

THE CRIMINAL LAW, A Police Review Publication (in FOUR parts).
By ALAN GREAVES and DAVID PICKOVER. [London: Police Review
Publishing Company Ltd.]

Book 1—Offences Against Property (reprint 1980)

Book 2—Offences Against the Person (1979)

Book 3—General Principles and Public Offences (1979)

Book 4—Evidence and Procedure (1980)

This publication, consisting of four parts, is not to be regarded as a text on English Criminal Law but a quick reference designed to help Police Officers and, perhaps, students and practitioners too. "The text is starved of pure academic argument. Instead emphasis is placed on explaining the law as it stands, which the reader, be he Police Officer, law student or solicitor is likely to encounter in practice". *Preface.* To recommend this for undergraduates' primary use may give rise to objections but, I am sure, they could benefit by the short, concise and straight-forward treatment of English Criminal Law which is still of great interest to us here. For example, in Book 1 the subject of *Theft* in Chapter 1 is clearly summarised in about ten pages with the following sub-headings; *Theft: Sections 1-7 Theft Act, 1968, Dishonest Appropriation, Property belonging to another, Intention to permanently deprive and Penalty and mode of trial.* This, in my view, covers the important issues in the law of theft that could be realistically covered within the scope of this work. The Books have no footnotes. For cases, references are found in the Table of Cases in each Book. There is a good descriptive list of contents and there is an Index at the back. There is also a Table of Statutes which includes all current legislation. The first two Books contain an average of about 140 pages while Books 3 & 4 are about 200 pages. The whole series is produced in concise small print.

Considered in the light of the authors' objective of providing an easily digestible summary of the law, the publication is very useful. Police Academies and Government Law Departments would do well to get hold of copies for their reference. They would also do well to read the quotation at the back of the title page in each Book: "The Defence rarely win a case; it is the Prosecution who lose".