she were a *feme sole*; and by a section of the Bankruptcy Act, 1913, re-enacted in section 125, sub-section 1, of the consolidating Act of 1914, she is now subject to the bankruptcy laws as if she were a *feme sole* if she "carries on a trade or business, *whether separately from her husband or not*." A group of cases decided in 1914 and 1915 have given this provision a broad construction. *Re Reynolds* [1915] 2 K. B. 186 decided that a woman trader who continues to trade after marriage can be made bankrupt after marriage on a debt incurred before marriage, while *Re Clark* [1914] 3 K. B. 1095 and *Re Allen* [1915] 1 K. B. 285 illustrate the rule that a married woman trader does not cease to be a trader, with the consequential liability to the bankruptcy laws, until all her trade or business debts have been paid (see pp. 35—6 and 404 of the 12th edition).

The position of the married woman and the survival of the reputed ownership clause (s. 38 of the Act of 1914) serve as a reminder that originally our bankruptcy laws were only devised to meet the case of traders, a bankrupt being defined by the statute of 1603 (which is not the earliest on the subject) as "a *trader* who secretes himself, or does certain other acts, tending to defraud his creditors" (Blackstone, Commentaries, II. 471). Subsequent statutes brought non-traders within the scope of the bankruptcy laws, and now at last, owing to these recent changes in the position of the Married Woman, non-traders and traders are alike liable to, and entitled to the relief granted by, the bankruptcy laws.

The recent war has left but little impression upon this part of our law. The alien enemy resident in enemy territory apparently retains his right of proving a pre-war debt, though not his right to receive a dividend during the war: *Ex p. Boussmaker* (1806) 13 Ves. 71; but he has no *locus standi* to move the Court to vary the rejection of his proof by the trustee: *Re Wilson* (1915) 84 L. J. K. B. 1893.

It would be presumptuous to praise a book which has so thoroughly established its reputation with the practitioner as this. The original and learned author (the late Lord Justice Vaughan Williams, who has died since the last edition, but whose contributions to our case-law will ever remain memorable) has left his book in capable hands. The work of noting-up the decisions of the intervening years has been satisfactorily done, and the usefulness of the book for another spell of years is assured.

A. D. McN.

Fry on the Specific Performance of Contracts. By A. G. R. NORTHCOTE, M.A. Sixth edition. Stevens & Sons, Ltd., London. (Price £2 10s.)

THE first edition of this classic was published in 1858, and since the last edition in 1911, its learned author, the Rt. Hon. Sir Edward Fry, G.C.B., has passed away after a career which was remarkable, not only at the bar and on the bench, but for the many distinguished public services which he was able to render in legal and other matters for many years after his retirement from the Court of Appeal. The book has always been noteworthy for its combination of a deep knowledge of the historical and jurisprudential aspects of the subject with the up-to-date experience of the Chancery practitioner. Its author and successive editors have felt

compelled to deal with many matters which would more usually be sought for in a general treatise on the law of Contract, for instance, Parties to a Contract, Offer and Acceptance, the Statute of Frauds, Misrepresentation, Fraud, and Mistake; in doing so they have made welcome contributions to the exposition of the general law of Contract, particularly at the points where the influence of Equity has most affected its development.

A great many of the difficult points in the law of Contract are just as likely to arise in actions for Specific Performance as in actions for Damages, for instance, *Dickinson v. Dodds* (1876) 2 Ch. D. 463, a decision which the learned author does not question. Cases on the revocation of an offer are rare, and we are a little surprised not to find in the book any reference to *Cartwright v. Hoogstoel* (1911) 105 L. T. 628 (also a case of specific performance), where Eve, J., discussed and, as in duty bound, followed *Dickinson v. Dodds*.

To the practitioner the book needs no commendation; for the student who has not yet made its acquaintance we would direct particular attention to the first chapter, "The Origin and Character of the Jurisdiction," and to the chapter on "The Statute of Frauds and Part Performance," a subject which is all too lightly treated in most general treatises on the law of Contract.

The decisions falling within the scope of this work since the last edition in 1911 are numerous, and Mr. Northcote's considerable labours have resulted in the production of an edition which is in keeping with the high traditions of the book.

A. D. McN.

Palmer's Company Law. By ALFRED F. TOPHAM, LL.M., assisted by LIONEL L. COHEN, M.A., and ALFRED R. TAYLOUR, B.A. Eleventh edition. Stevens & Sons, Ltd., London. (Price 25s. net.)

SIR FRANCIS PALMER'S Practical Handbook of Company Law "for lawyers and business men" has, from its first appearance in 1898, held the field as the most useful text-book on Company Law extant. It passed through nine editions during the distinguished author's lifetime, and the 10th edition (1916) and the present issue, come from the competent and experienced hands of Mr. Topham, whose "Principles of Company Law" has been found by students preparing for both branches of the profession, a very present help in time of trouble. The summary of "Leading Cases" (Chapter XLVIII), which has been a commendable feature of the book from the first, and which might well be amplified, is of great assistance as a guide to the main principles of company law.

D. T. O.

Sutcliffe's Company Law. Stevens & Sons, Ltd., London. pp. xxxi and 514. (Price 12s. 6d. net.)

MR. SUTCLIFFE has written a book which will prove of great value both to the student who is about to take an examination and to the practising barrister. In a short compass he deals with the most important practical