

Editorial

"THE ARTICLES", said *The Times* "as might be expected in a periodical published by the Prison Commissioners are on the cautious side." "Complacency," said *The British Journal of Criminology*, "is of course one of the dangers against which any semi-official publication of this kind . . . has to guard itself." But both organs went out of their way to give our appearance a friendly welcome, as did many others.

There was, in some quarters, criticism of the amount of space devoted to book reviews but on the other hand the quality and high standard of these reviews was hailed as "most remarkable" (*British Journal of Criminology*) and "noteworthy" (*Hunts Post*).

As to book reviews, we regard it as part of our function to notice all publications which are relevant to our task and problems; but the balance between Articles and Features and Reviews in our first number should not be regarded as fixed. Its redress will depend in part upon the volume of your own contributions. For the rest it will perhaps suffice if we thank all those who wished us success; and promise to be neither too cautious nor too complacent.

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Since our last appearance our most distinguished contributor has retired from the public service. It is likely that Sir Lionel Fox will also come to be recognised as the Prison Commission's most distinguished Chairman. If that recognition has been delayed it is probably due to his own reticence and dislike of personal publicity. As Chairman since 1942 he has had to contend with difficulties of a different order from any met by his predecessors in that office. It will have pleased him that the nature of his achievement in dealing with them, whilst at the same time pursuing a policy of development, should have been recognised in an eloquent leading article in the November issue of *The Prison Officers' Magazine*.

Sir Lionel has an international reputation not only as an administrator and practical penologist but also as a scholar. He has already published two books and numerous articles. It is to be hoped that his Fellowship at the Institute of Criminology at Cambridge will enable him to add to their number, and make available his thoughts on the perennial problems of crime and punishment about which he is uniquely qualified to speak.

We would like to conclude by wishing him a long, happy—and active retirement.

EDITOR