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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

THORSTEN SELLIN [Ed.]

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE, 1927-1931. Compiled by *Dorothy Campbell Culver*. Bureau of Public Administration, University of California. xl+413 pp. The H. W. Wilson Company, New York, 1934. \$12.00.

This bibliography supplements the Kuhlman bibliography on crime and criminal justice by bringing the titles up to the end of the year 1931 and, furthermore, by including foreign titles for the period 1927-1931. It has approximately the same number of items as the Kuhlman bibliography. The only evident omissions are due to incomplete analysis of general books in history, sociology, and other fields. On the other hand, it contains hundreds of very short articles relating to current news, which have no general significance.

The outline, in general, is the same as Kuhlman. This outline is unsatisfactory in many respects but no one has been able up to the present time to develop a logical classification of these materials. It is desirable, therefore, to follow Kuhlman's outline unless there are definite advantages in departures from it. Some of the departures from that outline are obviously desirable, in fact, necessary, but most of them seem to have no superiority to the form and order used by Kuhlman and in so far make comparison with the earlier bibliography more difficult.

This bibliography differs some-

what from Kuhlman's in emphasis. It contains 2,461 titles on the police, while Kuhlman had only 942. On the other hand, it has only 1,598 titles on penal and reformatory institutions, while Kuhlman had 2,852.

A significant improvement is the index. This is especially true of the author index for Kuhlman had none. The topical index, however, is extremely inadequate, for on most topics it is limited to the titles listed under the same rubric in the body of the bibliography and insofar as an index does no more than that it is unnecessary. In a bibliography of this nature, in which each title is listed only once and in which no logical principles of classification have been found, a very complete index should be provided. Ideally every title in the bibliography which is significant for a particular topic should be listed under that topic in the index. As a matter of fact one finds in the index three titles on urbanization and crime, and three on social heritage and crime, though hundreds of articles significant for such topics appear in the book.

If a person wants to find the titles relating to psychoanalysis in this field he will find only three listed in the index under that heading. If he happens to know that Dr. Franz Alexander has written on this topic he can look up the titles by reference to the author index and he will find psychoanalytic publications by this author classified under "Crime Problem: Psychology and Crime," "Of-

fenders: Criminology," "Criminal Anthropology: Mental Defectives," "Criminal Anthropology: Criminal Psychology," and "Administration of Justice."

If a person wishes to make a study of murder and murderers he will find references under "murder," "homicide" and related topics, which he could almost as easily find in the outline. He will not find "murderers" in the index, but will find it in the outline. Scores of articles on the same topic appear in the bibliography but they are not listed in the index. He can locate them only by a search of each column in the bibliography. He will find them listed under such rubrics as culture conflict, the Negro, motion pictures, criminal anthropology, criminal personality, personal documents, police, criminal law, and punishment.

One of the symptoms of the methods used in compiling this bibliography is found in the section entitled "Studies of and Methods of Studying Offenders." Some of the titles in this section refer to methods of studying offenders, others to factual studies of offenders. Why are these factual studies of offenders listed here since presumably all of the titles under the head of "Offenders" are studies of offenders? The answer seems to be that they are listed here if the word "Study," "Survey" or "Investigation" appears in the title. For instance Zeleny has a thesis on the intelligence of criminals. It is listed in this section rather than in the sections on intelligence, feeble-mindedness, or mental defects because the title contains the words "A Comparative Study." The sorting of titles, then, is frequently based on the wording

of the title rather than the content of the article.

Furthermore, articles of the same type are frequently classified in different places. Shaw has edited two case histories of the same type. One appears under the rubric "Offenders: General," the other "Offenders: Juvenile." Case histories somewhat similar to these appear under the rubric "Personal Documents." The articles on a crime index by Sellin and Davies appear under "Statistics of Crime and Criminals," while Warner's article on the same topic appears under "Criminal Law: Miscellaneous" as does, also, a short note on "Crimes Known to the Police in Denmark." Dr. Overholser's articles on psychiatry in the administration of criminal justice appear under the following rubrics: "Crime Problem: Psychology and Crime," "Offenders: General," "Offenders: Studies of and Methods of Studying Offenders," "Criminal Law: Criminal Responsibility, Mental Abnormality," and "Criminal Law: Criminal Responsibility, Insanity Defense." These probably belong, at most, in two classes.

