

and a common approach may be helpful. N.S.W. will make a survey of this area of activity and the A.B.A. will thereafter be able to consider whether there is any room for a joint approach.

The other subject remitted to a N.S.W. sub-committee has been called, for want of a more apt description, "Post-graduate Activities". This has to do with possible lines of action to improve the level of legal learning of the Bar. It is appreciated, of course, that the Bar is a profession in which learning in action is the essence of individual professional improvement. It is more or less traditional for a barrister to study the law in student days in no greater depth than is possible at the under-graduate level. The barrister "fills up" his specialist skills in practice and by reading of the law reports and law reviews. This is not the method of some other professions, members of which devote many years to the acquisition, by way of post-graduate study, of knowledge in great depth in their specialist areas of study. There are many forces at work in the world today which make the so-called practical method traditionally followed by the Bar not so effective in modern times as it undoubtedly used to be. Among factors operating are the need of the barrister to handle if he can many more cases per year to maintain anything like the standard of living enjoyed by earlier practitioners, due to the lower level of fees in real money terms today and the higher level of taxation. There is a great deal of litigation and it is accordingly open to many counsel to handle more cases than used to be commonly the case and perhaps to succumb to the temptation to handle too many. This results in a lack of leisure for full and careful reading of the law and for thinking about legal developments.

In N.S.W., in recent times, much thought has been given to the off-setting of these forces and it has been decided to inaugurate a system of "post-graduate" lec-

tures and seminars in various fields of the law on a voluntary basis, to be conducted by lecturers who are practising specialists in their subject together with academic teachers selected from within the Australian Universities. The lectures will probably be published. The Council of Post-Graduate Studies which has been appointed by the N.S.W. Bar Council (this may not be its ultimate designation) to organise these courses will publish such lectures if there be a sufficient demand. At a later stage the Council may give consideration to whether diplomas and examinations should be included in the scheme and will make recommendations on these matters to the N.S.W. Bar Council which is not committed to such formal developments.

The Executive of the A.B.A., after a discussion of the N.S.W. scheme, decided at its Melbourne meeting to request that the N.S.W. Council on Post-Graduate Education should be asked to consider and report on activities which might with advantage be undertaken by the A.B.A.

The N.S.W. experiment will provide information as to the demand for and interest in educational schemes of this kind and the N.S.W. body formulating plans for the N.S.W. Bar will, on the basis of its experience, provide a report for wider consideration within the A.B.A.

Several other matters which have arisen within the A.B.A. have been referred to the Law Council of Australia as being more appropriate for that body to take up. Reference is made to those matters in an article in this issue reporting on the activities of the Law Council of Australia.

Future developments in the various fields above referred to, and in relation to other matters arising within the Executive of the A.B.A. will be regularly made the subject of reports to the members in future issues of the A.B.A. Gazette.

Shortage of Chambers

The Bar Council's Accommodation Committee is now giving thought to the current need for Chambers. As soon as those who are to take Chambers in the new building and in Mena House move, some vacancies will occur in Chalfont Chambers. Information is available to the Accommodation Committee as a result of a general circular issued last year and a general meeting of those without Chambers held after the circular was issued.

However, the Committee is most anxious to have complete up-to-date information about the need for Chambers. All members of the Association who are without Chambers or who know of persons, whether practising at the Bar or not, who wish to acquire Chambers, are invited to inform the Registrar immediately.

With this information, the Accommodation Committee will be able to assess the requirements of the immediate future and take the necessary steps, as far as this is possible, to see that all those needing Chambers are provided for.

Rapid Reading

Some members of the Bar have recently reported the advantages of a short course on the abovementioned subject, conducted by the Workers' Education Association in conjunction with the University.

If 20 or 30 members of the Bar are interested in doing the course, arrangements could probably be made with an instructor who has been recommended, to conduct a course for members of the Bar in the Common Room at a cost of from three to four guineas for the course.

The course would be approximately of 12 sessions lasting 1½ to 2 hours each, to commence early in August and to concentrate on speed reading and skimming techniques and such other aspects as would be determined by consulting the group concerned.

No further action can be taken to make any arrangements for such a course unless at least 20 members of the Bar indicate to the Registrar that they wish to undertake it.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar.