

WINFIELD AND JOLOWICZ ON TORT. 9th Edition 1971. Edited by J.A. Jolowicz, T. Ellis Lewis and D.M. Harris (London: Sweet and Maxwell. xlvi + 692 pp.) Paperback £3.20.

The ninth edition of Winfield on Tort has taken on a new title. Mr. J.A. Jolowicz explains the need for making such a change as follows:

“Sufficient time has now elapsed and sufficient alterations have been made to the text since Winfield himself saw it that it has seemed to me inappropriate any longer to offer the book as if it were his alone, brought upto date.”

This brings to mind the general complaint that many of our classical text books of which *Winfield on Tort* is certainly one, have suffered as a result of passing through the hands of too many editors. One such grouse is that through the process of editing and re-editing the original author's style and unity of thought become disfigured. On the other hand the critics have to concede that law like many other social institutions changes rapidly with the passage of time and if any book is to retain its readership then it has to be subject to constant revision and up-dating. Clearly the task of the editor is not an easy one.

One remarkable aspect of this book is that the changes have been unobtrusively merged into the main text, and that despite the many changes that have been introduced into the last two editions, it still offers a clear and concise exposition of the law. The authorities have been brought up to date and most of these are discussed in some detail which both students and practitioners will find invaluable.

The law of tort has been in recent years especially in the field of negligence, under pressure for radical reforms in view of the widespread use of insurance as a medium of loss distribution. The book although it professes to state what the law is has not ignored this recent development in the law.

Local students using this book will be glad to note that since much of the law of tort is still the common law, little difficulty is encountered in deciding how much of the law expounded is applicable here. At the same time it has to be pointed out that the law of tort in Britain has been modified by statutes in certain areas. It is thus relevant to note that under Chapter 9 on Employers' Liability we do not have the British equivalent of the National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) Act 1946. Similarly extensive treatment has been given in Chapter 10 to the Occupiers' Liability Act 1957 to which there is no equivalent here. Furthermore the chapter on Animals has been rewritten to take into account the British Animals Act 1971.

POH CHU CHAI