

rather than the present somewhat cumbersome procedure as provided by our "Interdict Act of 1867".

It is hoped that by the date of the next issue of the Gazette further information will be available concerning the activities and reports of these and the other various sub-committees and that there will be other matters worthy of publication.

Western Australian Letter

The Western Australian Bar had its formal beginning on 1st July, 1962. At the July Sittings of the Full Court of Western Australia, Mr. John Wickham, at the request of the Chief Justice, made a formal announcement to the Court of the formation of an independent Bar in Western Australia. He informed the Court that separate chambers had been constituted at 81 St. George's Terrace, Perth, comprising four separate suites with a common waiting room and library and that it was proposed to develop a separate Bar along traditional lines, under the initial leadership of Francis Burt Q.C. The other barrister going into Chambers, was Mr. Terence Walsh.

The Chief Justice expressed his satisfaction at the move and conveyed his congratulations and good wishes to the persons concerned. His Honour's remarks were endorsed by Mr. Justice Virtue and Mr. Justice D'Arcy.

The origin of the Bar in Western Australia can, however, be traced from a somewhat earlier date. On 1st March, 1961, Francis Burt, who had already taken silk, retired from his position as a senior partner in a firm of legal practitioners with a view to practising solely as a barrister. This was not the first occasion in Western Australia when an attempt had been made to do this but it was the first occasion which was to lead to serious consideration of the setting up of an independent Bar as such. Some months later, Terence Walsh, a comparatively newly admitted practitioner and the son of the late David Walsh (who had been one of the leading criminal lawyers in Western Australia) decided to follow in his father's footsteps and to practise as a barrister with an emphasis on criminal work. It was these two decisions together with the support and good wishes of the members of the profession that led to more formal organisation when a third member also retired from a senior partnership in a firm of practitioners with a view to taking part in the experiment.

The move would appear to have some support in Western Australia, although this comes more particularly from the smaller firms and those that do not specialise in litigious matters or do not have their own "Court man". While it is a little early yet to be certain of the position, it is possible now to forecast that the move will be successful and permanent. Another experienced junior will be joining the group on 1st July this year and a further experienced junior has committed himself to join the independent Bar not later than 1st March, 1964.

Formal ethical rules have not yet been drawn up but it is understood between the members of the Bar that conduct should be moulded on the English rules as modified so far as peculiar local circumstances require and having regard also to the conduct of the separate Bars in the Eastern States.

At present the overt act required to witness "going to the Bar" is a formal announcement by the practitioner to the Full Court that he has discontinued practice as a solicitor (or as a barrister and solicitor) and will practise solely as a barrister.

Australian Capital Territory

In the Australian Capital Territory, a formal announcement was made on 11th February, 1963, of the establishment of a Bar consisting of practitioners who propose for the future to practise as barristers only. The announcement was made at a sitting of the Supreme Court of the Territory attended by all the Judges of that Court (Dunphy, Joske and Eggleston JJ.). All three Judges expressed their gratification at the establishment of the Bar and offered to the independent barristers their congratulations and hopes for a prosperous future, as did Sir Kenneth Bailey (the Commonwealth Solicitor-General) on behalf of the Federal Attorney-General and Mr. B. R. Gallen on behalf of the practitioners of the Territory.

At the moment there are two members of the Canberra Bar, W. K. Nicholl and R. G. Bailey, the former a member of the New South Wales Bar now resident in Canberra, and the latter a Canberra practitioner of long standing.

One of Canberra's newest buildings is the Supreme Court Building which stands on Civic Hill facing London Circuit. Ever since the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory has sat in Canberra, it has occupied temporary quarters in the Patents Building not far from Parliament House. These quarters have long since been inadequate, no proper provision having been available for the public or for interviewing witnesses and the like. In addition, they were inconveniently located from the point of view of the profession.

Opened by the Prime Minister (the Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Menzies) on 8th May, 1963, the new building is situated in pleasant park-like surroundings and is conveniently located near the commercial centre of Canberra. There is adequate car-parking space nearby.

The building contains six courts for both Supreme Court Judges and Magistrates as well as the necessary administrative offices for the Court, and provides changing and conference rooms for the profession.

It is gratifying that, after the lapse of 36 years since the Federal Parliament first sat at Canberra, steps have at last been taken to provide proper accommodation for the courts of justice of the Territory.

Additions to the Library

Since the last issue of the Gazette, the following books have been added to the Library:

Treitel—Law of Contract.

Bowden—Forensic Medicine.

Blanco-White—Patents for Inventions (3rd Edn.) 1962.

Phillips—Constitutional & Administrative Law (3rd Edn.) 1962.