The section on the police appears to be the best developed, and the most useful of any section, the section on causes of crime the most poorly organized. This difference probably reflects in part the types of assistance received in the compilation of the bibliography, and in part the state of organization in the general knowledge.

In spite of the defects which have been described, this bibliography will be useful to students in the field, and it should be followed by subsequent bibliographies in which some of the defects may be eliminated.

EDWIN H. SUTHERLAND.
University of Chicago.

TWENTIETH CENTURY CRIME, EIGHTEENTH CENTURY METHODS OF CONTROL. By *James Edward Hagerty*. iv+222 pp. The Stratford Company, Boston, 1934. \$2.00.

With Mr. Hagerty's "Twentieth Century Crime and Eighteenth Century Methods of Crime Control" American criminology has reached an all-time low. This book is an attempt to show that "we are trying to control twentieth century crime by eighteenth century methods of procedure" and that "the chief causes of the large amount of crime committed in the United States are to be found in the methods of legal procedure and in the disposition of the case of the criminal when convicted." To prove these theses, Mr. Hagerty covers in 222 short pages the gamut of topics usually found in a large sized text book on criminology. The presentation of the material is necessarily sketchy, and its order both illogical and confusing.

Since the author intends to explain our failure adequately to deal with crime on historical grounds, he should at least have a little better than a nodding acquaintance with the evolution of criminal procedure. The slightest historical perspective should have saved him from such statements as "Relatively few changes have been made in court procedure in criminal trials in hundreds of years." Torture disappeared less than three hundred years ago. Since then have come such changes in English procedure as the accused obtaining the right to call witnesses, the right of the accused to counsel, trial on the basis of evidence presented in open court and not upon written depositions or earlier proceedings, the development

of the rules of evidence, the decline of the practice of interrogating the accused, and the development of his right to remain silent at the trial, the right of the accused to have the names of witnesses communicated to him, etc. Perhaps the author regards these changes as unimportant.

On a par with this historical performance is the statement that "the jury system came into existence hundreds of years ago through a fear of centralized authority as represented in the judges" (p. 23). Made fifty years ago, this assertion would have been a repetition of orthodox doctrine popularized by Whig historians. But Mr. Hagerty has overlooked the work of Brunner, Pollock and Maitland, Thayer, Haskins, Holdsworth and other eminent historians of the law on the origins of the jury.

Mr. Hagerty's sins are not confined to the field of history. In stressing the importance of criminal procedure, and especially the jury trial as the chief factors in our failure to control crime, he appears ignorant of the everyday materials of criminological research. Survey after survey, since the Cleveland investigation of 1922, have demonstrated how unimportant, relatively and numerically, is the jury trial as a means of disposing of criminal cases. The enormous number of felony prosecutions which are disposed of in the preliminary hearing, by nol pros and by plea of guilty evidently make no impression upon the author, though no survey committee has failed to show its concern over this aspect of criminal justice in America. The central fact of the surveys, that administration, the way in which men apply legal rules, is far more important in the criminal process than the legal rules themselves, seems also

to have escaped the attention of the author.

These examples should suffice to give an adequate notion of the value of this book. It is scandalous to pass on to students such erroneous ideas on fundamental social problems.

MORRIS PŁOSCOWE.

Liquor Study Commission,
New York City.

A PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY OF DELINQUENT AND NON-DELINQUENT NEGRO BOYS. By *Robert P. Daniel*. Teachers College Contributions to Education, No. 546. 59 pp. Columbia Univ. Press, New York, 1932. \$1.50.

Grave doubts are being cast upon the concept of feeble-mindedness as a prime factor in the etiology of criminality. The author of this study attacks the problem by comparing three groups (delinquent, behavior-problem and non-problem) of negro boys in Virginia institutions as to emotional and personality factors. The total of 300 subjects were equated as to grade placement and mental level, but ranged from 9 to 16 years of age, because of the lower intelligence of the delinquent group. Subjects were given tests of intelligence, neurotic instability, ethical judgment, trustworthiness and three general personality tests. The greatest differences found between the non-problem group and the other groups was in the performance test of trustworthiness. In ethical judgment, however, the delinquents ranked slightly higher than the non-problem group, while the behavior-problem boys were significantly lower. Responses of the delinquents revealed tendencies toward unsociable traits, home conflicts, abnormal anger, morbid de-

pression and inconsistency in scores, whereas the non-problem group showed the opposite of adjustment, good self-control and high consistency in scores. The problem group deviated consistently in the direction of the delinquents.

