

BOOK REVIEWS

1. MACGILLIVRAY AND PARKINGTON ON INSURANCE LAW 8th EDITION (1988) SWEET & MAXWELL £110

The appearance of a new edition of the insurance lawyers principal reference book is to be welcomed as in the seven years since the previous edition there have been changes in many areas. One of the Editors (or is it Authors) has changed. John Birds has taken over from Tony O'Dowd and on a domestic note readers will see that fifty percent of the Editors have been contributors at BILA Annual Conferences.

The Preface, often overlooked, sets out the major changes introduced by this edition. Most welcome of these is the chapter on reinsurance. As members are well aware this subject seems to be of increasing importance and I found such sections as the Duty of Disclosure which includes reference to both the Highlands and Oceanus cases to be of great value in formulating my thoughts. The cut off date appears to be January 1988 and it is therefore refreshing in the expanded chapter on motor insurance to find the new compulsory insurance for third party property mentioned. (This effectively starts on the 1st January 1989). Having seen the effects on P I of failure to give the MIB proper notice I found the reference to *Cooper v MIB* (1985) 1. QB575 to be of potential value for the future as authority for possible waiving of the required seven days notice.

One area of interest to BILA Members is the insurer's duty of good faith to his insured and this is one of the topics for the 1989 Colloquium. This Edition addresses itself to recent cases although it is unfortunate that the *Keyser Ullman v Skandia* case was not concluded in time to be dealt with fully although those attending the 1988 Annual Conference had the benefit of participating counsel's comments.

There are two other changes, the first a "pruning" of the Life Assurance chapter to what is described as "only questions peculiar" to the subject. The second is the reliance wherever possible on British authority rather than cases from other jurisdictions. Foreign authorities are used where there is a lack of the home grown variety and where "we consider that our courts might prefer the foreign authority". Could, I wonder, this be the beginning of a draft brochure for case law 'privitisation'!

Essentially this is a practitioners handbook which is still keeping its supremacy. Textbooks on Insurance Law are breeding but none of them removes the necessity for this latest edition.

M.A.C.