

ODGERS' PRINCIPLES OF PLEADING AND PRACTICE, 18th Ed. By G. F. Harwood [London: Stevens. 1963. lii + 542 pp. (incl. index) 3 gns.]

The first edition of Odgers' work appeared in 1891 and it quickly became an indispensable *vade me cum* for students of Civil Procedure. The current edition retains the traditional purpose of remaining a student's book.

This edition contains no significant changes in either the treatment or the presentation of the subject-matter. There was no need to do so. The changes made in this edition are largely the result of the statutory alterations made in the rules of the Supreme Court in 1962 which came into force this year. Hence those chapters dealing with Amendment, Discovery and Order 14 Procedure have been re-written to bring the law up to date. Further, the other chapters have been altered to take into account the changes introduced by statute and case law.

It is perhaps regrettable that the Editor has chosen not to express his opinion on the working of the new rules, for the comments and illustrations contained in Odgers' have always been a valuable guide not only to students but also to lawyers and judges. This is all the more necessary if the student is to be encouraged to see rules of practice and procedure as the handmaid rather than the mistress of justice. The rules must not be seen as hard statutes on the court compelling obedience despite the manifest injustice that would result.

Pleading is sometimes described as an act that cannot be taught. Whatever that may be, if the subject is to be taught the student is likely to learn as much from seeing corrections made of bad pleadings as from a set of 'model' pleadings. Odgers contains a series of 'models' but lacks the former type. Nevertheless these drawbacks do not diminish the utility value of Odgers.