The author points out that the reactions of delinquents differ from those of non-delinquents in degree rather than in kind. The value of his technique lies in its application in detecting the incipient delinquent in the schools before his maladjustment is irremediable. Also, teachers in correctional schools may employ this technique to determine the extent to which their problem cases must be treated differently from non-problem cases.

FREDERICK J. GAUDET.

Dana College,
Newark, N. J.

AMERICA'S SOCIAL MORALITY. By *James Hayden Tufts*. x+376 pp. Henry Holt and Company, New York, 1933. \$3.00.

Here is presented in excellent perspective, an accurate and well defined picture of America's social morality, the major fields of conflict and the dilemmas thrust upon us by the changing mores. All this is given on a broad canvass with clear historical background that serves to explain, in part at least, the present in terms of the past.

Some of the main topics discussed are: recreation and amusement, class and race, suicide, the mores of sex, marriage and the family, moral dilemmas of business, moral problems of industry, property and wealth, government, the lawless strong, the young delinquent and the professional criminal, the lawless officer of the law and the con-

scientific objector, temperance and the use of intoxicants, gambling, prostitution, relation to other peoples, and public and private morals.

In his appraisal of the various areas of social conflict, the author has presented and attempted to evaluate in a fair and judicial manner the major arguments on both sides of these controversial questions. His analysis will not go far enough for the Marxists, but he is not led into accepting current explanations and platitudinous panaceas. He points out the fallacies in both. In dealing with the problem of American lawlessness, for instance, he discounts the oft repeated statements that "excessive law making invites disrespect for law," we are still living on the frontier, Americans have been traditionally lawless, the early colonists included many who were "transported" in lieu of a prison sentence, etc.

Most of these explanations apply, "if at all," to the kinds of law-breaking to which the great mass of American people are opposed. "The ordinary American is neither a murderer, a robber, a thief, nor a prostitute. The explanations throw little light on what Aristotle called the most heinous crimes—those motivated, not by poverty with its needs of the necessities, but by desires for the superfluities. Men do not corrupt government because of poverty.

"Stated in sociological terms, we need to distinguish the attitudes of the strong groups or individuals, from those of minority, underprivileged groups or individuals. The former are impatient at restraints placed upon them by the laws which control power in the interest of the common-weal; the latter seek to defy or evade the laws which aim to protect interests of security already approved."

As far as group responsibility for crime in the United States is concerned, while Professor Tufts does not overlook the attitudes and conduct of the officers of the law, the courts, and the lawyers, he places the major responsibility at the door of what he calls the "lawless strong"—the corporations, public utilities, railroads, the bankers, *et al.* "Why set the lawlessness of 'the strong' in the front rank?" Because "the example and influence of the strong and successful count in determining the mores of the people." The poor and the lower class cannot set the example for the top, and the middle class is not selecting as its models "the bootleggers, gunmen, and racketeers." On the other hand "when leaders in the business world achieve fortune and prestige by evasion of law or by controlling law-making for private interests, or by gigantic gambles with other people's money, it is not surprising that the impression grows that the path to success is easiest for those who are not too scrupulous."

Among the other groups of offenders he thinks that the two outstanding types of criminal or delinquent which are of particular interest for social morality are the juvenile offender and the professional. In the treatment of the former society has shown more intelligence. In the dealing with the professional criminal society has compromised its moral standards "for a share in the loot of fraud, or for the aid of partisan politics, or to avoid unpleasant duties."

As a social scientist he points out the futility of relying on our present legal machinery for the removal of the causes of crime and emphasizes such policies as slum clearance, recreation, parks, and the like. But here is another example of the con-

flict of interests and interest groups. The philosophy of rugged individualism forbids the city to reconstruct. The Supreme Court of Massachusetts held that it would be unconstitutional for the state to build homes for working men for that would be taking one man's money (by taxation) to build a house for another.

RAY H. ABRAMS.

University of Pennsylvania.

SCHRIFT, SCHRIFTEXPERTISE UND SCHRIFTEXPERTEN. [Handwriting, Handwriting Analysis and Handwriting Experts.] By *Siegfried Türkel*. 63 pp. Verlag Sallmayer'sche Buchhandlung, Vienna, 1933.

