

INTRODUCTION TO NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS. By J. McLOUGHLIN.
[London: Butterworths. 1975. xxvi+202 pp. £4 net]

Many readers may not be familiar with McLoughlin's *Introduction to Negotiable Instruments*, and for this they may be forgiven, for this book is making its maiden appearance on the market. I have no doubts that the appearance of this book is indeed very welcomed as it fulfils a very long felt need amongst teachers as well as students of the Law of Banking. The foundation of any course on the Law of Banking must rest on a sound understanding of the law relating to negotiable instruments. One finds this seriously lacking in most textbooks on the Law of Banking. This omission may not affect the legal practitioner but poses a serious obstacle to the student. This is so, because when he refers to the standard texts on the subject he will only find a tiny chapter devoted to this topic. Of course, the student may be referred to standard works on Bills of Exchange. This however is by no means the ideal compromise for such works are seldom intended for the student but for the seasoned legal practitioner. Further, they come in the form of commentaries on the Bill of Exchange Act, 1882 which students would find difficult to digest.

Although, McLoughlin's new book will not solve all of the student's problems it goes some way towards meeting them. This book is basically aimed at the student rather than the legal practitioner, although I have no doubts that they too will find it equally useful. The approach that McLoughlin has taken differs from the more traditional works on this subject. The approach is conceptual and this has been done in very clear and simple language. The book consists of eight chapters. Chapters 1 and 2 deal with the various classes of negotiable instruments and their characteristics. The workings of a bill of exchange is spread over the next three chapters. Chapter 6 deals with cheques while chapter 7 with the protection given to bankers under the Bill of Exchange Act. The concluding chapter is on promissory notes.

The law student will undoubtedly find this book a very useful introduction to the law of negotiable instruments. The book does not profess to be a complete work on the subject and the more serious students will find this an excellent spring-board to the standard works available on the subject.