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BOOKS NOTED

SUPREME COURT PRACTICE, Fourth Edition. By Robert L. Stern and Eugene Gressman. Washington, D.C.: BNA Books. 1969. Pp. xliii, 956. \$17.50. This highly readable volume has long occupied a prominent place among the standard reference texts utilized by those who practice before the High Court. The book's preeminence can be accounted for by both the fact that its authors write from their vantage point as practitioners possessing extensive first-hand knowledge of the ways and workings of the Court and the fact that, like its predecessors, the Fourth Edition has had the benefit of the scrutiny and constructive criticism provided by the staff of the Supreme Court Clerk's Office. The Fourth Edition represents more than a cosmetic reworking of its predecessor: The basic format of the earlier edition has been retained, but much new material has been added in order to provide a complete explication of the ramifications of the 1967 Supreme Court Rules, as well as the Court's recent decisions pertaining to jurisdictional and procedural matters. Also, a significant portion of the text has been rewritten to reflect the course that practice has taken under the rules which the 1967 revision left intact. The significant new material includes a chapter devoted to an explanation of the single appendix system established by Rule 36 and a chapter that presents an expanded discussion of the *in forma pauperis* procedures which now figure in over one-half of the cases on the Court's docket. These and other additions make the Fourth Edition an eminently current and practical guide for the appellate practitioner.

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF INTERNATIONAL OIL AND THE UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES. By Michael Tanger. Boston: Beacon Press. 1969. Pp. ii, 435. \$12.50. While oil's economic importance to the oil-rich nations of the Middle East has been much discussed, the more subtle influence which oil exerts on those underdeveloped countries that depend upon *imported* oil to propel their fledgling economies has attracted little comment. In these young nations, the mammoth international oil corporations exercise absolute control over the distribution of the key to national economic progress — the *sole* source of energy that is oil. Dr. Tanger begins his portrait of the industry's political nature with a circumspect description of the internal structure and policies of the large oil corporations, and then proceeds to examine the role of certain external influences which, at least in part, define the scope and direction of corporate activity. These external influences, generated within the political *détente* between east and west, represent an amalgam of the enlightened self-interest of the United States, the Soviet Union, and the oil producing nations of the Middle East. Despite the salutary influence of various international organizations, the composite of these internal and external factors compels the underdeveloped nations to either strike a defensive posture or to endure economic exploitation. After exploring the general nature of the industry, the book examines in detail the facets of India's oil policy, and then traces more briefly the situation in China, Iraq, and various Latin American nations. The political power possessed by the oil companies is clearly expounded in Dr. Tanger's discussion of oil boycotts — particularly that of Cuba. The international executive, the political economist, and the armchair polemic will all find this disquieting, yet fascinating volume to be an exemplary account of the dynamics of control in the world's most strategic industry.

UPDATING LIFE AND DEATH: ESSAYS IN ETHICS AND MEDICINE. Edited by Donald R. Cutler. Boston: Beacon Press. 1969. Pp. vi, 278. \$2.95. Mr. Cutler has assembled an interesting collection of essays dealing with such topical issues from the field of forensic medicine as organ transplants, contraception, and abortion. The essays present the views of medical ethics held by philosophers, theologians, and physicians, and, as the reader might anticipate, the volume encompasses a wide variety of writing styles. These stylistic variations range from a British physician's impassioned recounting of actual cases to a Catholic theologian's detached philosophical analysis. The editor has structured the volume in two sections: one deals with the ethical questions involved in organ transplants, the other explores the management of population. The first section is introduced by Joseph Fletcher who discusses the attitudes that inhibit people from becoming transplant donors. Next, Paul Ramsey argues that any revised definition of death necessitated by recent advances in medical technology must be grounded in a reverence for the dying patient — *never* in the needs of the anxious potential recipient. This theme is further developed by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Harvard Medical School to Examine the Definition of Brain Death, which sets out conditions of transfer to protect the donor, and by Dr. M. H. Poppworth who suggests several means of reducing the incidence of experiments done *without the subject's consent*. In the second section, R. B. Potter and Arthur Dycle of the Harvard Center for Population Studies discuss the abortion controversy, and delineate how cultural variations affect attitudes toward birth control. A final essay on abortion deals with the value conflict which must be resolved by a thoughtful approach to this controversial problem. The last two chapters present a synthesis of Western ideals which bear upon a resolution of the conflicts between medical technology and ethics. The volume represents an excellent resource for the lawyer interested in medical jurisprudence.

