

STUDY GUIDE TO CONSTITUTIONAL LAW. By D. Harris. [London: Sweet & Maxwell. 1967. x + 118 pp. 12s. 6d.].

This book is one in the series of "Study Guides" published by Sweet and Maxwell.<sup>1</sup> Unlike the usual study guides and nutshells, this book asks the student several questions which are relevant to the topic instead of giving direct answers to particular problems. The author follows the questions by setting out the materials to which the student can refer to find the answers.

A wide area of Constitutional and Administrative Law is covered. Though the basic reference books are Hood Phillips<sup>2</sup> and Wade and Phillips,<sup>3</sup> the author has not limited the scope of each of the topics to these books. A wide range of other standard books including de Smith,<sup>4</sup> Wade,<sup>5</sup> Heuston,<sup>6</sup> and Allen<sup>7</sup> are also referred to. There is also a fair amount of reference to leading articles, cases, and statutes.

One of the minor drawbacks of the book is the absence of a Table of Cases which is today basic to any legal text book and which is useful to the reader who wishes to find out whether a particular case has been cited and whether that case has also been cited elsewhere in the Guide under a different topic. The Table of Cases is also useful to a reader who knows the name of a particular case but does not know under what topic it falls within the book.

The reader should note that there have been several changes in the law since the publication of this Guide and like some of the textbooks of today has become slightly outdated. The leading case on Crown Privilege is now the decision of the House of Lords in *Conway v. Rimmer*.<sup>8</sup> "This decision," as Professor de Smith points out,<sup>9</sup> "is clearly of first rate importance, confirming as it does the re-emergence of judicial review as a significant factor in English administrative law." The recent case of *R. v. Criminal Injuries Compensation Board ex parte Lain*<sup>10</sup> not mentioned here has now extended the scope of the application of the prerogative writ of *certiorari* to public bodies which are not creatures of statute. In the field of natural justice, the case of *Re H.K. (an infant)*<sup>11</sup> seems to indicate a possible extension of the rules to persons or bodies who are neither acting in a judicial nor quasi-judicial capacity. This seems to be so indicated by Chief Justice Parker who said, "whether or not the immigration officer was acting in a judicial or quasi-

1. The other books in the series include Study Guides to Real Property, Equity, Evidence, Criminal Law and Jurisprudence.
2. *Constitutional and Administrative Law*, (London, 4th ed., 1967).
3. *Constitutional Law*, (London, 7th ed., 1965).
4. *Judicial Review of Administrative Action*, (London, 1st ed., 1957).
5. *Administrative Law*, (Oxford, 1st ed., 1961).
6. *Essays in Constitutional Law*, (London, 2nd ed., 1964).
7. *Law and Orders*, (London, 3rd ed., 1965).
8. [1968] 1 All E.E. 874.
9. *Judicial Review of Administrative Action*, (London, 2nd ed., 1968). p.605.
10. [1967] 2 All E.R. 770.
11. [1967] 1 All E.R. 226.

judicial capacity, the rules of natural justice applied to the extent that within the legislative framework of the Act the officer was required to act fairly and dispassionately.”<sup>12</sup>

Several books which have been referred to by the author in the comprehensive bibliography at the end of the Guide have also been outdated since the publication of this Guide. The second edition of *Judicial Review of Administrative Action* by S.A de Smith was published early this year at about the same time as the second edition of *Cracknell's Law Students Companion No. 3 — Constitutional Law and English Legal Systems*. Keir and Lawson had their fifth edition of *Cases in Constitutional Law* published in late 1967. In 1967, too, Griffith and Street had their fourth edition of *Principles of Administrative Law* published.

This book would however still be a useful guide to a student who is either new to Constitutional Law or to one who is revising the subject as it would help him pick the important issues where emphasis should be placed.

12. *Ibid.*, p.230.