

most actions in later Roman law. This can be explained by the fact that the Romans attached more importance to the right of the individual and less to the principle, "*interest reipublicae ut sit finis litium*," than is done by those peoples adhering to the common law.

This technique of comparison and analysis of causes is apparent in the authors' treatment of each branch of the law. Their condemnation of unsound principles and unjust results is scathing. Their criticism of common law is merciless. They do not, as is often the case in treatises on comparative law, consider the common law as a perfect system suitable for use as a standard by which to measure the worth of the system being compared with it.

The work is not above criticism. The most evident deficiency is an almost total disregard of the underlying philosophies upon which the two bodies of law are predicated. The difficulty, however, of incorporating comparative philosophy into a work of this kind is evident. While the book is on the whole quite readable, the insertion of a multitude of Latin phrases affords considerable difficulty to a reader unfamiliar with the language.

The fact that the work is written from the viewpoint of the English legal scholar does not detract from its value to the American student. Frequent references to the American jurisprudence plus the close similarity of the American and English juridical systems make the book a valuable asset to the library of any student of the law.

GEORGE E. BAILEY

THE POLICE AND MODERN SOCIETY — *August Vollmer. University of California Press, Berkeley, 1936. \$2.50*

The Bureau of Public Administration of The University of California inaugurated a program of research in public administration, emphasizing initially the administration of criminal justice as one of several major fields in each of which specialists in particular aspects of that subject would cooperate in a series of related research projects. This publication represents the compilation and analysis of facts found by members of the staff, under the direction of Professor August Vollmer, from studies in police administration.

The book is an attempt to present a picture of the difficulties of the administration of criminal justice from the viewpoint of the police officer, and to suggest means that would aid in the elimination of these difficulties. The entire field of police administration is divided into five groups, namely: Major Crimes, Vice, Traffic, General Service, and

Crime Prevention. The various crimes, misdemeanors and general problems, which require regulation by the police to protect the rights of society, are separated into these five groups and a section is devoted to each one individually. In each section the particular crime, misdemeanor, or problem is defined; the extent of it in this country or a particular locality as compared with another country or locality, or as compared to other crimes, is illustrated by charts and tables. Explanation of the offense is given, the causes of it and the problems confronting the police in dealing with it are set forth, and suggestions for better methods of alleviating the situation in regard to it are discussed. The details of interesting actual cases are related, illustrating the methods of the perpetrators, how the police deal with them, the difficulties in preventing the act or in apprehending the criminal, and the detriment to society.

The author presents a picture of the handicaps under which the police have to work, often as a result of interference or unfair criticism of the public whom they are trying to protect, and seeks to enroll the cooperation of society with the police in a drive to rid the country of some of its criminal problems, which take such a heavy toll of life and property.

The first chapter is an introductory survey of the problem as a whole, explaining how the various groups are to be dealt with, the extent of each, and the increase of crime generally in the United States in the last twenty or twenty-five years. The conclusion is reached that the trend of the crime rate is definitely upward and that immediate solution of the serious problems involved is impossible, but that there are things that can be done to give more fruitful results than have been obtained in the past.

After a discussion of the field of major crimes, which includes murder, robbery, burglary, larceny, automobile theft, and kidnapping, in the second chapter, and the field of vice, including prostitution, gambling, and the illegal production, sale, and/or use of liquor and narcotics, in the third chapter, the author then devotes into the traffic problem in Chapter IV. This problem is one of the most difficult phases of police administration because there are inherent in this field factors which greatly handicap the police in their relationship to a public whose cooperation is so vitally essential to the maintenance of law and order and the promotion of social security and well being. Traffic duties greatly reduce the number of policemen available for protection against criminals. Traffic violators, usually in all other respects lawabiding, are antagonized by arrest for their failure to observe regulations. Frequently a disrespect for law and law enforcement officials arises.

The field of traffic regulation, which is growing more serious every

day and which takes a tremendous toll of human lives, is divided into three parts by the author. These divisions are: (1) safety of streets and highways for motor-vehicle operators and pedestrians; (2) prevention of traffic congestion and provision for a fast, uninterrupted traffic stream; (3) regulation and control of vehicle parking at the curb or on other parts of the streets or highways. The suggested solution for this problem is through engineering, to obtain the facts of the difficulties; education, to make the public aware of the existing difficulties and the necessity for conforming to the suggested remedies; and enforcement, through legislation that should only be enacted if given the wholehearted support of the public.

The fifth chapter, which is devoted to setting forth the last of the major police problems, makes the reader realize the vast extent of police service. General service includes all of the unclassified duties of the police, such as cooperation in the enforcement of federal and state laws and municipal ordinances, and involves dealing with juvenile delinquents, suicides and missing persons, handling strikes and riots, and giving aid to sick and injured or mentally incompetent persons. These are incidental duties, which the public accepts without giving them a thought, but which in reality involve the interest and safety of the average citizen more than any of the other problems.

In discussing crime prevention, Professor Vollmer first gives an interesting and concise outline of the ideas and theories for dealing with crime of the various schools of criminology of the past and present. From the Classic School in Italy in 1764, whose accepted doctrine was that society should have free rein to wreak vengeance on those who offend the social organization, his outline carries the reader through to the modern Correctionalist School, which proposes rehabilitation of the offenders, segregation and education of the criminal and the introduction of probation and parol. Then the causes of crime are discussed, consisting of the inherent qualities in the individual as well as of environmental conditions, which combine to produce the criminal. The most fruitful field for scientific criminology is in the study of the child, wherein these inherent weaknesses are too often allowed to develop because of the environment; thus the future criminal begins his career. So there must be not only a study of the social conditions but also a study of the individual, to aid in preventing, or at least curbing, the growth of these undesirable traits. This problem has been placed on the shoulders of the police, along with the solution of all crime problems. Progressive police departments, realizing the futility of dealing with the situation with the facilities they have at hand, are wisely promoting coordination of community resources to work with them.

The personnel of the nation's police departments, as a whole, is very inferior to what is needed to deal with the proposition confronting them. Undoubtedly there are many very able men in police work, and these men have kept the standards as high as they have been. But they are greatly handicapped by not having fellow officers who are intelligent and well equipped for the job. Professor Vollmer suggests that there must be a scientific method of selecting policemen in order to raise the standard, and then a thorough training course to familiarize those so chosen with the duties and methods to be used. If the level could once be raised so that more intelligent men would apply for the job, the effectiveness of our police would be greatly increased. But there must be some incentive for intelligent men to apply for police work, and until the public cooperates in raising the standards, such incentive will be lacking and the personnel will continue on its present low plane. Politics must be kept out of police administration and the legislators must pass reasonable and popular laws before improvements along this line can be made.

The book is a very convenient size and the print is easy to read. The bibliography and the index are quite complete and the author's style of writing makes the material interesting to read, as well as educational. It is quite surprising to realize the magnitude of the police situation, which should be so important to all of us but which few of us bother to think about, unless to criticize. Professor Vollmer suggests education of the people to these problems, as the most likely solution. Just how this process will be worked out, is not quite clear from the book. As before stated, the book is written from a policeman's standpoint and in a good many instances the blame for the discrepancies in our police forces is placed elsewhere than on the departments themselves, where a less prejudiced study might place it. However, the author accomplishes what he sets out to do; to acquaint the reader with the actual problems of police administration and to ask his cooperation in solving them. The book is well worth reading.

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