Türkel, as Director of the Vienna Police College, discusses in five short miscellaneous essays the standards of knowledge and skill to be achieved by and perhaps required of the expert in disputed handwriting. He believes that the examination of questioned writings preferably should be entrusted to experts having criminological training, and suggests a tentative outline for their qualifying examination to be appointed as experts at court in the courts of Austria. Originally they were published in *Archivo de Medicina Legal* of the Institute of Legal Medicine of Lisbon, Portugal. With due attention to differences in legal systems much that is suggested well may be applied as a yardstick to measure a handwriting expert in any country.

EDWARD OSCAR HEINRICH.

Berkeley, California.

OSBORNE OF SING SING. By *Frank Tannenbaum*. With Introduction by *Franklin D. Roosevelt*. xv+343 pp. The University of North

Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 1934. \$3.00.

This book is very well written by one who evidently had a quite vivid understanding of the work, personality and feelings of Osborne, and who was able to portray, through a study of the manuscripts left by Osborne, a true picture of the man and his work without injecting too much of the personal ideas of the author himself into the volume.

The first four chapters deal at some length with the misadministration of our prisons in the earlier days and express the cruelties and graft that appeared to exist in those times. How much of this is authentic and how much is overdrawn may be problematical, but that little of good was accomplished and that need for a change of attitude toward the treatment of the criminal existed, can be little doubted.

Following these chapters the advent of Thomas Mott Osborne into the New York penal field is told, and subsequently, we find an exact picture drawn of the system of self-government inaugurated and carried out through and by him at Auburn and Sing Sing prisons and at the Portsmouth Naval prison.

Some chapters are devoted to the dastardly attack made by certain political elements of New York State on Osborne's administration at Sing Sing and on his personal character as well. This book probably contains a collection of the most adequate facts concerning this very colorful, yet unsuccessful, attempt to thwart a man in his earnest effort to accomplish good in the world of crime. It should give the reader a fairer estimate of Osborne's real character and of the motives which were behind the attempt to besmirch it.

The last four chapters of the book deal with the personal contact and relationship between Osborne and those unfortunates whom he served so well, and shows much of the personal magnetism which caused Osborne to have such an influence for good with the man who had erred against society and whom he desired to bring back to a life of respectability.

The many persons who intimately knew Thomas Mott Osborne will recognize, in this edition, a vivid and exact portrayal of the man who revolutionized the treatment of the criminal in our penal institutions. Whether one agrees with the methods employed or holds an exactly opposite viewpoint in the treatment of our criminal population, he cannot, if fair of judgment, but feel when reading this book, that there was sincerity of purpose in Osborne's work. That he understood human nature at its lowest depths, and that he spared not himself in his attempt to uplift, can be little questioned by an interested public who reads this volume. Like any personage, he showed weaknesses along with his strong points, and Tannenbaum has brought this out, accomplished through a perusal of the manuscripts left by Osborne. This book appears to the reviewer to be by far the most unbiased and best of Tannenbaum's works and shows that he has widely studied and has rekindled the basic theories for which Osborne sacrificed his many pleasures in the last years of his life. That some of these theories, though modified, have been carried out by many of us who work in the penal field in this country, is a well known fact. That Osborne's work accomplished much to stimulate, correct and unfold to the public mind the importance of a changed

attitude toward the great problem before us, there can be little doubt. Though he became a martyr to the cause, his influence may, in future years, create a deeper consciousness in dealing with crime. Society creates this problem, and society, through its political administrative branches, has awakened somewhat to its responsibility in dealing with it. To this awakening Osborne contributed much; and Tannenbaum, in giving to the public a clear picture of his labors, will add a livelier interest on the part of those concerned with this problem in future years.

That Tannenbaum has correctly pictured Osborne and his work is beyond question to one who labored with him through the days at Portsmouth, and who heard, by his fireside, much of what he did and encountered in his work at Auburn and Sing Sing. It is doubtful whether or not the author played up as vividly as it might have been written, the effect that the trial in Westchester County and the charges brought against him, had on Mr. Osborne, who felt this keenly and many times in conversation with those close to him expressed his innermost feelings as to the mistaken attitude created toward him by a portion of the public. In spite of a tinge of bitterness, which this unfortunate affair created in his mind, he was in full knowledge of his innocence able to face the world, and combine the fight for the principles he believed right until the very end, although in his last years he appeared somewhat lonely.

