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Brief Notes

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BRIEF NOTES

SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF CHILDHOOD. By *Paul H. Furfey*. x+288 pp. Macmillan, New York, 1929. \$2.25.

Dr. Furfey, of the department of sociology of the Catholic University of America, reserves for a future volume the subject of the Church's relation to child welfare, and here limits himself to a sociological presentation of the problems of child health, delinquency and dependency and of the best current practice in these fields of child welfare. The book is so clear in its statements of principle, so up-to-date in its facts and is provided with bibliographies so admirably selected and commented that one can only wish he had felt free to be more exhaustive in his treatment.

The chapter on delinquency passes in review the theories of Beccaria and Lombroso and summarizes ably the procedure in the modern socialized court and its invaluable adjunct, the clinic.

University of Pennsylvania.

W. REX CRAWFORD.

DOMESTIC DISCORD. By *Ernest R. Mowrer*. xvii+277 pp. Univ. of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1928. \$3.00.

Dr. Mowrer has studied from a sociologist's point of view a mass of case work data taken from the records of two Chicago family welfare agencies. The analysis and treatment of domestic discord are discussed with an emphasis on terminology and statistical method which reduces the practical value of the book so far as the ordinary case worker is concerned.

University of Pennsylvania.

DONALD YOUNG.

SITTLICHKEIT IN ZIFFERN? Kritik der Moralstatistik. By *Robert Michels*. viii+229 pp. Duncker & Humblot, Munich, 1928. M. 9.50.

The answer to the question posed in the title, the question whether or not moral phenomena are capable of statistical measurement and analysis, is here answered by demonstration as well as discussion. Dr. Michels thinks of moral statistics as concerned with the attempt to sum up and give numerical statement to those phenomena of human life which are included in our concepts of morality or are a result of the operation of moral standards. The author is particularly concerned with moral statistics bearing upon the sexual life. Some objective indices of sexual morality which he mentions are illegitimacy, neomalthusian practices, divorces, sexual crimes, prostitution, venereal disease, and mixed marriages. Each of these criteria is discussed and evaluated; the discussion of illegitimacy is somewhat more extended and complete than the others. Not the least valuable part of the work is the discussion of certain questions of causality as revealed by moral statistics. This work is thoughtful, scholarly, well docu-

mented and timely. It should add to the reputation which Dr. Michels already has on this side of the Atlantic.

University of Pennsylvania.

WILLARD WALLER.

A GUIDE FOR PREPARING ANNUAL POLICE REPORTS. 24 pp. Committee on Uniform Crime Records, Int. Ass'n of Chiefs of Police, New York City, Dec., 1928. Free.

"This pamphlet is a by-product of the work now being conducted by the Committee on Uniform Crime Records. Its only connection with the major program of the Committee consists in the fact that the results of police records appear in the annual report made by the police chief. Such reports need not be uniform throughout. However, certain types of information are uniformly desirable. For this reason the guide pretends only to suggest the kind of material which might advantageously be included in the annual report of a police department."

The need for getting statistical information which can be used for comparative studies in police administration and also throw some light on the nature of the human material, which passes through the hands of the police, has long been felt. It is exceedingly fortunate that the Committee on Uniform Crime Records have attacked the problem with a frank desire to learn the facts about police work. The capable leadership and the competency of the staff engaged in the work guarantee a final report of incalculable value.

DIE GRAPHISCHEN GAUNERZINKEN. By *Dr. Hubert Streicher*. 82 pp. Julius Springer, Vienna, 1928. (Kriminologische Abhandlungen Herausgegeben von W. Gleispach. Heft. 5.)

Those who are familiar with Hans Gross' great manual for examining magistrates and his work on criminal psychology will recall his discussion of criminal jargon and symbols. Dr. Streicher has undertaken the task of examining more exhaustively the graphic symbols of the itinerant criminal classes. He defines these signs as "a peculiar medium of written communication used by the criminal classes since the beginning of the 16th century. As a substitute for writing it exists specifically in this social group and lacks a counterpart in other groups."

When Gross studied these symbols, they were disappearing from use. The author claims, however, that they are reappearing in Austria. He sees in this phenomenon another effect of the war, which created a large unemployed and vagrant class. The book, which is richly illustrated, does not only contain a systematic examination on graphic criminal symbols but also some historical data of interest concerning vagrancy in Austria and Germany.

WIE SIE DAZU KAMEN. 35 Lebensfragmente Bordellierter Mädchen. By *Elga Kern*. 182 pp. Ernst Reinhardt, Munich, 1928. 4.50 M.

Believing that certain gaps in earlier investigations into the life

histories of prostitutes could be best filled by a personal study by a woman, the author began such a study of the prostitutes of Baden, limiting herself to those under state control in houses of ill fame. The passage of the law for the prevention of venereal diseases, which went into effect Oct. 1, 1927, abolishing state regulated prostitution in Germany, forced her to cut short her investigation. The book presented here contains fewer than half the cases studied. Personal interviews, checked to some extent by communication with the officials of the home parish and supplemented by certain rough and ready intelligence and educational achievement tests, form the basis for the case histories. No attempt is made to draw any conclusions or summarize the cases studied in order to answer the question implied in the title—"how they 'got that way'"—but the author indicates that in a couple of years she plans to do this in another book, which will also bring up to date the life histories of the individuals studied here.

