

LAW STUDENTS' COMPANION, CONSTITUTION LAW AND LEGAL SYSTEM. By J. G. Cracknell. [London: Butterworths. 1963 vii + 179 pp. (incl. index). £1 2s. 6d.]

The author says of this volume that "it is not intended to be a substitute for the reading of recognized textbooks and law reports, but is designed as a companion to textbooks, lecture notes and correspondence courses, especially for students who do not have access to a law library."

The book is divided into three sections. The first section of forty-eight pages contains summaries of two hundred and thirty-five constitutional law cases. It is doubtful whether the cause of legal education is advanced by students having available to them this kind of summarization of facts and law. It would seem that it encourages altogether undesirable memorization. Cases should be studied in the original reports or in case books in which the editing is not so severe but that the student is led through an exercise of legal reasoning in reading the case. One might fear that the student who does not "have access to a law library" might believe he knew something about the cases from a work of this nature, when, of course, he only knows some rules of law. This is not to say that, in so far as they are given, the facts or law are not correct. It is to say that this kind of summarization should be done, if at all, by the student himself.

The section on statutes is most useful, providing the text of constitutional acts from Magna Carta to the Commonwealth Immigrants Act, 1962.

The final section of sixty-four pages on the English Legal System is a glossary of varied legal terms, including even short biographies of such figures as Blackstone and Sir Robert Brooke. This section is a valuable ready reference for the law student. Finally, the work has an excellent index, with citations not only to the glossary and statutes but to the cases concerned with the subject indexed.