The religious and educational elements of our society, heretofore little interested in our prison population, would gain much from a careful perusal of the pages of this book. The leaders of the various branches of our government might occasionally rise to a point of higher regard

for the needs of their fellowmen were they to glance through its pages. That the police, prosecuting attorneys, judges and penal workers should read it, there can be little question.

HAROLD E. DONNELL.

Superintendent of Maryland Prisons, Baltimore.

KRIMINALPOLITIK AUF KRIMINOLOGISCHER GRUNDLAGE. [Official crime repression and prevention on the basis of criminology.] By *Edmund Mezger*. viii+208 pp. Ferdinand Enke Verlag, Stuttgart, 1934. 12.80 RM.

The purpose of this book, as stated in its opening paragraph, is the presentation of the criminological bases of the existing "Kriminalpolitik," i. e., state methods of dealing with crime. It is the author's expectation that a cross section of the present status of our knowledge of criminology will provide the framework for an effective repression of crime.

In so far as Dr. Mezger evaluates the literature on crime causation, he is attempting for German students what has already been done for Americans by Sutherland, Cantor, the Michael-Adler report, and one section of the first volume of the Wickersham Commission's Report on the Causes of Crime. Dr. Mezger begins with Lombroso; he reaches conclusions generally held today, that the Italian's greatest value lay in the direction he gave to criminological research rather than in the actual results of his work and his theories as to the born criminal. Mezger discusses the revival of Lombrosian ideas in Germany, especially in the work of von Rohden, a phenomenon not without its counterpart in America as in-

dicated by the work of Professor Hooton at Harvard. But von Rohden discards the notion of a criminal type distinguishable by physical stigmata; the significant characteristics must be sought in terms of emotional, ethical, and intellectual deviations from the non-criminal. Mezger himself rejects von Rohden as well as Lombroso.

The author then passes in rapid review psychopathology in relation to crime—considering insane and psychopathic criminals,—psychoanalytic and psychologic theories of causation. He devotes much space to the biologic theories, discussing the work on character types and physique along Kretschmerian lines, hereditary bases of crime, and the crimino-biologic investigations carried on in Bavaria under Viernstein, in Graz under Lenz, and in other German states. This is perhaps the most valuable part of the book in that it summarizes conveniently many of the current German socio-biologic researches into criminality. Mezger accepts these lines of research as very fruitful. He underscores the conclusions based on a number of different investigations, that the asthenic and the athletic body types, according to the Kretschmerian scheme, are much more apt to commit crime than the pyknic types of body build. But he points out that this is to be expected in view of the temperamental qualities of the pyknic. Mezger makes no convincing attempt to answer the criticism leveled at the Viernstein crimino-biologic investigations as to lack of thoroughness and competence with which they were carried out. Instead he states that Viernstein's estimate that 50% of the criminals are incorrigible, which according to Sieverts is based on inadequate data, is over optimistic.

Mezger adduces no facts to support this thesis.

He ends his consideration of crime causation with a very sketchy chapter on sociological conceptions of crime and presents his own point of views which he calls a dynamic conception of crime. Extensive discussion is given only to the ideas of von Liszt. Mezger apparently overlooks the fact that von Liszt was a theorist of the substantive law rather than a first hand investigator into causes of crime. It is doubtful whether von Liszt can be taken as the most typical of the German students of the sociological factors in causation. Furthermore, Mezger's failure to consider literature other than the German, palpably in evidence throughout his book, is most serious here. In this aspect of causation, American workers such as Shaw, Glueck, Healy, Burgess, etc., have made valuable contributions which no serious student can afford to ignore. But although Mezger mentions some American names, he plainly indicates that he has not read them. In his limited presentation of von Liszt and the sociological theories of crime he seems to lose sight of the fact that its representatives emphasize individual as well as social responsibility in crime causation. It is true that Lacassagne said societies have the criminals they deserve, but Lacassagne is not all of criminal sociology. Ferri who is a much more representative exponent of the school always recognized the interaction of individual and social factors. Yet Mezger states that the adoption of sociologic theories of crime causation in practice led to a sentimental and soft-hearted enforcement of the criminal law. He also asserts that the sociologic theories mean the end of

individual responsibility for crime and ultimately the complete undermining of our existing culture (p. 172). But a good part of the life work of both Ferri and Liszt consisted in devising effective methods of combating dangerous criminals and eliminating them from society. They fought against the classical notion of moral responsibility based on freedom of the will, it is true, but their own notions of the individual responsibility to the state for the commission of crime were based upon the idea of equipping the state to cope with crime more effectively, and rather than undermine existing culture they provided a solid support for it.

