

**BOOK REVIEWS—cont.****PRISON SCREW**

L. W. Merrow Smith and J. Harris  
Herbert Jenkins 21s.

BOOKS by Prison Officers about their work are very rare and thus the experiences of Mr. Merrow Smith, who in his time has been an outstanding officer at Parkhurst, Principal Officer at Wakefield, Chief Officer at Oxford amongst other places, are to be welcomed. The many stories he has are interesting and often amusing, but it is a pity that most are about Parkhurst and little is said of his time as Principal and Chief Officer, for this would have been of value. He also gives a perceptive account

of prison routine which will be interesting to the lay reader, Mr. Merrow Smith has not however been served well by his collaborator, for the summary of his views and opinions on penal practice do not appear to spring from the detail of his experiences. He claims that the letter of the rules should be strictly adhered to and that he is a man without compassion as far as prisoners are concerned yet the conclusion one draws from the main body of his book is that he has been ready to use his initiative in looking after prisoners and that he is, in the best sense, a wise and compassionate man.

M. SELBY

## New Books

*The inclusion of a book in this list does not preclude its subsequent review.*

**INDIA AND ABROAD**

**Facts and Perspectives, with regard to Social Defence and Child Guidance**

This monograph, by Shree R. B. Mishra, Senior Psychologist at the pilot centre for the education of juvenile delinquents at Hazaribagh, Bihar, is a report submitted to the United Nations. Mr. Mishra, who toured the English prisons at the time of the Second United Nations Congress, also made a comprehensive study of conditions in the Scandinavian Countries. His report which includes some shrewd comments on various prisons and hostels, may be borrowed from the Editor.

**BLACKFRIARS SETTLEMENT**

Annual Report 1960-61 describes the work of the fifty-eight voluntary 'Associates' who each take responsibility for one individual ex-prisoner. They meet him while he is still in prison, try to plan work or accommodation or other

assistance for him, and keep in regular touch, after his discharge. All this, of course, in their spare time. And often in considerable portions of their spare time, for they quickly find that mere attention to material needs is almost valueless. Instead they have really to try to get to know their man, really try to be a friend to him. For it is frequently in this less tangible way that the Associate does most of his good work. Often what the man most needs is someone who is genuinely interested in him, who will take real trouble in helping and listening, and who does not need to think of him as one of a given case-load. Someone who will be patient or even welcoming, who will not condemn him for an occasional lapse, and who will not be irritated if he is slow or inarticulate. And, most of all, someone who will not attempt to impose upon him a false and alien middle-class morality. Mr. David Collett is the Warden and Mr. Alan Markham the Organiser of the Prison After Care Scheme. Copies of the report are available from 44-47 Nelson Square, S.E.1.

NEW BOOKS—*cont.*CANADIAN JOURNAL OF  
CORRECTIONS Vol. 4, No. 1.

Articles on the Youth Prison in Sweden, Yugoslavian Young Offenders, Northern Nigerian Training Schools, South African Juvenile Delinquents and the work of the Institute for Prevention and Detention in Rome.

The Journal's news of Current Research in Canadian Universities and elsewhere includes reference to "A design for Clinical Classification of Offenders", "Criminal Partnership" and an historical study of crime and punishment in Canada.

Dr. Sturup, of Herstedvester, writing on "Is there a place for corporal punishment in a penal system?" says "We seem to be reluctant to acknowledge the fact that aggressive behaviour is not counteracted by our answering in kind."

## A LANCE FOR LIBERTY

J. D. CASSWELL, Q.C.,

Harrap.

25s. 0d.

Fascinating, beautifully written and well illustrated, this is an account of many famous legal occasions, many connected with Mr. Casswell's own work as Counsel for the Defence. Prison officers (and prison doctors) will be intrigued by many references to men, and women, they have met in the electric atmosphere of a murder trial. There is an illuminating reproduction of a note passed by Neville Heath to Mr. Casswell after a reference to "continual observation". It read "Continual observation" at the hospital consists of an old warden, almost illiterate, and with no knowledge of medicine, present in the ward throughout the day. The daily observation book kept by him records such things as "slept" or "didn't sleep". In other words quite normal occurrences. No real observation is kept. The book has many such details which will be of considerable interest to the student of human behaviour.

## THE PURSUIT OF CRIME

SIR RONALD HOWE, former Head  
of C.I.D., Scotland Yard.

Arthur Barker Ltd. 21s. 0d.

This is another book of reminiscences which offers fascinating glimpses of the

big names in the criminal world and it is particularly interesting to read the opinion of a lawyer turned policeman of the psychopathic personalities who have figured in the sensational trials in this century. "What is to be done about people such as these?" asks Sir Ronald at the end of a chapter on Christie, Gifford, Haigh and Heath. "I cannot say I like the idea of paying taxes for the permanent upkeep of men like Heath but capital punishment is plainly no solution as a deterrent for these psychopaths and paranoics because ultimately they seem to welcome death."

## CRIME IN OUR TIME

JOSEPHINE BELL.

Nicholas Vane

21s. 0d.

This is another useful volume for the serious student. Because of the author's training as a novelist, and doctor of thirty years' experience, this is a shrewdly written and carefully observed piece of work. It begins by contrasting a day of crime in London in 1900, with a similar day in 1930 and then another in 1960. 'Big names' jostle with the small fry of the courts but the types of criminal are described clinically and dispassionately. Here are some definitions which will be equally acceptable to the doctor as to the layman and the general public for whom, Miss Bell says, this book is intended. The law and its administration is examined in detail, as is the prison administration and the general background of the treatment of the offender.

The remedy, says Miss Bell, is with us. "It is time we stopped grumbling at the 'badness' of our society's erring youngsters and helped them to secure their heritage. It is time we took full responsibility for the behaviour of our own children, seeing in their faults and failures not an unfair evil, not a social embarrassment, not a threat to our own convenience, but a close reflection of someone's manifold shortcomings".

Among new methods in dealing with delinquents mentioned by Miss Bell is "Group" work. Students of group methods in penal institutions will like to see how these are being developed in New Zealand. The Secretary for Justice, in Wellington, is responsible for a duplicated booklet on this subject which may be borrowed from the Editor.