

Book Reviews

POLICE MANUAL OF ARRESTS AND SEARCHES, by Leonard J. Hobbs. The Carswell Co. Ltd., Toronto. Pp. ix and 112. \$1.50.

Despite the fact that the rights and duties involved in the subjects treated in this little book have their origin in the common law, they are by no means free from technicalities. The author, who is again a member of the R.C.M.P. (his police service was interrupted by service in the army Overseas), has done a very useful service in gathering into handy compass the law relating to them. The book is well arranged and the points concisely stated, and it is plain that much research has gone into its preparation. The citations include about 150 cases, drawn from the British Commonwealth and the United States of America.

Two considerations might be suggested by way of constructive, rather than critical comment. Even within the limitation of space which the author has imposed upon himself, he might usefully have dwelt more upon what are sometimes called "provincial crimes".

Again, the failure to mention the case of *Fleming v. Spracklin*, 38 C.C.C. 99, is a notable omission. That hard-fought case might well have been included, if only as a conspicuous example to show how these police duties should *not* be carried out. J.C.M.

THE MODERN PRISON SYSTEM OF INDIA, by Lt. Col. F. A. Barker. The Macmillan Co. of Canada Ltd., Toronto. Pp. 139. \$3.

This book is one of a series of studies in criminal science published under the auspices of the Faculty of Law in the University of Cambridge. It is not a large book, but it is a very solid one written with a noticeable economy of words; that it is authoritative no one can doubt, since Lieutenant Colonel Barker has had long experience of prison administration in India, including some time during which he was in charge of the famous penal settlement in the Andamans. His own "report", as he calls it in the sub-title, is really a commentary upon the findings and recommendations of the Indian Jails Committee of 1919-20, which findings and recommendations are appended in a lengthy summary.

The book deals with every phase of prison

administration and is imbued throughout with a broadly humane spirit which lays stress upon the medical and reformative sides of the subject, rather than upon the punitive side. One problem appears when, on p. 49, the author refers to the short sentence as "that bane of prison administration and reform", and on the next page, to the ill effects which prisoners suffer from long terms of imprisonment. The solution, he indicates, lies in indeterminate sentences and in the wider use of Borstal training, where that is applicable.

This and many other of the problems which appear are not confined to India, but there are many others, arising largely out of politics and religious customs, which belong peculiarly to that country. By way of filling in the background, Sir Louis Stuart and Mr. A. Campbell, both of whom have had judicial experience in India, have contributed highly interesting notes upon certain features of criminality which "that eminently successful code of law", the Indian Penal Code, must combat. J.C.M.

NEW YORK MURDERS, edited by Ted Collins. Wm. Collins Sons and Co. Ltd., Toronto. 242 pp. with calendar of New York murders and bibliography. \$3.

First of several books in the Regional Murder Series, this work gives the details of seven notorious New York homicides, most of which occurred about or before the turn of the century when brawn and "hunches" were considered more important as police attributes than brains and science. Contributions by five well-known authors, Angelica Gibbs, Baynard Kendrick, Edward D. Radin, Kurt Steel and Lawrence Treat are included and the whole makes up a worth-while anthology that will please murder-mystery addicts and students of criminology alike.

The book emphasizes the value of scientific crime detection and tells how in one instance its application solved a case and saved an innocent man from the electric chair. As the editor points out in the preface, it was an era which makes us wonder "how criminals were ever brought to justice in the days before finger-prints, ballistics, the microscope and modern medical science".

Other volumes in the series are in course of preparation. M.P.