

ELEMENTS OF PUBLIC LAW. 1st Ed. By Gordon J. Borrie. [London: Sweet & Maxwell. 1966].

This short work is designed to give a broad outline of Public Law for anyone wishing to acquire a background knowledge of the subject. It is also specifically designed for students taking the new syllabus issued by the Local Government Examinations Board. The latter aim appears however to have overshadowed the former.

Although, strictly speaking, Criminal Law falls under the head "Public Law", this topic is only considered in connection with liberties of the subject and police powers. The main emphasis is on an introduction to Administrative Law which occupies approximately half the text (Chapters 6-10). There are only short general chapters on Sources of English Law, the Legal Profession, Legislation and the Royal Prerogative.

In view of the above selective and tailored coverage it is doubtful whether the book will be of much benefit either to the student or the general reader in Singapore with the possible exception of civil servants.

One minor comment on organization. Instead of footnotes on each page the notes have been collected at the end of the book under chapter headings. While the whole practice of footnoting can itself be overdone there appears to be no good reason for adding inconvenience of reference as well. If notes must be added then let them at least be at the bottom of the relevant page.

G. COWPER-HILL.