

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Law Reform — The New Pattern*, being the Lindsay Memorial Lectures delivered at the University of Keele, November, 1967, by the Honourable Mr. Justice Scarman, London, Routledge & Kegan Paul Ltd., 1968. 64 pp. (12/6d. in England).

No person is better able to speak with authority on this subject than the author who is the Chairman of the Law Commission for England and Wales. The work is obviously that of a distinguished scholar. The first lecture describes the work currently being undertaken in Great Britain and the pattern of the work of reform adopted. The second discusses the problems associated with the work. It is of interest to see that the author proposes the adoption of Benjamin Cardozo's original thesis, namely the establishment of a Ministry of Justice to which the parliamentary functions could be assigned after the Commission had completed its work, or, alternatively, a third law officer in the House of Commons. There is no doubt that some such scheme will prove necessary if full advantage is to be taken of the work of the Commission. The third lecture deals with the future shape of the law. This presents a most interesting challenge. In general, codification is presented as the answer to most situations, and, although this has many critics, it is without doubt the most effective weapon of the reformer. I would not desire to join issue with the author on any of his ideas or proposals, except to say that I am still not convinced that statutory interpretation will be assisted by the production of a memorandum or commentary explaining the nature of the statute to which reference may be made by the judges. This is a charming and informative little book which no one interested in law reform should fail to read.

J. K. MANNING\*

*The Law of the Sea and Australian Off-Shore Areas*, by R. D. Lumb, Brisbane, University of Queensland Press, 1966, 86 pp. \$2.85.

This useful, though no longer up-to-date, little treatise is designed to present a concise discussion of the various international regimes governing national rights in off-shore maritime and submerged areas, especially in their application to Australia and of the allocation of the national powers accorded by these arrangements between the Commonwealth and the States under the Commonwealth Constitution. The regimes in question are seven in number, designated as (1) High Seas, (2) Territorial Waters, (3) Inland Waters, (4) The so-called Contiguous Zone, (5) Special Fishing Zone, (6) Continental Shelf, (7) Sedentary Fisheries. The international law governing these subjects is in part codified by the four Geneva Conventions on the Law of the Sea (viz., the Convention on the High Seas, the Convention on the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone, the Convention on the Continental Shelf and the Con-

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