VERWALTUNGSBERICHT DES POLIZEIPRÄSIDIUMS LEIPZIG VOM 1. OKTOBER 1922-31. DEZEMBER 1927. 74 pp. mim. Leipzig, 1928.

This report is worth mentioning for several reasons. It contains a clear and factual description of the organization of police work in a large German city: it discusses in some detail the difficulties and the effects of the reorganization of the criminal police in Saxony, necessitated by the law of June 27, 1921, which placed all the crime investigation work in the state in the hands of the state police; it finally throws interesting sidelights on the influence of the economic distress of the post-war period on the crime rate. For instance, counterfeiting and "passing" became rare during the inflation period, because of rapid changes in the value of money. As soon as stabilized conditions arrived, this form of criminality increased from 783 arrests in 1923 to 7,795 in 1927. Inversely, thefts of metal articles declined from 1,490 in 1923, when metals were at a premium, to 117 in 1927. This large industrial community has not in the last five years had over seven murders annually, a fact which might well seem incomprehensible to the American city dweller.

DIE PREUSSISCHE LANDESKRIMINALPOLIZEI. By *Willy Gay*. 87 pp. Kameradschaft, Berlin, 1928. M. 1.20.

LANDESKRIMINALPOLIZEI, (Vorschriften für die staatl. Polizei Preussens, nr. 32). 96 pp. Kameradschaft, Berlin, 1928.

In 1922 the German parliament passed a law, the spiritual father of which was Dr. Robert Heindl, the editor of the *Archiv für Kriminologie*. This law contained the outline of an organization designed to place all crime investigation work in Germany into the hands of a special state police force. The law was never put into effect. Both Saxony and Württemberg had already established state criminal police systems, however, and in 1925 Prussia followed suit. Mr. Gay's pamphlet is a historical and descriptive supplement to the collection of administrative orders found in the "Landeskriminalpolizei." Together, they furnish a very useful statement of the problems confront-

ing the newly organized police force and the steps hitherto taken for their solution.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL WORK . . .
1928. vi+670 pp. Univ. of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1928.
\$3.00.

This book, while not so rich in material on crime problems as some previous proceedings, contains a fine paper on law observance and law enforcement by Professor Karl Llewellyn, in reality a discussion of the criminal law as a social institution; a paper on the juvenile court by Judge T. Munford Boyd; and a progress report on the valuable survey of psychiatric facilities in American courts and penal institutions made by Dr. W. Overholser for the National Crime Commission. Some of the papers presented in the divisions of family work and of mental hygiene may also be mentioned because they deal with the relationship between behavior disorders and certain factors in the home and community environments of the delinquent.

ENQUETE SUR LES GARANTIES CONTRE L'ABUS DE LA DÉTENTION PRÉVENTIVE. Publ. by *Dr. J. Simon Van der Aa*. 144 pp. Stämpfli & Co., Bern, 1928. [Bulletin de la Commission Pénitentiaire Internationale, n. s., no. 4, Sept. 1928.]

A series of twenty-one reports from as many countries made in response to a questionnaire sent out by the International Prison Commission for the purpose of inquiring into the status of the detention system. The reports indicate that recent decades have seen a tendency toward greater recognition of individual rights and protection against the abuse of power on the part of the state. When the interests of the latter demand the restriction of the liberty of the accused, there is a tendency to circumscribe the use of imprisonment and render it less mechanical. In a number of states, it is completely abolished for minor offenses and in half of the countries reporting an indemnity can be collected by the accused who has been detained for no fault of his own. There is no report from the United States.

THE LANCE OF JUSTICE. A Semi-Centennial History of the Legal Aid Society, 1876-1926. By *John Arthur Maguire*. Foreword by *William D. Guthrie*. xiv+305 pp. Harvard Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1928. \$3.00.

When *Der Deutsche Rechts-Schutz Verein* was organized in 1876 in New York City by some public-spirited citizens, mostly of German extraction, for the purpose of rendering legal aid to German immigrants, an important movement was initiated, which has since found support in the great centers of the country. Prof. Maguire has rendered this movement a real service in writing this monograph, a worthy monument to a legal institution which was created in order to render justice more accessible to those without financial means or social influence. The publishers deserve special mention for having presented the monograph in an attractive garb.

THE LETTERS OF SACCO AND VANZETTI. Edited by *Marion Denman Frankfurter* and *Gardner Jackson*. xvi+414 pp. The Viking Press, New York City, 1928. \$3.00.

To those who believe in the guilt of Sacco and Vanzetti many of these letters written while in prison may seem impertinent and sometimes insulting; to those who believe in their innocence they will carry added confirmation and new regrets; and, regardless of belief, no one can read Sacco's letter to his little son, the last he wrote from the death house, without being touched by the emotion which rendered eloquent this untutored Italian shoemaker.