

possibilities. The most interesting chapters are those dealing with the countries of the west coast of South America.

The great weakness of American writers in dealing with the Latin-American countries has been their inability to appreciate a point of view different from their own, and to judge South American development exclusively by American standards. This danger Mr. Osborn has happily avoided, and it lends to his book exceptional value as an introduction to the subject. Books such as these, while they do not give to the reader a very deep knowledge of Latin-American civilization, perform the equally useful service of awakening greater interest in the growing significance of these countries. Mr. Osborn's book adds to the list of descriptive works which has been increasing so rapidly within recent years. We are now prepared, however, for a more serious monographic treatment, not only of each of the countries, but of each phase of national life as it expresses itself in Central and South America. Until we have such a series of monographs, students of Latin-American civilization cannot hope to form an accurate judgment as to the real significance of the political, economic and social development that is taking place to the south of the United States.

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Quinton, R. F. *Crime and Criminals, 1876-1910.* Pp. xvi, 259. Price, \$1.50. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1910.

The author of this book served for twenty-five years as a medical officer in the Portsmouth, Millbank, Hull, Manchester, Liverpool, Wandsworth and Parkhurst prisons, and was subsequently for about nine years governor of Holloway Prison in London. This book gives in a somewhat discursive fashion many of his experiences and opinions.

The first two chapters contain statistics of the population of prisons which seem to indicate that crime has decreased in England during the last thirty years. This decrease is attributed in the main to rescue work done for boys who are likely to become criminals and also to improvement in the administration of prisons. In the third chapter prison labor is discussed. He condemns unproductive forms of labor, such as working on the treadmill, which existed in English prisons when he commenced his service in them.

In the next chapter the professional criminal who is to be found usually in the convict prisons is discussed. He points out the attractions a life of crime has for such individuals and describes the excellent conduct within the prison which characterizes many of these criminals.

The fifth chapter is devoted to a discussion of the habitual petty offenders to be found usually in local prisons, such as vagrants and drunkards. He describes the chronic fatigue which seems to characterize them and points out very wisely the utter uselessness of many times repeated short imprisonments for this type of criminal. In the next two chapters the author describes

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approvingly the so-called Borstal system, which is an attempt to specialize the treatment of youthful offenders within the prisons so as to improve their condition physically and mentally and to teach them a trade. This attempt seems to be along the line of the American industrial reformatory, though the author criticises quite severely the Elmira Reformatory. In the eighth chapter he depicts the exceedingly bad conditions which existed in English prisons in the time of John Howard and shows their subsequent great improvement. Discipline in the English prisons and its deterrent and reformatory effects are the subject matter of the last two chapters. American prisons are here criticised for what he believes to be their too great laxity of discipline.

Dr. Quinton has had a long practical experience within prisons, as is shown by the character of the present volume. But the author seems to be quite ignorant of the literature of criminology and his knowledge is apparently of the purely empirical sort. Dr. Quinton is manifestly an uncompromising defender of the existing prison system. There are, of course, wide differences of opinion on this point.

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**Stimson, F. J** *Popular Law Making*. Pp. xii, 390. Price, \$2.50. New York: Scribner's Sons, 1910.

Mr. Stimson's recent works on constitutional law are now supplemented by a discussion of statute law. The latest study is decidedly popular in style and will disappoint those who look for a scholarly analysis. The chapters devoted to the origin and history of law making by statute, forming the first third of the work, are decidedly the most thorough portion. There is little new material presented, but the development of the English parliament from a judicial to a legislative body, the gradual growth of the importance of statutory law and the character of some of the early legislation are ably discussed. The chapters on Early Labor Legislation and Laws Against Restraint of Trade and "Trusts" are in a field where the most valuable of Mr. Stimson's work has been done, and they are the best portion of the book.

The greater portion of the book is devoted to a discussion of American legislation and its tendencies. The chapters are sketchy in style—partly the result no doubt of the fact that the book is based on a series of lectures. There is evident the lawyer's prejudice against anything which modifies the sacred structure of the common law. "It has been well doubted . . . if this immense mass of legislation is a benefit at all" (p. 117). "Nobody is so willing to interfere with the rights or liberties of the people as the people themselves" (p. 121). If this be true, our first interest must be not what is the object of the book—to study the content of the laws that express our struggle for better conditions, but to find out the best way to hinder their passage and minimize their effects. Discouraging indeed must be the prospect

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