

Bar Council Committees

Elsewhere in this issue will be found references to committees set up by the Council to report upon various aspects of law reform. Many of the members of these committees are not members of the Council. It has become the policy of the Council to give as many members of the Bar as possible an opportunity to participate in the work of the Council as members of its committees. Furthermore, the work of the Council over the last few years has increased to such an extent that, in order to cover with any degree of efficiency or promptness the various tasks which need to be performed to enable the Bar to carry on in the complex conditions of today, the Council has thought it desirable to embark upon this policy. In every case when assistance has been sought, it has been given freely and fully and the Council wishes to thank those members of the Bar who have helped, often at very short notice, in the preparation of reports and otherwise.

University Prize

The Council recently resolved to donate a prize within the Faculty of Law at the University of Sydney, and, after consultation with the Dean of the Faculty (Professor K. O. *Shatwell*), decided to offer £50 award to the University Medallist in Law each year, the prize to be known as "The New South Wales Bar Association Prize". The Senate of the University has now informed the Council that it has accepted the offer, and it is anticipated that the first award of the prize will be made following the annual examinations in the Faculty for 1961.

Owen Dixon Chambers

Owen Dixon Chambers, the new building erected to house the Victorian Bar, was officially opened on Monday, 16th October, 1961. Our Association was represented by *Toose*, Q.C., on behalf of the President.

The Council has now been advised by the Victorian Bar Council that the common room in the new building is functioning and that members of our Association are welcome to use its facilities when in Melbourne.

The Superannuation Fund 1957

Subscribers—actual and intending—to the fund are reminded that, following the change in administrative policy which results in a notional distribution of the fund being made twice in every year, subscriptions paid up to the 31st December, 1961, will participate in the profits (actual and notional) of the six months from 1st January to 30th June, 1962.

In order therefore to gain the benefit of those profits it is urged that members send their subscriptions to the Registrar as soon as possible.

In the year ended 30th June, 1961, the value of each subscriber's interest in the fund increased by just on 16%. There is reason for optimism that results in the coming half year will be even better, on a proportionate basis.

Mental Health Act 1958

The article which appears later in this Gazette on the operation of the Mental Health Act 1958 recalls that in 1958, after the Bill for the Act had been introduced into the Legislative Assembly, it was considered by the Council. As a result of this amendments were suggested to the Government to a number of provisions of the Bill, which would have eliminated some of the archaisms and difficulties to which Mr. Justice Myers refers in his article. Among the archaisms to which the Council drew attention was the provision (s. 64 of the Act) which in some circumstances requires a Judge to make an order for the imprisonment of the debtor of a patient. None of the suggested amendments was incorporated in the Act.

E. D. Roper Memorial Prizes

The suggestion was made recently that steps should be taken to perpetuate the memory of the late Mr. Justice Roper, Chief Judge in Equity, who was for many years a lecturer at the Law School and later a Fellow of the Senate of the University of Sydney and Deputy Chancellor.

To this end a Committee was formed under the Chairmanship of the Honourable Sir Alan Taylor and it was decided, in conjunction with the Dean of the Law School, to raise a sum of £1,000 for the purpose of endowing two annual prizes to be awarded for proficiency in Equity, Succession and Company Law, and to be called the "E. D. Roper Memorial Prizes".

An appeal for contributions made amongst those members of the Bench, Bar and Solicitors who were colleagues of or were associated with the late Judge in his lifetime has produced a remarkably spontaneous response and in a matter of only a month or so a sum in excess of £500 has been raised. This amount together with any further contributions received by the Committee will in due course be handed over to the Law School for the purpose of endowing the prizes.

Any member of the Bar who wishes to contribute to this Fund should see the Registrar or A. F. Mason.