

names chosen at random—Vachelli, Van Arkel, Van Hecke, Venediklov, Vernadsky, Vertrees, Voitinsky, Voh Moschzisker.

It remains only to compliment the authors for their erudition and the publishers for producing a handsome set of volumes, well-bound and remarkably free of typographical errors.

G. W. PATON.

*A History of English Criminal Law and its Administration from 1750*: LEON RADZINOWICZ. Vol. I. The Movement for Reform. London: Stevens & Sons Ltd., 1948, pp. xxiv, 853.

The Department of Criminal Science, of the Cambridge Faculty of Law, is to be congratulated on the publication of this outstanding volume which ushers in a new era in historical studies of the criminal law. As Lord Macmillan states in the Foreword, the task was truly Herculean—a study of 1,250 Reports of Commissions, 3,000 Accounts and Papers, 800 Annual Reports and 1,100 volumes of Parliamentary Debates. But there has also been an attempt to set the evolution of the criminal law in the light of social and economic history.

The book is well written in idiomatic English and provides an absorbing picture of the past. No praise can be too high for the skill with which the author has mastered his material and created a volume that is well ordered and of absorbing interest. It will prove a treasure house not only for the lawyer, but also for the social historian. The footnotes are full of interest and give a vivid picture of the background against which the criminal law developed. A vivid account is given of a pardon granted in New South Wales after an execution had been twice postponed owing to inclement weather (p. 184)—this shews that the author's reading is not confined to a narrow field. We read of Ann Green, executed in 1650 for murder and carried to the Anatomy School at Oxford for dissection—however, when the "corpse" was unpacked, it shewed signs of vitality and the lady was restored to life (p. 195). Dr. Johnson appears in fine fettle, in connexion with the case of the unfortunate Dr. Dodd, a clergyman executed for forgery. The author reveals that even property owners wished the savage law to be ameliorated, as it was clear that the jury was loth to convict when the penalty was death. The futility of excessive penalties is thus emphasised.

The book begins with the extension of capital punishment and then proceeds to examine the policy of penal legislation as illustrated by the *Waltham Black Act*. It then picks up the movement for reform, tracing the views of the most important figures and indicating the reasons for failure or success.

We look forward with interest to the succeeding volumes.

G. W. PATON.