

PHIPSON ON THE LAW OF EVIDENCE. 10th Edition. Edited by Michael V. Argyle, Q.C. [London: Sweet & Maxwell, Ltd. 1963. clxxxiv + 910 pp. (incl. index). £7 7s.]

This is not merely another routine edition of a well-established practitioner's book. After the unhappy reception which greeted the ninth edition in 1952, another edition without changes would hardly have met the demands of practitioners and scarcely served Sidney L. Phipson's original intention of producing a book taking a middle place between Sir James Stephen's *Digest* and the more extensive work *Taylor on Evidence*. In this position it had to serve the interests of practitioners while acting as a reference work for the more curious student. The present edition fulfils this role better than the earlier edition.

The present editor has made a few useful changes. One of the main objections to the earlier edition was that the form of the text made it unattractive to read. Names of authorities and references to them were included in the body of the text instead of in the footnotes. These often produced a text so disjointed that it became difficult sometimes to gather the sense of it. This was not helped by the use of italics for the two different purposes of denoting case-names and of emphasis. This has now been altered with all but the most important authorities relegated to footnotes. Although this has meant a departure from the established pattern of the work, the result is a considerable improvement. Consequently, much of the obscurity and lameness of the text, which would otherwise have been thrown into prominence, has been avoided by a rewriting of the text.

A new feature of the book is that references and cross-references are to paragraph headings instead of to pages. Though initially disconcerting, this innovation is more convenient and permits rapid reference, an advantage with much appeal to the busy practitioner.

The traditional pattern of listing examples of admissible and inadmissible sets of facts at the end of each section has been retained. But the method of presenting them in parallel columns — one containing an example of admissible evidence and the other an inadmissible set of facts has been altered to avoid the inaccurate juxtapositions that had resulted. In this edition the examples of admissibility and inadmissibility are collected separately as illustrations. Misleading contrasts are thereby avoided.

With these improvements it is regrettable that the editor did not go further and depart from the practice, common in English text-books, of refraining from making reference to articles and text-books. These would often discuss the more difficult problems and make them easier to understand. To mention only one as an example, a reference to Cowen and Carter's *Essays on the Law of Evidence* would have been useful.

The chapter on Confessions has been re-written. The Judges Rules on Confessions are now included in the body of the text and these are more adequately discussed. As expected, the text has been brought up-to-date with the inclusion of the relevant English and Privy Council cases decided since the last edition appeared.

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