

The Bar Gazette

The Council wishes to express its thanks to the Law Book Company of Australasia Pty Ltd. and to Simmons Limited for the great assistance and effort which resulted in the first issue of the Gazette being issued in a remarkably short time after the material for it was available. Without their aid, the issue would have been much later in point of time and much more laborious to the editor.

Bar Association Accommodation

The tenant of the ground floor of Wentworth Chambers has, as will have been observed, vacated the premises which it has occupied. These included the basement of the building with the exception of the area at present occupied by the Bar Association. Members will be interested to know that the space on the ground floor so vacated will be shortly occupied by the Companies Branch of the Registrar-General's Department, but that branch will need only the back bay of the basement.

The remainder of the basement will be remodelled for occupation by the Bar Association, and plans for this remodelling are at present under consideration by the Association's architects. The Board of Directors of Counsel's Chambers Ltd. have made this extra space available to the Association on extremely generous terms, and the Council desires to put on record its gratitude.

It is anticipated that the extra space will be used for the present restaurant facilities, and that the present common room will be used for the purpose of the library and as a lounge.

It is not possible at the present time to say when the conversion of the rear part of the premises will be completed, but it is anticipated that they will be in use towards the end of the year.

Committal Proceedings and Coronial Inquiries

In the first issue of this Gazette, there was reported a resolution agreed to in the Legislative Assembly on 28th February, 1961, calling for the appointment of a committee to inquire into the law and practice relating to coronial inquiries and committal procedures.

The President (*Bowen Q.C.*) has been in touch with the Minister of Justice (the Hon. N. J. *Mannix*) in connection with the matter, but there appears to be no prospect that the resolution will be implemented in the immediate future.

In view of the serious nature of the matters to be inquired into, and their importance to all branches of the community, the delay is most disappointing and may well lead to a repetition of the circumstances which caused the Bar Council to issue the report which was published in the March issue of the Gazette.

Reading and Education

The first series of lectures planned by the Reading and Education Committee has now been completed. On 28th March and 2nd May, 1961, *Riley Q.C.* delivered two lectures on the Ethics of the Bar; on 11th April and 9th May, *Snelling Q.C.* gave lectures on the History of the Bar in England and on the history of the Bar in New South Wales respectively. On 23rd May, 1961 *Rath Q.C.* talked on the use of a law library and techniques in legal research. The lectures have been attended by newly admitted members of the Bar as well as members who have been admitted as long as two or three years ago, the average attendance being about fifteen.

Extracts from the second of the lectures by *Snelling Q.C.* appear elsewhere in this issue.

For the second half of the year the Reading Committee is planning to have lectures on a number of aspects of the forensic art as well as on some aspects of practical courtcraft, delivered by leading members of the Bar.

It is interesting to note that in England compulsory reading or attendance at lectures is required of newly admitted members of the Bar, the lectures covering a very wide field including such matters as the drafting of documents, elocution, and preparation of a case. The lectures are given two or three times each week over a period of months.

Workers' Compensation Act

Following representations made by the Bar Council, an appeal to the Supreme Court from decisions of the Workers' Compensation Commission upon notice of motion has been provided for by the Workers' Compensation (Further Amendment) Act 1960 in addition to the traditional appeal by way of case stated by the Commission for the opinion of the Supreme Court.

The object of the Council's representations was to enable appeals to be instituted from decisions of the Commission promptly and to eliminate the very lengthy delays occasioned in the settling of cases stated.

The amending Act above referred to provided that the notice of motion should be filed in the Supreme Court within such time after the date of the award, order, ruling direction or decision complained of "as may be prescribed by rules made under" the Act. It also provided that these provisions were not to come into force until a date to be proclaimed. The Act was assented to on 1st December, 1960, but at the date of writing this note no proclamation has issued.

It is hoped that the necessary proclamation will be made very soon so that the new procedure may come into operation in the near future.