

THE DICTIONARY OF ENGLISH LAW. General Editor: the late Earl Jowitt.
Editor: Clifford Walsh. [1959, London: Sweet & Maxwell, Ltd. £8
8s. In 2 Vols. or in 1 Vol. thin paper ed. 1905 pp. inc. 13 pp. bibl.]

As acknowledged in the publishers' note the *Dictionary of English Law* is drawn largely from Byrne's *Law Dictionary* (1923) and Wharton's *Law Lexicon* (1938). Material from these two works has been integrated, supplemented and brought up to date to provide explanations of legal terms, old and new, resulting in a much more comprehensive work than the two earlier ones. Where appropriate, an etymology or translation of the term is given and where possible the text of the explanation includes references to statutes and cases, ancient and modern.

The difficulty faced by any editor of a work such as this is not so much what to include as what to exclude and with comprehensiveness the aim there is little that has been excluded. The length of the entries varies from one line for *rectum esse*

(to be right in court) to more than five pages for *Deed*. Editorial discretion has been carefully exercised and it is those terms to which reference will more frequently be made that have the greater space.

There is very little on the debit side. This reviewer found an instance of a cross-reference given where he looked for what he was asked to see in vain. Under *View* is "See *Shower*" (presumably one who shows). But he found no *shower*.

This work is no one-volume *Halsbury* and makes no such claim but the lawyer who has access to it will be pleased to find collected in one volume explained with admirable clarity and with annotations almost every legal term he is likely to encounter, whether common or esoteric.

1. LL.B. (Nottingham); of Lincoln's Inn, Barrister-at-Law; of Singapore and of the Federation of Malaya, Advocate and Solicitor; Part-time Lecturer in Evidence in the University of Malaya in Singapore.