

ADVOCACY. By S. C. Consul and G. Chandra. [London: Asia Publishing House. 1967. £1.10s. 0d.].

On page 54 the authors state in connection with cross-examination: "It is possible to give many more hints. But it is futile to attempt to discuss in a book what only experience can teach." This might well be chosen as the epitaph of the volume under review. While some small part of the material presented may be of some use to the fledgling advocate (obligations of the profession: drafting pleadings) most is indeed a vain attempt to teach what is unteachable by way of the medium chosen.

Writings on advocacy can indeed be helpful but the most useful and relevant are usually either biography or the detailed analysis of individual cases. The reason is that such writings come nearest to the requisite first hand experience.

In the present case there is a tendency in the direction of tedious generalisations particularly in the closing chapter entitled, ominously "Success and Failure". The list of virtues required of an advocate as set out here is so daunting that, after reading it, only the most conceited and self-opinionated would dare to pursue the profession.

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