

The Pollution and Insurance Working Party's Study XIV, on coverage definitions is now complete, and in view of its importance, will be published by Graham & Trotman towards the end of the year. It contains a substantial amount of material comparing the way in which the problems of pollution in insurance coverage has been addressed in various countries particularly in the western world.

The Product Liability Working Party had a preliminary discussion of a Pan-European survey of the limits of insurability - that is the question of where the boundaries of insurance coverage are defined in various countries. As a result of the discussion, the survey questionnaire will be refined and then circulated, with a view to publishing the results in time for the Sydney Congress.

Anthony Fitzsimmons

BOOK REVIEW

The Modern Law of Negligence, second edition, by R.A. Buckley, Professor of Law, University of Reading

Published by Butterworths July 1993. Hardcover £67.50.

Text-books covering the law of negligence abound in many shapes and forms. One may peruse at length an in-depth study like the one by Charlesworth and Percy or one may refer to the "Negligence" chapters in a standard student's book.

Developments in this field of the law are, however, moving at quite a pace, a good example being the attitude of our courts over the past ten years or so to the concept of duty of care.

In the Preface to his first edition Professor Buckley stated that his work "... attempts to give particular emphasis to the themes and concerns which characterise the contemporary scene" and he starts in fact with a look at the changing fortunes of foreseeability with extensive discussion of the cases which followed *Caparo v. Dickman* and the recent "nervous shock" cases, several of which have resulted from major tragedies.

The work is divided into six sections, in which the author moves from a general look at the structure of the modern law, on to consideration of economic interests, how damages are assessed and then to actions for breach of various statutory

duties and how these duties link in with the general law.

Part five takes in certain special areas of liability with special emphasis on developments in the professional negligence field and there is also a useful review of the law relating to defective products in the light of the Consumer Protection Act 1987.

The role of the State is considered in the final section, as is the contribution of insurers and the question of reforms then rounds off the whole topic.

In conclusion Professor Buckley suggests that “. . . the main objective of reform of the law itself should be to bring about some reduction in the role of negligence, by development of strict liability for personal injuries in various defined categories”.

Altogether a clearly presented and well-structured work which certainly achieves its goal as expressed in the preface, namely “to provide a critical statement of the law of negligence placing particular emphasis upon contemporary authorities and current concerns”.

G.C.