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British Social Welfare: Past Present and Future. David Gladstone
(Ed.).

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this environment. Indeed, her chapter dealing with the impact of law on social work practice reveals that those who ignore the legal context of professional practice do so at their peril.

Schroeder has written an extremely useful book which should be consulted by every social worker. It is comprehensive, easy to read and informative. It begins by introducing readers to basic legal concepts, and proceeds to cover the legal dimensions of many diverse fields of social work. As was noted earlier, the book contains a particularly useful chapter on the legal implications of social work practice. The book also contains specialist sections on the legal aspects of child welfare, social security, family life and the criminal justice system. It deserves to be the standard reference work on the subject and should be widely prescribed not only for social work students but practitioners as well.

David Gladstone (Ed.), *British Social Welfare: Past Present and Future*. Bristol, PA: Taylor and Francis, 1995. \$24.95 papercover.

The belief that governments should provide universal social services for the whole population is central to the welfare state ideal. Although this ideal has found expression in many countries, it was perhaps most thoroughly embraced in Britain where the principles laid down by Lord William Beveridge and his colleagues in 1942 were widely implemented.

However, as this useful collection of papers about the British welfare state reveals, these principles are no longer universally endorsed. Mrs. Thatcher may not have demolished the welfare state, but her regime successfully undermined its basic tenets. Gladstone's book reflects the new and depressing realities of social policy in Britain. Although written as a textbook for British undergraduates, it will be of interest to readers in other countries. By analyzing the new realities facing social welfare, it transcends the purely descriptive approach which has been so widely used in many other textbooks on British social policy. Although it is characterized by mood of resignation, it is highly informative. It should be widely consulted by those who seek current information about the state of the welfare state.