

crimes does not give a comprehensive picture of the trend of crime throughout the country. One class is apt to over-balance the other and give a distorted view. Furthermore, the disposition of adult cases is totally unlike the disposition and treatment of juvenile offenders so that, here again, the logical treatment is two separate analyses. This does not prevent those who wish to pursue the method of comparison used in previous editions of the Year Book from doing so as the combination of tables is still possible.

PART I.—CRIME OF ADULTS*

Section 1.—Total Offences

After the First World War, there was a gradual increase in crime. This is a common experience, especially in the non-indictable class of offences, when men who have been under arms for several years are rapidly demobilized. The latest year for which data can be given is 1945, but the really significant period will be the years immediately following the close of the War. There is some reason to believe that the same pattern as was in evidence after the First World War is being followed.

During 1945 there were 504,181 cases of adult offenders handled by the courts as compared with 479,351 cases in 1944. Of this total 48,263 charges were of an indictable nature while 455,918 were non-indictable. The corresponding figures

* Persons 16 years of age or over.

