

Criminological Materials in the Parliamentary Papers of Australia and New Zealand from 1901. By Stephen White and Audrey Edwards. Australian National University Press, Canberra, 1977. 342pp. Aust. price: \$9.95.

THE TITLE suggests a valuable finding aid. Indeed the checklist has resulted from the disadvantages felt by one of its compilers when attempting to move mountains of Australian parliamentary papers. So the expressed intention is to show what 'relevant' criminological material is available, and where exactly to find it in the official papers. I cannot speak of the Australian material, but the object is largely fulfilled in so far as New Zealand is concerned. Yet detailed indexes to New Zealand parliamentary papers do exist. And the New Zealand section of this work is in effect a recapitulation and a rearrangement of information to be found elsewhere. The main *raison d'être* then is the scope of the subject matter.

Here the authors clearly had problems defining 'relevant'. They recognize that the purview of modern criminology is wide. They seek to apply a limiting principle: to exclude those papers 'dealing primarily with the setting of standards, but to include those dealing with their enforcement, if it is secured by the use of penal sanctions'. Predictably reports and petitions concerning police, justice, child welfare, prisons, liquor licensing, gambling, transport, mental health, and the like are listed, generally up till 1974. Strict adherence to parliamentary papers means that there is no reference to the annual New Zealand *Justice Statistics* published separately from 1921. Nor are the very relevant publications of the New Zealand Justice Department mentioned. Yet the line is difficult to draw. And so listed (for New Zealand) are the annual departmental reports of Industries and Commerce ('consumer affairs'), Labour ('factories'), and Maori Affairs, as well as others more miscellaneous. In similar fashion the reports of the Currie Commission (1962), the Road Safety Committee (1966), the Public Expenditure Committee (1969), and the Commission on Hospitals (1973) are included. The relevance of these is suggested only by the broad categories into which they fall.

So for the New Zealand historian, the checklist barely overcomes the limitations of the existing indexes. No guide is given to the contents and quality of a paper apart from what can be inferred from its title. So, for example, references to reports of the Commission inquiring into the 'Conduct of Members of the Police Force' (1953-54) reveal little. (And, incidently, researchers seeking revelation from these reports would be disappointed.) A spot check of some of the New Zealand entries revealed four names misspelt, but nothing seriously misleading. This volume should whet the appetites of social historians, but it is not the complete aid to digestion.

GRAEME DUNSTALL

University of Canterbury