

getics. M. Marcazzan, whose theme is 'the School and the University', is polished, sober and reasonable, but a bit lacking in fire and force. He deplors facile criticisms of the system and observes, rightly, that they are often politically biased. He warns against the danger of a *politiccizzazione della scuola*, from whichever side this may come. The system of State schools—which in Italy means very nearly all the schools—as envisaged by the Constitution, is still young and its defects are like growing pains. The essential thing is to keep on reforming it as far as possible from *within*. The rather prickly matter of the religious instruction given in the State schools—a favourite target of the 'laicists'—is not discussed; but it turns up at the end of the book in the concluding remarks of G. B. Scaglia.

The remaining lecture, by A. Del Nocco on the relations between culture and politics in present-day Italy, is in a way the most interesting of all; but it contains too many ideas to be analysed at the end of an article. Its general drift seems to be that the Christian Democrats have not yet got a philosophy of politics; their political activity is not clearly related to a metaphysic. Thus this lecture is mostly critical rather than constructive. There is a long critique of the various possible approaches to Marxism; and finally a suggestion that the required philosophical synthesis may be found by developing the Christian platonism of Vico and Rosmini. For all its obscurity this lecture has the merit of confronting great issues in a serious self-critical way. That it has been printed in a semi-official party publication is a sign of intellectual honesty in those responsible.

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## THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

### Criminology

ONE of the most disturbing features in this country during the years since the war has been the continuously high incidence of crime recorded by the police. During the last three years more than half a million crimes have been recorded annually in England and Wales. The latest issue of *Criminal Statistics* shows that 626 thousand indictable offences were reported to the police last year, a figure more than twice as large as that in 1938. In the nineteen forties this was thought to be attributable largely to the aftermath of the war and that, with the successful resettlement of returning servicemen, the development of the social services, the new system of education under the 1944 Act, the concerted efforts to provide large numbers of new houses, by the new provisions introduced by the Criminal Justice Act of 1948, the volume of crime would rapidly diminish to a figure at least as low as that prevailing before the war. But in the early nineteen fifties it was found that this was not happening. By 1952 the number of recorded crimes was already above half a million, and public uneasiness was clearly reflected in the *Report of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary* which stated that the bulk of crime for the country as a whole was such as 'to demand a very earnest consideration by all those concerned with the maintenance of law and order'. Since that date the crimes known to the police have increased by a further twenty per cent, and the continued existence of this phenomenon of lawlessness has come to be regarded as a major social problem.

This growth in the volume of crime recorded by the police has not been accompanied by any appreciable change in the trends in detection; in fact, there has been recently a slight decrease in the general rate of detection and during the last few years more than half of the crimes recorded by the police

have not been cleared up. In the year 1958 the police were unable to discover the offenders in over three hundred thousand of the cases reported to them. This figure of *undetected* crime exceeds the total yearly number of all crime recorded by the police before the war and its continued existence from year to year has led to uneasiness in the community. Under such circumstances attention is naturally focused on the state of the police forces throughout the country and it is quite clear that questions of recruitment, education, conditions of service and remuneration will have to be given careful consideration if an adequate and efficient police service is to be maintained as the primary barrier against crime. These matters will doubtless receive attention by the recently appointed Royal Commission on the Police which is to sit under the chairmanship of Sir Henry Willink, Q.C.

The question of juvenile delinquency continues to remain under discussion and a large number of conflicting views are put forward as to its causation and prevention. The extent of this problem can be seen from the fact that more than half of all offenders charged with indictable offences are under the age of twenty-one, and almost four in ten of those found guilty are under the age of seventeen years. The whole question of the law in relation to the trial and treatment of juveniles has been examined by a Departmental Committee on Children and Young Persons under the chairmanship of Lord Ingleby. The report of this Committee is expected shortly and it is hoped that its recommendations may lead to more effective and appropriate methods of dealing with juvenile delinquents and also with those in need of care and protection or beyond the control of their parents.

