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## Reviews and Criticisms

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## REVIEWS AND CRITICISMS

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SCHOOL TRAINING OF DEFECTIVE CHILDREN. By *Henry H. Goddard*. School Efficiency Series, pp. xx + 97, 1914.

EDUCATION OF DEFECTIVES IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS. By *Meta L. Anderson*. School Efficiency Monographs, pp. xvii + 104, 1917. World Book Company.

Dr. Goddard's book consists of his report upon the conditions which he found in the New York City schools at the time of the New York School Inquiry in 1912. In order to make the book of general interest, some amplifications have been more recently added to the original report.

The author discusses the manner of caring for defectives in New York at the time of the inquiry: the character of the work done, schoolrooms and equipment, teachers, and supervision: The whole report bears directly upon the following vital problems: the recognition of children who are incapable of taking their places in the ordinary competition of the world; taking them out of regular school classes and placing them in special classes; and continuing the hold upon these unfortunates not only until they are sixteen years of age "but throughout the rest of their lives, to the end that they shall become not only as harmless as possible, but as useful and happy as they can be made." (xvii.) In working out a solution for these problems, Dr. Goddard shows the wisdom of giving these children an opportunity to learn to help themselves, as contrasted with the lack of wisdom which is shown when school administrators attempt to cater to whims and false sentiments by allowing regular teachers to attempt to care for defectives in regular school classes.

These general principles receive further amplification in Miss Anderson's work. That is, this author holds that mental defectives should not be excluded from schools, nor included in the regular classes of the school, but that they should receive specific training for such activities as their mental endowments indicate that they may profitably pursue. A sufficient amount of detail is given as to the education of defectives in Newark, N. J., to show clearly the method of selecting defectives, the curriculum of the special school for them, and the organization of their instruction.

The opinion expressed in Dr. Goddard's illuminating introduction that this book sounds the keynote for the training of defectives may be applied to both of the books under review. The treatment of a public school problem, which is also a problem of all who deal with delinquents, is here given in a non-technical, concrete form. Both books should receive the consideration of all who prescribe work for or give instruction to defectives.

Northwestern University.

W. L. UHL.

THE AUTONOMIC FUNCTIONS AND THE PERSONALITY. By *Dr. Edward J. Kempf*. New York and Washington: Nervous and Mental Disease Publishing Company. Nervous and Mental Disease Monograph Series No. 28. Pp. 156, xiv. \$2.00 net.

The primary object of this monograph, according to the author, is to obtain recognition for the fact that "*in the higher organisms an effective sensori-motor system (autonomic) exists which creates and uses the cerebro-spinal or projicient sensori-motor system as a means to keep in contact with the environment in order that the autonomic apparatus may fulfill its biological career*" (p. xiii). The projicient sensori-motor system has its seat in "the entire cerebro-spinal apparatus." The affective "sensori-motor system" includes the entire autonomic apparatus. Of these two systems the autonomic is the more primitive, and biologically speaking, the more vital. With reference to it the cerebro-spinal system occupies a secondary place; it is a means whereby the affective will work out its biological salvation.

Dr. Kempf is well aware that his theory is at odds with traditional psychology. To be sure, he is able to find some support for his doctrine from the James-Lange theory of the emotions, and is able to quote several well known psychologists in validation of his contention that the sympathetic system plays an important rôle in the life of feeling and emotion. In general, however, orthodox psychology places the directive forces of the mental life in the cerebrum. But Dr. Kempf finds a strong ally in psychoanalysis. Indeed, in view of the interest which he has taken in the theories of Freud and his followers, it is not improbable that the physiological hypothesis is fathered by psychoanalytic reflection.

Dr. Kempf's theory cannot be better stated than in his own words. "The theory advanced is that *whenever the autonomic or affective sensori-motor apparatus is disturbed or forced into a state of unrest, either through the necessities of metabolism, or endogenous, or exogenous stimuli, it compels the projicient sensori-motor apparatus to so adjust the receptors to the environment as to acquire stimuli having the capacity to produce adequate postural readjustments in the autonomic apparatus. In this manner, only, the disturbance of function may be neutralized. The constant tendency of the autonomic apparatus is to so organize the projicient apparatus into a means as to acquire a maximum of affective gratification with a minimum expenditure of energy or effort*" (p. 1).

It would be useless to attempt a serious criticism of Dr. Kempf's theory. The whole movement which he represents is so undeveloped at this date, so lacking in definite form, that criticism, especially of an unfavorable sort, would be premature. The author deals, of course, in important matters, and betrays considerable courage, as well as ability in his undertaking. His language is perhaps unnecessarily technical at times, and the argument is not well organized. But these are trivial objections. The issues raised are important and interesting. If the autonomic system and its mental correlate, the affective experience, are to be given the central and biologically primitive place as-

signed to them by Dr. Kempf, there must be a complete revision of psychological theory. It remains to be seen how far biology and physiology will support this new hypothesis, and what success awaits it as a working conception in psychiatry. It is needful that such theories be advanced, and considered, and put to the test.

Northwestern University.

D. T. HOWARD.

THE PAWNS OF FATE by *Paul E. Bowers*. THE CORNHILL COMPANY, BOSTON, 1918. Pp. 210; price \$1.25.

