

## PART II.—YOUNG OFFENDERS

**Indictable Offences.**—It is a disquieting fact that in 1947 more than one-third (38·8 p.c.) of all indictable crimes were committed by young people between the ages of 16 and 24 years. As this age group includes the most daring offenders and at the same time those most likely to profit by education and training, it seems worthwhile to give consideration to it as distinct from the confirmed or older offenders groups. Where proper segregation in reformatories and penitentiaries is possible young offenders will be found more often in the open reformatories or institutions conducted on the Borstal system.

Offenders in this age group, although comprising only 15·6 p.c. of total population over 16 years of age, were responsible in 1947 for 70·6 p.c. of the crimes of burglary and robbery, 47·2 p.c. of all cases of damage to property without violence and 49·0 p.c. of the malicious damage to property including arson.

**1.—Convictions for Indictable Offences of Young Offenders, by Classes, Years Ended Sept. 30, 1945-47**

Offence	Numbers of Convictions								
	16-18 Years		19-20 Years		21-24 Years Inclusive		Totals		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Offences against the person.....	1945	299	18	346	20	791	49	1,436	87
	1946	366	19	456	39	1,213	42	2,035	100
	1947	320	20	412	19	1,155	51	1,887	90
Offences against property with violence.....	1945	1,924	20	736	17	1,051	5	3,711	42
	1946	1,829	11	975	12	1,169	18	3,973	41
	1947	1,601	9	797	5	1,318	16	3,716	30
Offences against property without violence.....	1945	3,466	248	1,710	187	2,334	233	7,510	668
	1946	3,217	221	1,812	167	2,605	234	7,634	622
	1947	2,741	244	1,744	109	3,005	237	7,490	590
Malicious offences against property....	1945	245	5	92	3	154	7	491	15
	1946	263	5	122	—	241	8	626	13
	1947	183	5	110	3	202	5	495	13
Forgery and offences against currency..	1945	142	13	73	18	200	36	415	67
	1946	197	22	186	24	220	39	603	85
	1947	193	50	179	37	356	69	728	156
Other offences.....	1945	466	112	468	62	986	179	1,920	353
	1946	398	126	464	48	1,230	189	2,092	363
	1947	292	51	353	21	1,057	115	1,702	287

**Types of Crime.**—In 1947, the most common crime against the person, committed by young men, was common and aggravated assault including assault on and obstructing the police. However, it should be noted that in 1947 there was a decrease in all classes of offences since 1946, except for forgery and offences against currency which increased by 20·7 p.c. for males and by 83·5 p.c. for females. In the case of males these offences increased in the age group 21-24 years only but for females in the lowest age group 16-18 years it increased by over 127 p.c., 19-20 years by 54 p.c. and 21-24 years by 77 p.c.