At the same time he avoids an opinionated approach, seeking to strike a delicate balance between concise and clear information and brevity so as to avoid epic treatment of non-deserving issues. The extensive list of cases is extremely helpful and misses none of the relevant decisions.

The Law of Marine Insurance is without doubt valuable to the law student who seeks a well-written and concise but still sufficiently detailed overview of one of the most important areas of insurance law. Bennett has succeeded in handling the complex field of marine insurance with an unpretentious plain-English approach. Whether practitioners new to the field of marine insurance will benefit as much from Bennett's book as those with mere academic interest remains to be seen.

J. W. SCHULZE

Public Law in Israel. Edited by I. ZAMIR and A. ZYSBLAT. [Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1997. xvi + 444 pp. ISBN 0–19–825853–4. No price given]

THE public law of Israel is based on English common law principles. During the period of the British Mandate from 1920 to 1950, there was a large-scale reception of English law into the Ottoman legal system which had operated in Palestine during the period of Turkish rule. Like the United Kingdom, Israel does not have a written constitution; and although there is a set of Basic Laws dealing with many aspects of Israel's governmental system and with certain human rights, few of the provisions of these Basic Laws are entrenched. What makes Israeli public law especially interesting is that "the Supreme Court recognized that Israel's special political and social realities warranted an extraordinary judicial vigilance" (p.v). This book, which consists of a collection of important cases and statutory materials linked by quite short expository and analytical chapters written by distinguished academics, judges and government officials, richly illustrates "the remarkable willingness of the Supreme Court of Israel to intervene in all kinds of government actions on behalf of basic civil rights and the preservation of the rule of law" (p.v).

This book does not aim to be comprehensive. Instead, the editors have chosen to concentrate on areas in which the distinctively Israeli approach to public law is well illustrated. These include the non-statutory protection of human rights, conflicts of interest in the public service, the law of administrative contracts and promises, justiciability and standing, judicial review of legislation, and the application of public law principles in the occupied territories. In addition to making important primary materials available to a wider audience and setting them within a wider legal context, this fine volume provides valuable insights into the relationship between public law and the judicial function on the one hand, and social and political conditions on the other. It deserves a wide readership.

PETER CANE

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