

The compilation presents, under classified heads, the main provisions of constitutions, charters and other statutes relating to the structure and powers of the governments of important cities in Europe and America. The arrangement facilitates the study of the various municipal experiments from a comparative point of view and renders the volume a convenient source-book for students of municipal administration. Copies can be obtained from the secretary of the convention, Mr. M. L. McKinley, 171 Washington Street, Chicago.

Mr. Arthur Train, an assistant district attorney who is also a good story-teller, gives us in *The Prisoner at the Bar* (New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1906; xi, 349 pp.) valuable information in most entertaining form. His book describes the procedure in cases of crime in New York City, from the point of arresting the offender up to the pronouncing of sentence upon him. Mr. Train's greatest service, perhaps, lies in his showing, partly intentionally but partly unconsciously, the extent to which we tolerate mediæval methods ill-adapted to modern conditions, and the extent to which, in practice at least, we hold the mediæval theory that vengeance is the object of punishment. The human failings of judges, who should be all-wise and all-patient; the many tricky devices resorted to by counsel; the irritating delays which are very apt to occur; the influence of the yellow press; the susceptibility of the average jury to any emotional appeal, however unreasonable—all these defects, and more, are admirably set forth. No radical changes are suggested, but the clear account of existing methods cannot fail to provoke thought and discussion as to possible improvements.

Mr. C. S. Kenny's excellent *Outlines of Criminal Law*, which appeared in England in 1902 and embodied the substance of lectures delivered at Cambridge year by year for quarter of a century, has been "revised and adapted for American scholars" by Mr. J. H. Webb, of the law department of Yale University (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1907; xxi, 404 pp.). The adaptation has involved the omission of considerable portions of the original text and the addition of many pages written by the editor. To students of comparative jurisprudence the variant developments of legislation regarding crimes in Great Britain and in the United States are of peculiar interest; and to students of social science (to say nothing of our legislators) a comparative treatment of both bodies of law would be of more value than the presentation of either system by itself. Such students will therefore regret that Mr. Webb has omitted most passages regarding "modern English statutes and rules which do not obtain in the United States";

and the fact that he has retained matter relating to certain English statutes which to him "suggest . . . reforms . . . which it would be prudent to adopt in the United States" (preface, p. x) will not satisfy them, for they would like to form their own conclusions as to what borrowings would be prudent. For the purpose of American students who intend to practise law, the editor's omissions are, however, perhaps as legitimate as his additions are necessary; but it is difficult to understand why he has not seen fit to indicate, by any typographical signs or devices, what parts of the text and which of the notes are his.

The demand for small books on Roman law has recently evoked two translations of French treatises. The introductory part of Professor P. F. Girard's standard *Manuel élémentaire de droit romain* has been put into English by Professors A. H. F. Lefroy and J. H. Cameron, of Toronto, and is published under the title: *A Short History of the Roman Law* (Toronto, Canada Law Book Company, 1906; v, 220 pp.). Girard is worth translating, and the translation is well done. There is probably no history of Roman law accessible in English that is at once equally good and equally brief. A less judicious choice has been made by Dr. C. P. Sherman, of Yale University in translating Prof. F. Bernard's *First Year of Roman Law* (New York, Oxford University Press, American Branch, 1906; xii, 326 pp.). Bernard's work is not of the first rank and it is ill-adapted to the needs of English-speaking law students. The law of persons is treated with a fulness which is unnecessary in an introductory work, and the law of obligations is omitted. The fact that French students take up obligations in their second year is no reason why English and American students should not have a complete outline of the institutes of Roman private law in a single volume. Dr. Sherman's translation is not good, and the notes which he has added are of little value.

One of the few original workers in the field of Roman law among English-speaking scholars, and one of the most conscientious and painstaking, is Dr. E. C. Clark, Regius professor of civil law in the University of Cambridge; and his *History of Roman Private Law, Part I, Sources* (Cambridge University Press, 1906; New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons; 168 pp.) promises to be an important work. The general reader should however be warned that Professor Clark's writing is not easy reading; and that the completed work is more likely to be recognized as a standard book of reference for scholars than to be used as an introductory treatise.

Professor John W. Salmond's *Jurisprudence*, which was reviewed four years ago in this QUARTERLY (vol. xviii, pp. 609-702), appears in