

LAW AND PRACTICE OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE. By G. COOPER & R. J. CRIDLAN. [London: Butterworths. 1971. xxii + 291 pp. (including index)].

It is indeed odd that a work on the law and practice of the Stock Exchange has not appeared sooner, since the last one in 1914. This joint venture by a barrister and a member of the London Stock Exchange therefore represents a welcome contribution and is to be evaluated on this basis.

The approach of the text is logical as it begins with a historical sketch and canvasses the constitution and membership of the Stock Exchange before going into the mechanics of exchange operations. A first hand account of such operations adds to its "authenticity".

Perhaps because of the practical nature of such a subject, the law and practice is stated in a forthright manner omitting on many occasions academic discussion. This does detract from its value. Thus in its treatment of *Hedley Byrne* while leaving the question open as to the extent of its application to stock brokers, it pragmatically advises brokers to utilise a disclaimer clause. This is unsatisfactory,

and the decision of *Central B.C. Planners v. Hocker* (1970) 9 D.L.R. (3d) 689 of the British Columbia Supreme Court provides adequate authority to the contrary, when it decided that the duty of care extends to stock brokers. The failure to mention and deal with the significant Privy Council decision of *Mutual Life & Citizens Assurance Co. Ltd. v. Evatt* (1971) All E.R. 150 further exacerbates this inadequacy.

The local reader would have to bear in mind that, as distinct from the U.K. Association Regulations, Singapore has a statutorily regulated Securities Industries Act 1970 which seeks to regulate dealers by requiring them to obtain licences, makes regular audited accounts, the creation of a fidelity fund and to prohibit false trading and market rigging by penal sanctions.