It is not difficult to discover why Mezger misinterprets the sociological school. The official criminological theory of the Third Reich, whatever its verbiage, may be summed up by the phrase "soak the criminal." The von Liszt school is naturally under a cloud since it stood for the individualization of treatment with punishment as an entirely subsidiary issue. In his attacks on the sociological school Mezger is simply climbing on the band-wagon, and giving further evidence of the capacity of German professors to adapt their scientific views to those of the political group in power. Mezger states flatly that the sociological theories are unacceptable to the authoritarian state. His attitude becomes ludicrous because in his final section presenting his own dynamics of crime causation, Mezger approximates the position of the sociological school and in another part of the text he accepts as valid the Exner-Liepmann analysis of what occurred in Germany and Austria during the war and immediately after when large numbers of people hitherto law-

abiding were driven to crime by economic necessity.

Further evidence of Mezger's curious lack of objectivity is found in his rejection of psychoanalytic theories of causation on the grounds that psychoanalysis is largely a plot against the Christian social order. This, Mezger asserts, is borne out by its history (p. 159). Nazi hatred of Marxian doctrines, especially that of economic determinism, may also be seen in his attempt to refute individual psychologic theories of crime on the ground that they are based on economic materialism which is directed against the existing cultural order (p. 65). The connection is apparent only to the author himself.

In view of its expressed purpose, the most conspicuous shortcoming of the book is that it presents no criticism of present methods of dealing with crime and no suggestions as to what new methods should be employed. Mezger's entire "Kriminalpolitik" comes down to a few short paragraphs after some of the sections in which he usually states his own and the Nazi point of view as to what the criminal law should do. These general formulae are far from constituting a coherent system. They have little relation to his discussion of the literature on causes. They might have been written without the laborious investigation which he has made. His failure to present methods of dealing with crime is due in part to the fact that his researches into causation are so inconclusive. Other students have come to the same impasse, but Mezger fares even worse because he is too much concerned with methods and not enough with the actual results of investigations into crime causation; he has not kept himself aware that

methods of reaching these results are only incidental to an understanding of their validity.

To both the German and the foreign student, Mezger's selected bibliography of the German literature, given at the head of each chapter, will be most helpful. But it is extremely unfortunate that a man occupying the position of professor of criminal law at the University of Munich could give no better synthesis of the work of his countrymen in the field of the causation and treatment of crime.

MORRIS PLOSCOWE.

New York City

HANDWÖRTERBUCH DER KRIMINOLOGIE. [Encyclopaedia of Criminology.] Edited by *Alexander Elster* and *Heinrich Lingemann*. Vol. I, parts 7-8; Vol. II, parts 1-3. Walter de Gruyter & Co., Berlin, 1933-34. 6 M. a part.

The earlier parts of this encyclopaedia have been reviewed in this journal. The present parts, covering the letters H--P, represent approximately the second third of the work which, when completed, will contain two volumes, each with eight parts consecutively paged. About 85 articles are included in the section under review, ranging in length from a few lines to 36 pages, double columns. Of special interest are the parts covering the letter K (last part of Volume I and first of Volume II) and including the articles on criminal anthropology, criminal sociology, criminology, criminality, crime prevention and repression (*Kriminalpolitik*), crime detection (*Kriminalpolizei*), criminal statistics, criminal psychology, etc.

