

ureter by the use of shock waves. NHTAP subsequently issued *Shock Wave Lithotripsy: A Technology Update* in 1987. *Gallstone Lithotripsy* is thus the third NHTAP report on this new technology, specifically on the treatment of stones in the gallbladder and the bile duct. ESWL of gallbladder stones is accompanied by oral bile acid therapy, but this complementary therapy is not undertaken for bile duct stones.

NHTAP considers that routine use of ESWL for gallbladder and bile duct stones in Australia would be "premature". The Panel considers that this technology should not be used in Australia except in the context of a clinical trial with a well designed assessment protocol. No more than one unit would be justified in the trial phase. The unit should be sited in a major hospital with expertise in biliary disorders, experience in clinical evaluation, and adequate back-up facilities" (p. 2).

DPD

Share Markets and Portfolio Theory 2nd edition, edited by R. Ball, P. Brown, F.J. Finn and R.R. Officer
(University of Queensland Press, Brisbane, 1989), pp. xx + 472, paper \$49.95, ISBN 0 7022 2163 5.

Rigorous study of finance and capital markets in Australia dates from the early 1970s. This is the second edition of a widely-used book of readings that brings together some of the most important Australian research in finance. The book consists of thirty-four chapters divided into sections entitled Introduction; The Distribution of Share Returns; Risk and Return; Estimation of Relative Risk; Price Response in Share Markets; Evaluation of Investment Strategies and Contingent Claim Pricing. Twenty of the thirty-four chapters were not included in the first edition.

DPD

The Rule of Law: Foundations of Constitutional Democracy by Geoffrey De Q. Walker
(Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1988), pp. xxvi + 475, Cloth \$62.95, ISBN 0 522 84347 6.

Walker sees the Rule of Law as "a legal and constitutional doctrine" which reconciles two antagonistic currents observable in the history of government viz. "power" and "law". Thus it is a normative concept. Walker sees this concept as "the basis for the whole system of constitutional democracy and perhaps of all civilised society".

This large monograph is a legal text that would also be of interest to people concerned with the characteristics of a society in which “all individuals and all groups recognise an obligation to comply with law and act accordingly” (p. 2).

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