debate as well as private pain. The writers state that it is better than the previous silence. Unfortunately the reports are underestimating the real nature of sexual violence. The increase of such press reporting illustrates the increasing controversy of official means of dealing with sexual violence, even as it attempts to hold back tide.

Although this book has been written more of a social point of view than a judicial one, it gives us a good idea of the changes on this subject. (MW)


The Case for the Prosecution
Police Suspects and the Construction of Criminality
Edited by Mike McConville, Andrew Sanders and Roger Leng.

The presented book is an interesting compendium for those who would like to understand how police officers and prosecutors make decisions in respect of criminal cases. The authors provide a most thorough detailed, and meticulous examination of the law, jurisprudence and its developments. The book is a result of research and heavy fieldwork. The interesting thing about this book is that the editors have interviewed a great number of police officers at their place of duty, the police station. The book therefor offers a real picture of police activities and is not a pure theoretical enumeration of jurisprudence facts.

Chapter One of the book starts of by giving information on Criminal Justice in England and Wales. The formal structure of English criminal justice is adversarial. That is, there are two sides - defence and prosecution - and cases which go to trial are judged by 'impartial' magistrates, judges and occasionally juries. This means that each side has a specific role to play. Rather than each seeking the 'truth', which would be a duplication of effort, each side argues its case as best it can within certain ethical limits. The writers examine how one of these sides - the prosecution - constructs and presents its case, and the implications this has for our understanding of the adversarial process. The analysis in the first chapter arises from a long-term study of police and prosecution-decision making which began in 1986 and which embraced three police forces in England and Wales.

The main issue of chapter Two is "Construction the suspect popula-
tion". What makes someone a 'suspect'? The construction of the suspect population seems, at first glance, to be unproblematic - a naturally occurring group which any successful and efficient police force would encounter. Criminals are those who break the law, and suspects are those whose conduct suggests that they fall into this criminal category. No-one would expect a complete correspondence between these two categories, if only because low detection rates suggest that there are many criminals who never become suspects. But people do expect substantial overlap. They also expect that police investigation would aim to differentiate 'normal' people from suspects (through logic, evidence, classic 'detective' skills and so forth), and to ascertain whether the evidence against suspects warrants a public accusation that they fall into the criminal category. This chapter shows that this picture is too simplistic.

Chapter Three points out the ability of the police to take control over the body of the citizen, to control conditions in which questioning will take place and to manipulate a system of reward and punishment enables them to secure the production of evidence. In this chapter the writers illustrate how the police are given or seek to acquire control over the case-manufacturing process through consideration of three aspects of the investigatory process: 1) the choice of report for summons or arrest, 2) the decision to release or place in detention, 3) and the decision to allow the suspect access to legal advice.

In Chapter Four and Five the writers pay attention to building the case. Chapter Four deals with interrogation and Chapter Five looks at police records and non-interrogation evidence.

When you take a look at these chapters, the interesting part of this book occurs. In a lot of law books theoretical facts are given to inform the reader about rules and laws. To understand those often non-illustrative or illustrated books you should have this book laying beside, because the great number of illustrative cases and tables offer you a very good picture of real life in society and this book presents facts, theoretical books almost never talk about.

Having analyzed the initial processing of suspects in the police station the writers turn in Chapter Six to what happens to that suspect population and why. All cases which are either charged or reported for summons are subject to review both within the police and by the Crown Prosecution Service. The rhetoric of prosecution decision making emphasizes objectivity, impartiality and individualization. Police influence over a case is said to be confined to the investigation and case preparation stages with ultimate decision making by the prosecutor applying rigorous tests of public interest and evidential sufficiency. The reality is a system of routinized decision making embodying and overwhelming propensity to prosecute, bolstered by the presumption that earlier decisions were properly made and should not be overturned. The system is dominated throughout its stages by the interests and values of the police, with the CPS playing an essentially subordinate and reactive role. This all is discussed in Chapter Seven, "Reviewing the case for the prosecution".

Police investigation of a suspect is generally aiming at conviction of that person. But how strong a police investigation may be, also acquittals