

emphasize the role of the church in both the prevention and the treatment of delinquency. But their view brought emphatic disagreement from the representatives both of the Communist countries, where there is no official religion, and from the representatives of the countries of the East, where there is no religious organization similar to the Christian church, although religion, of course, plays a wide part in the life of the community.

Despite these difficulties, and the fact that only two weeks were available to the Congress for its deliberations, a considerable measure of agreement was in fact reached and recorded in the resolutions. The work thus done justifies the holding, not only of this Congress, but of those which remain to be held in the future.

PETER BRETT

*Sexual Offences: A Report of the Cambridge Department of Criminal Science*, edited by L. RADZINOWICZ. (Macmillan & Co. Ltd., London, 1957), pp. i-xxvii, 1-553. Australian price £4 10s. 9d.

This, the sixth volume of the English Studies in Criminal Science, published by the Cambridge Department of Criminal Science, is another example of the considerable extension of knowledge which has come from the impetus given to research by the willingness of the English Home Office to collaborate with university departments interested in research concerning crime and its treatment. Apart from five chapters on the law and practice concerning sexual offences in five countries (Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Belgium and the United States) contributed by authors from those countries, the book is a summary of a survey concerning sexual offences in fourteen police districts in England—the law, evidence, procedure, treatment and results of treatment in those districts. Its aim was ‘to provide facts which have hitherto been difficult to come by, and to correlate them so as to throw some light on the many facets of sexual misconduct which seem to have escaped notice or could not be fully appreciated through lack of adequate data.’ The aim is largely fulfilled, and the book can be recommended to any serious student of a difficult subject.

In 1954, a Departmental Committee on Homosexuality and Prostitution, under the Chairmanship of Sir John Wolfenden, was set up by the Home Office; its report is not yet to hand. It is known, however, that both the Church of England Moral Welfare Council and a group of Roman Catholic sociologists and priests convened by Cardinal Griffin have recommended to the Wolfenden Committee that consensual homosexual acts by adult males in private should not be subjected to criminal sanction. The information gathered by the Cambridge Department tends to lend support to this view, but the report cautiously avoids taking any firm position.

It is wholly beneficial that the problems of the definition, prevention and treatment of sexual offences are gradually coming to be considered by thoughtful and objective lawyers and sociologists; for too long these problems, if not cloaked by silence or concealed by euphemisms, have been considered only in the yellower organs of the weekly press or by periodicals devoted to cheesecake. The Cambridge Department of Criminal Science is to be congratulated on a painstaking and informative collection and analysis of important social data.

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