As a result of the Criminal Justice Act of 1948 a number of changes and new methods of treatment have been introduced into the English penal system and it may be said that this statute inaugurated a period during which the main emphasis has been on the reformation of offenders rather than on that of retribution and deterrence. In some quarters there has recently been a tendency to ascribe the increase in crime, and particularly in crimes of violence, to the reduced severity in dealing with them. Dr Radzinowicz, who has recently been appointed to the first chair of criminology in this country, has, however, pointed out in his article on 'Changing attitudes towards crime and punishment' (*Law Quarterly Review*, July 1959) that there does not seem to be 'enough reliable evidence to connect the two phenomena by a demonstrable link of effect and cause'. The reintroduction of corporal punishment has now been most strongly urged by several sections of the community and the Home Secretary is referring this difficult subject to his Advisory Council on the Treatment of Offenders.

Provisions for setting up attendance centres and detention centres for the treatment of young offenders were contained in the Criminal Justice Act, 1948; but there was a considerable delay before many of these centres were opened and it has only recently been possible to begin assessing their effectiveness. Publications are expected shortly on the results of these two new forms of treatment. Research into the use of detention centres has been undertaken by Dr Grunhut at Oxford, while the Cambridge Department of Criminal Science has completed a survey on attendance centres.

The Home Secretary and the Prison Commissioners have for some time been concerned with the question of the employment of prisoners, and in December the Home Secretary set up an Advisory Council on the Employment of Prisoners under the chairmanship of Sir William Anson, with Mr Gilbert Hair, who has recently been appointed as an Assistant Commissioner

of Prisons, to act as the assessor. Also Mr P. Thompson, a London businessman, has lately formed a voluntary non-statutory committee to study the placing of former prisoners in employment, and Lord Pakenham has agreed to serve as chairman of this committee.

Probation has for many years been the principal reformatory measure applied to convicted offenders; and a report by the Cambridge Department of Criminal Science (on *The Results of Probation*) has shown that on the whole it has proved to have had a considerable degree of success. With the growth of the probation system and the increase in the number of probation officers who have now become not only indispensable to the courts but have been required to undertake an increasing number of diverse duties, it is very appropriate that the government has set up a Departmental Committee to inquire into all aspects of the probation service.

In addition to these committees set up to consider improvements in the English penal system, it has become apparent that more attention should be given to research and to the teaching of criminology. The need for more intensive research was made clear by Lady Wootton in her provocative book, *Social Science and Social Pathology* (1959). A large number of publications based on criminological research are reviewed and Lady Wootton shows how inadequate they mostly are, considered by scientific standards. In the nineteenth Clarke Hall Lecture on *Contemporary Trends in Crime and Treatment* (1959) Lady Wootton stresses the need for more fundamental thought on the question of criminal responsibility and suggests that 'as the sphere of medicine expands so that of morals contracts'. Again, Lady Wootton emphasizes the need for more research into the effectiveness of different forms of treatment and the desirability that those serving on the bench should have made some study of criminological and penological literature.

It is expected that two recent developments will go a long way towards meeting these needs. First, the establishment of a Home Office Research Unit which, as Sir Charles Cunningham has stated in the foreword to its first report (*Time Spent Awaiting Trial* (H.M.S.O., 1960), has embarked on 'a long-term programme of research mainly concerned with the treatment of offenders, and acts as a centre for the discussion of research with universities and other organizations'. Secondly, the establishment of an Institute of Criminology at the University of Cambridge. Professor Radzinowicz has been appointed the first Director of the Institute and it has been stated that teaching and research will be given equal importance. To implement this the staff of the Institute will include the Wolfson professor of criminology, a penologist, a criminal lawyer, a psychiatrist, a sociologist, and eventually seven other members holding graduate posts. The Management Committee will be appointed from the senior members of at least four faculties. Obviously, the results of this new venture will not be immediate. The Institute should not, as Professor Radzinowicz has pointed out, be regarded 'as a sort of miracle that can give an answer to every question relating to offenders'.

The aim of the Institute will be, by research and teaching, to give substantial assistance to those engaged in the administration of criminal justice and the treatment of offenders. Eventually the Institute should be in a position to make important contributions to the study of criminology.

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