

Committee on Criminal Statistics

A COMMITTEE to review the arrangements for the recording, collection and presentation of the Criminal Statistics for England and Wales is to be set up by the Home Secretary, the Rt. Hon. Henry Brooke, M.P. The chairman will be Mr. Wilfred Perks, Actuary of the Pearl Insurance Company.

The Committee's terms of reference will be:

"To consider and report what changes, if any, are desirable in existing arrangements in England and Wales for the recording and reporting for statistical purposes of information about criminal offences and proceedings, and about non-criminal proceedings in magistrates' courts, and in the collection and presentation of statistics relating to these matters."

An annual volume of Criminal Statistics is presented to Parliament each year in accordance with the provisions of section 14 of the County and Borough Police Act, 1856. (More detailed information about motoring offences and about offences of drunkenness is given in separate annual publications). The form and bases of the Criminal Statistics have remained substantially unchanged since the last century. Much more use is now made of the statistics, partly because more research into crime and the treatment of offenders is being carried out, and partly because the present great public interest in crime makes it necessary to cite the statistics more frequently than has been necessary hitherto.

Mr. Perks, the Chairman of the Committee, did some work for the Royal Commission on Population (1944-49) and he has more recently been concerned with a committee on decimal currency.

The other members are :

Mr. W. K. Angus, Clerk to the Reading Borough Justices.

Mr. B. N. Beddington, one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary (formerly Chief Constable of Cambridge).

Chief Superintendent J. G. Bliss of the Metropolitan Police.

Miss Beryl Cooper, a Barrister, and joint author of the Bow Group pamphlet *Crime in the Sixties* published in March this year.

Mr. T. S. Lodge, Director of the Home Office Research Unit and Statistical Adviser to the Home Office.

Mr. F. H. McClintock, Assistant Director, Cambridge Institute of Criminology.

Mr. R. E. Millard, Clerk of the Peace for Buckinghamshire.

Professor C. A. Moser, Professor of Social Statistics at the London School of Economics.

Mr. R. W. Walker, Chief Constable of Eastbourne.

Mr. A. F. Wilcox, Chief Constable of Hertfordshire.

Mr. H. B. Wilson, Criminal Department, Home Office.

Lady Wootton of Abinger.