

intelligent and extensive application of probationary measures to adult offenders, and the survey is therefore of particular value to us in charting the future development of this sentence in Australia. It is not light reading; but it is clearly essential reading for anyone who undertakes the awful responsibilities of being a probation officer or judicially sentencing a fellow man.

Probation officers in Australia are predominantly voluntary, untrained workers. Their services are generally valuable though of unequal quality. In the light of the information presented by the Department of Social Affairs, it may be wondered whether we can long continue in Australia to sustain the expense in terms of money and social stability of failing to buttress and reinforce our voluntary system with a sufficient number of professionally-trained, paid probation officers capable of changing a punishment regarded both by the accused and the court as "giving him another chance" into the positive therapeutic instrument it could become.

NORVAL MORRIS

The Inheritance of the Common Law, by RICHARD O'SULLIVAN
(London, Stevens & Sons Ltd., 1950). English price 8s.

This little book contains four lectures delivered by Mr. Richard O'Sullivan, as the Second Series of the Hamlyn lectures. The Hamlyn Trust provides for lectures to be given in order to further the knowledge of the people of England of their system of law. Mr. O'Sullivan's contribution is a successful one. In his four lectures he reviews important branches of the law. He does this with a wealth of illustration and learning. The lectures are written in excellent style, and they will interest and stimulate not only the lawyer but also the lay citizen. In this sense the author fulfils the objects of the Hamlyn Trust very satisfactorily.

The four lectures are entitled: The Concept of Man in the Common Law, The Family, The Political Community, and Law and Conscience. In the first of these, the author sketches the development of individual freedom, and briefly alludes to an important contemporary problem. This is the threat to freedom and independence which follows in the wake of the massive legislative apparatus of the modern welfare state. The second essay on the family is particularly interesting. The author stresses the importance of the family as a vital unit of society. In his third lecture Mr. O'Sullivan offers some interesting observations on natural law. The fourth lecture is a neat thumb-nail sketch of the development of the equity jurisdiction.

ZELMAN COWEN