

NEW ORLEANS WOMAN, by Harnett T. Kane. McClelland and Stewart Ltd., Toronto. Pp. 344. \$3.

It is not usual for the *Quarterly* to include the review of a novel, but an exception may be made in this instance because it may be classed as a legal novel. It is based on the facts of what a judge has termed "the most remarkable case in the history of the American Courts", a description which seems to be justified inasmuch as it was before the courts for 64 years and before the United States Supreme Court 17 times.

The stake was large—"those plantation lands, and that one third of all New Orleans, including Canal Street"—and the story is that of the struggle of Myra Clark not only to recover her inheritance, but also to clear her mother's name and her own. Admittedly, the novelist has "telescoped" the long series of events so as to bring it within reasonable compass, but he has not sacrificed the plot to do so.

Strong elements of drama, conflict and suspense are unfolded against the exotic background of the New Orleans of more than a century ago, with a sprinkling of detail from the history of Louisiana under French rule. How this indomitable woman contended against the villainy of executors, the corruption of officials and the ostracism of society is for the novelist, not the reviewer to tell.

The book is entertaining and that, of course, is its purpose, but it has real substance too.

HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION, by Le-Moyne Snyder, with contributed chapters by Capt. Harold Mulbar, Charles M. Wilson, and C. W. Muehlberger and foreword by Oscar G. Olander, Commissioner of the Michigan State Police. The Ryerson Press, Toronto. Pp. xiii and 271. Illustrated. \$6.25.

It may be that a policeman may go through his years of service without having to deal with a case of sudden death, violent or otherwise, but such a policeman must be very much the exception. Rather is it true that the policeman may be called upon at any time at a moment's notice, to deal with such a case, and nothing in his work is more important than that he should be prepared to do so adequately.

Nothing could be better calculated than this book to guide him through the maze of detail which he should observe in cases involving considerations of medico-legal science, and it would be difficult to imagine a contingency within the scope of the book which it does not cover. Dr. Snyder, who is medico-legal director of the Michigan State Police, has set himself to "explain simply and in the language of a layman how to proceed in the investigation of the usual types of homicide". The information and advice which he gives are concise and practical and are written with the realization that improvement in technique is constantly taking place.

The contributed chapters on "The Preservation and Transportation of Firearms Evidence", "The Investigation of Deaths due to Highway Accidents", and "Technique of Criminal Interrogation" are well written and authoritative—the second unfortunately calls for too frequent application. As for the last the Canadian reader should be warned that he should be careful to apply it only in the light of the cases decided in Canadian Courts. The admissibility in evidence of statements made by accused persons is a highly contentious subject and the case law is not yet settled. With that cautionary note the book is one which can be recommended to police readers.

CHIEF JUSTICE STONE AND THE SUPREME COURT, by Samuel J. Konefsky, with prefatory note by Charles A. Beard. The Macmillan Co. of Canada Ltd. Pp. xxiv and 275. \$3.

The late Harlan F. Stone was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States in 1925 and was made Chief Justice in 1941. It is significant of the stature of the man that opposition to his first appointment had turned to warm approval of the second. This book undertakes "to present, by means of the analysis of the great public issues that have come to the Court for decision, Mr. Stone's conception of the Supreme Court's special function in interpreting the Constitution". It is but fair to say that the reader who looks for human interest in the presentation will find no more than a trace of it (and that in Dr. Beard's preface), and that this reader does not agree with the note on the jacket that