioners and students ought to be aware, however, that parts of the text may not be directly relevant to them because of the differences in the law. A significant part of the English law of evidence has become statutory within the last twenty-five years including the more recent Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and the Criminal Justice Act 1988. The English common law has also developed. The statutes have no application locally and the common law developments must be considered in the context of the Evidence Act of Singapore which may exclude their application. The book is not always easy reading but this can be attributed to its profound approach to the problem areas. It continues to be one of the most important publications on the subject of evidence.

JEFFREY D. PINSLER

PROFESSIONAL NEGLIGENCE. By A.M. DUGDALE AND K.M. STANTION (Asst. Eds. D.E. EVANS AND J.E. PARKINSON). (2nd Edition). [London and Edinburgh: Butterworths. 1989. Hi + 521 pp. (including index). Hardcover: £60.00.]

THE first edition of *Professional Negligence*, which was published in the early 1980s, deservedly enjoyed considerable success, particularly in the United Kingdom. It created high expectations for the second edition; expectations which are more than adequately fulfilled by this impressive book.

As with the first edition, the authors have structured the book around the general principles of law rather than around specific professions. Thus the book is divided into eight parts, dealing with contract; tort;