

THE ENGLISH COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE RESEARCH IN CRIMINAL SCIENCE

In time of war many matters must of necessity be shelved in favour of more pressing and urgent war demands. Not infrequently, however, a state of national emergency may be used to shelve problems which should not be shelved and which are of fundamental importance to the health of the body politic. Some time ago, in this country, a report was made dealing with conditions in our penal institutions. To date we have heard of no action being taken on this report and it is probable that such inaction might be explained away by reason of war conditions. It is interesting to observe, however, that in England the Faculty of Law in the University of Cambridge has set up a committee to consider "the promotion of Research and Teaching in Criminal Science." The committee is composed of the following members: Professor P. H. Winfield (Chairman); Dr. L. Radzinowicz; Dr. R. M. Jackson; Mr. J. W. C. Turner (Secretary).

The objects of such committee comprise the following :

1. The prosecution of research.
2. The promotion of a series of publications.
3. The organization of lectures in Cambridge by recognized authorities on various branches of Criminal Science.
4. The analysis of the development of research and teaching in Criminal Science in England and in other countries.
5. The submission through the appropriate channels of memoranda on existing and proposed penal legislation.
6. The transmission to correspondents in other countries of information concerning the achievements and progress of penal reform and of the administration of justice in England.
7. The special application to developments in the British Commonwealth of Nations of such of the above mentioned activities as are appropriate.

There can be little doubt that England and this country have been very slow to approach in any scientific manner the question of criminal or penal reform, with the result that our entire criminal administration—in the sense of what happens to

the prisoner after conviction by the court, and the investigation of the reasons why the prisoner became a criminal in the first place—has been dealt with in a most haphazard fashion, if indeed it has received the attention of the legal profession at all. The English Committee have announced the publication of the first volume in their series of studies in Criminal Science, namely "Penal Reform in England", which we hope to review in a subsequent number of this REVIEW.

Work of this nature deserves the encouragement of the profession since, on the conclusion of the war, such researches as are being made will provide material on which we can hope to build with more care and foresight than we have done in the past.