

they deserve. But, as the authors point out, it is not every school that can be built in a cherry orchard, as was one at St Albans by C. H. Aslin, the Hertfordshire County Architect. In many urban school sites the surroundings will be dull or even grim, and in such cases it is particularly important that attention be paid to the interior, where a careful use of colour and the texture of materials can do much to counteract the severity which almost inevitably results from the extreme simplicity of design and construction made necessary by financial stringency. Sculpture and mural painting too can play their part, and at a cost far less than is generally realized; for throughout the country there are artists of ability, often little known even in their own neighbourhood, who are prepared to work for a craftsman's wage.

The planning requirements discussed in this book are, of course, those of the 1944 Act, which so enormously increased the accommodation required at every level, thus raising the cost of the schools and putting a double burden on the managers of the voluntary schools. That such improved standards are desirable can scarcely be questioned; but to what degree they are essential, and what degree of flexibility should be exercised in applying them to existing schools, must remain matters for individual opinion. On these, as on other controversial issues of the moment, the authors of this book wisely maintain a strict neutrality.

DONOVAN PURCELL

## NOTICES

FROM Pelican Books come some valuable reprints in Helen Waddell's *WANDERING SCHOLARS* (2s. 6d.) and Oliver Simon's *INTRODUCTION TO TYPOGRAPHY* (3s. 6d.). Miss Waddell's classic is now twenty-seven years old and has lost none of the freshness and delight that marked its first appearance. As a Pelican it should make many new friends. Mr Simon's authoritative handbook on typography has gone through five impressions in eight years in its original form—sufficient proof of its usefulness and its readability. Now made available in a much cheaper form, it will prove valuable to all concerned with the printed word—and that includes readers, who are too often unaware of the fascination of the processes that they take for granted but which have an importance and beauty in their own right.

F. T. Giles's *THE CRIMINAL LAW* (Pelican Books, 2s. 6d.) is a newly-written survey of the English criminal law, and forms a valuable companion to his earlier Pelican book, *The Magistrates' Courts*. Mr Giles naturally writes with authority (he is Chief Clerk at the Clerkenwell Magistrates' Court), but he has, too, a humane and humorous

consideration for the ordinary reader, and his new book, amply fortified by illustrations from cases, should prove popular.

**WHO ARE THE GUILTY?** (Gollancz, 13s. 6d.) is a study by Dr David Abrahamsen of the psychology of criminals, and reflects the contemporary mood of many penal reformers (as well as of psychologists) in limiting the responsibility of offenders owing to their psychopathic or otherwise abnormal personalities. For Dr Abrahamsen, the criminal is a sick man, and he claims (from a considerable experience in America) never to have found a single offender 'who did not show some sign of mental pathology, in his emotions or in his character or in his intelligence'. He supports his opinion with a wide assortment of case histories, and however sceptical the reader may be of Dr Abrahamsen's general diagnosis, his book is at least useful as a readable example of much contemporary writing on criminal psychology.

**THE RIGHT VIEW OF MORAL RE-ARMAMENT** by Mgr Suenens, Bishop Auxiliary of Malines (Burns Oates, 6s.), is a convenient summary of the movement associated with Dr Buchman and of the reasons why Catholics must regard it with some hesitation. Mgr Suenens' firm assertion of the incompatibility of M.R.A. with the Catholic Church is welcome in so far as it places in proper perspective the argument that Catholics on the Continent are favourable to the movement and that it is only the intransigence of English and American Catholics that makes co-operation impossible.

**SOUTHERN FRANCE** is the latest volume to appear in the revised edition of the Blue Guides (Benn, 30s.). As usual, here is an exactly ordered survey of the territory, with excellent maps and valuable introductory information on such matters as wines, cookery, transport and language. A region that includes Savoy, Provence, the Rhône valley, Auvergne, Bordeaux, the Pyrenees and Corsica, is rich indeed, and the six hundred pages of this wholly admirable guide convey all the practical (and up-to-date) details that the tourist has a right to expect, as well as an intelligent and mercifully unlyrical description of a profuse countryside and an immensely varied collection of monuments. It is scarcely necessary to commend the Blue Guides, so assured is their authority by this, but *Southern France* must be hailed as a notable addition to a series that is being most welcomingly resurrected.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

[The following condensation of a letter from one who has had first-