

since 1914. The duties of the department extend beyond the bounds of criminal actions, but it is with this field that the book is directly concerned. To assist the lawyers who will defend an accused, the Office of Public Defender employs investigators whose duty it is to provide the defence with anything in the way of evidence pertaining to his case. In effect it enables defence counsel to know exactly where he stands when he faces the Court.

The author is Chief Investigator of Los Angeles County's Office of Public Defender and while the book deals largely with his experiences in this office it outlines many of the problems facing any investigator.

**FUNDAMENTALS OF FIRST AID**, by Robert A. Mustard, B.A., M.D., F.R.C.S. (C). Published and approved by The Priory of Canada of The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. Pp. 116.

Members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Armed Services, Civil Defence personnel and employees of some large industries who have had a chance to study this book, will, if they have had any training in First Aid, recognize the revolutionary nature of its text. It is simple, straightforward, profusely illustrated and without the highly technical medical jargon which has so often confused First Aid students to the point of limiting their understanding of the subject.

Basically three principles were considered in the preparation of this work and they summarize the new approach to the teaching of this important subject.

- 1) "... it has been assumed that professional medical help for the injured will always be available within a few minutes or a few hours."
- 2) "... no material should be included which has not a direct practical application in the care of casualties by First Aid personnel."
- 3) "... as far as possible, all First Aid measures should be justified by simple logical explanations."

The manual has been prepared for the layman, therefore, with the accent on common sense application of the fundamentals of First Aid rather than on the unnecessary memorization of a lot of confusing details.

As indicated earlier, this book has already been adopted by the Force, the Services and some industries. It would be a definite asset in the study of the subject by any group, or for that matter, by any individual. And in a day when accidents are becoming far too commonplace, a working knowledge of First Aid will instill confidence in a person who is suddenly confronted with the responsibilities of dealing with an emergency. To this end the book will be sold to the public through St. John Ambulance branches throughout the country.

Dr. Robert A. Mustard, who prepared this book, is Clinical Associate, Department of Surgery, University of Toronto and Attending Surgeon, Toronto General Hospital.

**WINGED CANOES AT NOOTKA**, by Pamela Stephen. J. M. Dent & Sons (Canada) Ltd., Toronto and Vancouver, Canada. Illustrated. Pp. 227. \$3.

This episodic revelation of the exploration and settlement of our third largest province begins with Captain Cook's arrival at Nootka Sound and progresses to the brink of World War I. In between, hardy explorers encounter Indians, hardened miners repudiate the law and off the coast English sailing vessels clash with foreign. Indians express resentment with violent massacres, terrified citizens of Fernie flee from a nightmare of ravaging fire, train robbers succumb to temptation and all emphasizes the turmoil which characterized British Columbia's history.

Between conflict, we find stories that happily reaffirm our faith in the overall virtue of the human race and in these more sedate moments we are introduced to a host of amiable folk engaged in a struggle to relocate themselves amid strange new surroundings.

Using her imagination to color some purely factual incidents, Pamela Stephen has drawn near a romantic era and if, for the purpose of retaining the interest of young readers, the stress has been on action, it has been all to the good, for under that sugar coating of concise racy drama, there lies a great deal of information—concerning an epoch that was, after all, anything but a peaceful one.

M.G.R.