

MODERN EQUITY, *The Principles of Equity*, 8th ed. By H. G. Hanbury, Q.C., D.C.L., Vinerian Professor of English Law in the University of Oxford. [London: Stevens and Sons Ltd. 1962. pp. xlviii + 717 inc. index. 4 gns.]

Professor Hanbury's *Modern Equity* has been going strong since 1935 and getting more and more modern. This eighth edition is admirably up-to-date to the time of its writing, no ruthlessness in rearrangement being spared in giving new material its due prominence. All important recent case-law is incorporated and, where appropriate, critically analysed. Periodical literature and monographs are selectively — perhaps too selectively — considered. But most significant are the new statutes. Equity is not dead, especially since its rejuvenation by the present Master of the Rolls, but it is judicially sluggish. Parliament, however, has had a burst of activity which, during the five years since the seventh edition of *Modern Equity*, has had a marked impact on equity, especially on trustee investments, charities and the alteration of beneficial interests. It is a triumph of genuineness in this new edition that Professor Hanbury has absorbed all the changes into his book as though in an effortless stride.

The scope of *Modern Equity* is breathtaking in its comprehensiveness. No branch of equity jurisdiction is too large or too trivial to be included. Having begun with an introduction (showing the historical development of equity and giving general surveys of equitable ideas in property and contract), the book proceeds to cover the law of trusts (in all its aspects), equitable interests not under trusts (mortgages, restrictive covenants, estate contracts, licences, etc.), administration of estates of the dead (including performance, satisfaction and ademption and election) and equitable remedies, ending up with an appendix on the Trustee Investments Act, 1961.

Professor Hanbury is a learned equity lawyer and his approach is scholarly. Sometimes the style is rendered ponderous by the weight of learning; more frequently it is quickened and illuminated by a reference or comparison. *Modern Equity* is a book that can be read through or used for reference, though, of course, with equity packed into 673 pages of text (not counting the appendix), the materials cited are not copious enough for the work to rank as practitioner's manual.

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