

Book Reviews

LYNCHING AND THE LAW, by *James Harmon Chadbourn*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1933, Pp. XI, 221.

One of the most significant movements in recent years in the development of inter-racial relations in this country has been the thorough and determined way in which the thinking men of the South have undertaken to get at the facts as a necessary preliminary to any permanent and adequate solution to the race problem.

The Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching, comprising leaders of public opinion in the South, has sponsored a series of studies and investigations which, when properly apprehended, are bound to have far-reaching results.

Prof. James Harmon Chadbourn of the Law Department of the University of North Carolina has recently completed a study of "Lynching and the Law" which has been published by the University of North Carolina as one of the social study series, issued under the auspices of that progressive University in cooperation with the Institute for Research in Social Science.

Professor Chadbourn's handling of the problem included a thorough study of existing legislation dealing with the subject of lynching in the various states and also an examination of all cases included in the law reports and mentioned in leading newspapers of the various states where lynching has occurred.

He has treated the subject under such headings as "Lynching and Criminal Justice," "Municipal Liability," "Ouster of Peace Officers," "Procedural Devices," "Militia," "Change of Venue and Transfer of Prisoners," "Special Terms of Court," and "Proposals for Additional Legislation."

The facts marshalled by Professor Chadbourn clearly demonstrate what is coming to be realized by the public, that the number of cases in which the person lynched is guilty of or even accused of a sex crime, comprise only a very small percentage of the total number of lynchings per year, and yet the public to a lamentably large degree condones lynching.

The responsibility of bench and bar for failure to curb the mob spirit out of which lynching grows, is treated by Professor Chadbourn with great frankness. (In one reported case a lawyer was disbarred for participation in a lynching; 13 Fed. 814.)

Professor Chadbourn's interesting volume should be in every law library. It can be studied with great profit by every member of the Bar.

LUTHER ELY SMITH.

St. Louis, Missouri.

UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT SERVICE, published by *Legal Research Service*, Washington, D. C.

This unique loose-leaf service, now in its fifth year, gives a complete index to all of the cases which are carried to the Supreme Court, including the growing number that are dismissed or decided without opinion by the nation's august tribunal of last resort. As the volume of constitutional and other

litigation which is of public importance mounts by reason of economic legislation, and as the court becomes more and more selective in granting full consideration to cases carried before it, it becomes increasingly important for practitioners, judges, and students to keep track of the court's full docket and of orders and dispositions which inferentially declare its view on points of law. To this end, the Supreme Court Service, by means of ingeniously devised subject and other indexes, coupled with analyses of all cases docketed, entries of all orders of the court, and analyses of opinions as they are handed down, furnishes a current guide to all matters before the Court and a complete permanent record of the Court's action in all cases carried to it. Edited by the authors of the annual Review of Supreme Court Decisions, the accurate and scholarly nature of which has commended itself to reviewers generally, the service is a dependable, useful tool. It may be recommended unhesitatingly to practitioners and libraries.

RALPH F. FUCHS.

Washington University School of Law.