The author of this story has been for a number of years Prison Physician in the State Prison at Michigan City, Indiana. He has been active also as a member of the American Prison Association and the American Association of Clinical Criminologists. The story traces the history of a down-and-out congenital weakling, and especially draws a picture of a high-minded but inexperienced young prosecuting attorney who is put into his office by the powers that be in the hope that he could be managed. He proved, however, to be independent, succeeded in rooting out the sources of evil in his community, to the upsetting of those who placed him in his position. He was finally instrumental in the conviction of the down-and-out degenerate who proved to be a grandson of the aged justice who committed him to an institution for defectives.

The story is well conceived and it will accomplish good results if it can be got into the right hands.

Northwestern University.

ROBERT H. GAULT.

CRIMINOLOGY. By *Maurice Parmelee*, New York; the MacMillan Company, 1918. Pp. 522. Price \$2.

In this volume Professor Parmelee undertakes a review of the world's best literature in the field of Criminology from every angle. It is inevitable that the carrying out of such a program within the scope of 500 odd pages should entail a certain skimpiness in many particulars. It is very difficult, also, in view of these circumstances, to avoid an appearance of dogmatism again and again, when a writer comes upon a debatable field. The author has not avoided this appearance in the volume under review. The preparation of this work has entailed an immense amount of labor. On the whole it is creditably done and it will undoubtedly go a long way toward assisting teachers in colleges and universities who desire to acquaint their students with what is being done in our generation in the field of Criminology. Books of this sort will be of increasing value, not only to the general college student, but also to the students of law. Slowly, but surely, this kind of work will reflect upon the future members of the bar with the result that we will have in the future a socialized bar. In view of the pioneer character of this work of Professor Parmelee's, it would be ungracious to indulge carping criticism upon his treatment of certain ever debatable questions, as some reviewers seem inclined to do.

Northwestern University,

ROBERT H. GAULT.

THE IMPRISONED FREEMAN. By *Helen S. Woodruff*. George Sully & Co., Publishers. New York. 12 mo., cloth, net \$1.35.

This volume, in fiction form, gives a striking portrayal of prison abuses under the surviving system of the past, from which the present is beginning to emerge.

With very little of the emotionalism and exaggeration sometimes attending the writing of fiction, the author appears to have an intelligent and up-to-date grasp of the weaknesses of the system, and the possibilities of the better way.

The essential hypocrisy of society's attitude toward the offender is vividly pictured. Even the hereditary and social factors in crime, both in their material and psychological import, are set forth convincingly. The conflict of emotions, resulting from the differing characteristics of Father and Mother, are shown to account for the contradictory manifestations of both good and evil impulses in every man behind the bars.

Lombroso's theory of a criminal class, and its well known exposure by Dr. Chas. Goring is brought out. The opposite doctrine is preached, viz., that "all criminals are possible men, and all men possible criminals."

The darkness, dirt and deadly monotony so characteristic of the prison of the older type, as the writer vividly describes it, does not differ widely from what may still be found in some parts of the United States in 1919.

The tendency to tyranny on the part of prison officials is strikingly accounted for. The fact itself is not new, since the experienced observer finds few men who are able to be prison keepers for a long period without becoming brutal or indifferent to the feelings of their wards.

In stating that this must be true in the nature of the situation, the author makes the suggestive claim that where one man is given arbitrary power over another man *without spirituality*, then tyranny and brutality is bound to develop.

This suggestion will cause the reader to wonder how long it will be before society or the state requires "spirituality," as one of the essential qualifications of prison wardens and guards.

The possibilities in this direction are brought out in the story of THE IMPRISONED FREEMAN. A judge with a conscience is impelled to learn by inside information just what is going on in the place he has been sending men for twenty-five years. As Prison Commissioner he insists upon becoming a prisoner for two weeks. In less than two days, however, he learns a plenty to condemn the system, with its personal corruption and political intrigue. With this knowledge he goes out to arouse the public and start a movement for sin-sick men. With his own money, some additional funds and a state appropriation, such an institution is built and in operation within a year, with the Judge in charge as Warden, and a similarly benevolently-minded physician in charge of the hospital, and psychopathic laboratory.

The men were classified according to their condition, and treated as men. Trades are taught and a co-operative farm operated. All working inmates are paid a living wage, to retrieve their wrong, and prepare for a new start, as well as to care for their families and the future of their children.

In short, the problem as seen by an intelligent life prisoner, is given in the following statement, which furnished the inspiration for the new prison and expresses the spirit of the story under review:

"Criminals are men morally sick. Help them to help themselves. Warsaw prison and others like it are hives of revenge, breeders of crime and are places of and for lost souls. Make your new prisons hospitals and vocational and industrial schools, with a governing spirit of moral inspiration dominating the administration.

"When all this is done and your government faces the prison problem from the angle of pity and a desire to make and not unmake future citizens, it will be approaching the question through reason and not prejudice, through love and not hate. Until this is done and the state ceases to punish crime by itself committing essential crimes, civilization cannot make any appreciable move upward."

The book is well worth reading.

Central Howard Association, Chicago.

F. EMORY LYON.