

Harper's MAGAZINE

Vol. 202

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No. 1213

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Books in Brief

By

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Thicker'n Thieves by Charles Stoker

The description on the jacket calls this “the factual expose of police payoffs, graft, political corruption, and prostitution in Los Angeles and Hollywood” by an ex-vice squad officer. It is a story of a man’s struggle against organized crime and the unpleasant facts are all here. But, in contrast to Mr. Dressler’s book, it isn’t “written” at all. It is case histories against big shots in the city and state governments and in the underworld; set down to prove the corruption, by a man with an interest. Mr. Stoker was himself caught in the net and lost his job. Now he has two lawsuits pending against the Los Angeles Police Department, one for false arrest, the other to get his job back, and a third suit against the mayor for slander. The book is not pleasant reading, but it follows the unhappy paths opened by the Kefauver and other committees, and the man has a right to a hearing. (Sutter & Co. \$3.50)