

THE LAW OF CONTRACT. 4th Edition. By G. H. TREITEL. [London: Stevens & Sons. 1970. liii + (with index) 884 pp.].

Ever since the issue of its first edition in 1962, *Treitel* has been recognised as a textbook for discerning teachers and students who required a more modern approach to the law of contract and a more penetrating discussion of the manifold problems in this branch of the law than could be found in traditional textbooks. Those who like their law cut-and-dried may find *Treitel* disconcerting in that it discusses the difficulties and uncertainties in some parts of the law traditionally accepted as settled (see, e.g. the discussion of *Felthouse v. Bindley* (1863) 7 L.T. 835 on page 31). However, the complexity of discussion found in *Treitel* is really a reflection of the complexity of the subject-matter itself, particularly with the developments over the last few years.

The many developments in the law since the second edition in 1966 are dealt with comprehensively. There is an outstanding discussion of *inter alia* two important milestones in the law of contract:-

1. The Misrepresentation Act, 1967, which probably applies to Singapore and Malaysia by virtue of the Civil Law Act and Ordinance respectively;

2. The *Suisse Atlantique* case [1967] 1 A.C. 361, which is now the key case in assessing the doctrine of fundamental breach. Unfortunately, only passing reference is made to another important case, *Harbutt's Plasticine Ltd. v. Wayne Tank and Pump Co. Ltd.* [1970] 2 W.L.R. 198.

In addition, there will be found good accounts of *Beswick v. Beswick* [1968] A.C. 58 (privity and specific performance), *The Heron* [1967] 3 W.L.R. 1491 (damages), and recent cases on restraint of trade. Readers should note, however, that the Court of Appeal decision in *Gallie v. Lee* [1969] 1 All E.R. 1062 discussed on page 267 has now been affirmed by the House of Lords in *Saunders v. Anglia Building Society* [1970] 3 W.L.R. 1078.

*Treitel* also has the advantage of being the most recently published major contract textbook currently available here. Unfortunately, its table of cases does not contain any citation of reports, and the footnote case references do not have collateral references to alternative reports, which are really essential for those who cannot get access to the reference cited.