It is peculiarly difficult to evalu-

ate a work of this kind, which has obviously been planned with certain space limits in mind, causing not only rigorous choice of subjects but imposing strong limitations on contributors. Many of these contributors have an international reputation; others are known in this country. Recent changes in Germany have furthermore caused some articles which deal with administrative organization and functions to lose all but their historical value. A number of essays are worthy of special mention, such as *Roesner's* international surveys of seasonal influences on crime (22 pp.), and crime statistics (27 pp.); *Aschaffenburg's* survey of criminal anthropology and criminal biology (15 pp.); *Gennat's* article on murder (26 pp.); *Gruhle's* on criminal psychology (7 pp.); *Hagemann's* articles on international criminals (14 pp.); international police co-operation (10 pp.); criminal police (37 pp.); and criminological association (12 pp.); *Exner's* on criminal sociology (15 pp.); *Seelig's* on criminology (10 pp.); and *Birnbaum's* article on personality research (18 pp.), at least in so far as it treats of the biological or psychological approach, for he completely neglects the work of the sociologists. On the whole, the bibliographical references, as well as the text, indicate that with few exceptions the researches of foreign scholars have not been greatly utilized. This may be due to the space limitations, but whatever the reason, the work thereby loses some of its value as a reference source. Even so, it would be a very worth while addition to any research library.

THORSTEN SELLIN.

University of Pennsylvania.

KEEPING A SOUND MIND. By *John J. B. Morgan*. 440 pp. The Macmillan Company, New York. 1934.

This volume is meant to be an elementary text book on mental health and hygiene and is intended primarily for college students, with a series of review questions at the end of each chapter.

The point of view of the author, a specialist in psychology, "is that mental health is dependent in large part upon the formation of certain mental habits, and the elimination of certain others."

The book will be of value to readers of this Journal more especially because of their interest in the prevention of crime. The writer supports the growing conviction in the minds of intelligent people that any deviation from normal conduct must first exist as a wrong mental concept. In other words, most manifestations of irregular behavior are the outcome of faulty adjustment of thought to the problems of life.

A thorough discussion is found in the first nine chapters on mental conflicts, the mastery of fear; what and how to fight for correct thinking and what emotional maturity means.

In chapter ten the subject of crime is discussed with reference to its mental causes. It is pointed out that one of the chief shortcomings of the offender is his "strange inability to profit from experience." This is a basic defect because, says Dr. Morgan, "Personality is the consolidation of past experience into a unified whole which is able to move according to principles which have resulted from those experiences." Cogent reasons are given as to why some profit by experience

and others fail to do so. Persistent failure to learn by experience, or to know how to accept responsibility, invariably indicates a psychopathic personality.

To apply the term "criminal" to all those who violate the law by reason of their defects, throws very little light on their real character, much less does it point to any effective means of prevention or suitable treatment.

Crime is a legal and not a scientific term. It does not warrant the assumption, on the part of society, either that the act will necessarily be repeated, or that it was due merely to external opportunity or temptation. As the writer says: "From the psychological viewpoint a criminal is usually a man in mental ill-health, and to understand him we must know how and why he got into that condition. We should be concerned not so much with whether we should sympathize with him, or hate him—such questions are irrelevant—but whether we can understand something about him. Prevention instead of treatment should be the paramount issue."

Society has heretofore dealt far too much with the offense, and not enough with the offender. This method is dealing only with the symptoms and not with the disease, or its remedy.

We can readily agree with the writer that crime is very often a revolt or reaction against frustration, or the inability to realize unsatisfied desires. These desires may be trifling whims, or laudable ambitions. In this respect, the criminal differs from the rest of us chiefly in his failure to coordinate desire with fulfillment. "In truth, nearly every person has some little hidden desire which is totally silly

to almost everyone else, but which represents a repressed urge which hangs over him like a shadow and which gets an outlet in strange ways."

The effort to seek freedom from this feeling of oppression in the wrong way often carries the offender into bondage of another sort, viz., prison. The State recognizes only overt acts as criminal, but certain attitudes of mind are essentially criminal so far as one's relation to his fellows is concerned. The Golden Rule, for example, is not on the statute books, yet it is fundamental to one's social adjustment. Harmony and happiness are in inverse proportion to one's hatred and suspicion, not to mention a direct injustice or robbery of another. "According to our courts such conduct (hatred and suspicion) is not criminal. According to the mental hygiene viewpoint it is the most heinous sort of crime that could well be mentioned," and naturally leads to overt acts.

The egocentric personality, with his "self-centeredness" combined with a certain unconscious inferiority complex, is apt to commit crime as a defense reaction. This type of offender is the one most likely to deceive his victim and the public.

Such rich suggestions as these are well worth reading, not to mention the following chapters of the book relating to the wider implications of the desirable psychological attitude of every one in "getting along with people," and in building up self confidence and morale in all the relations of life.

F. EMORY LYON.

Central Howard
Association, Chicago

PRISON NURSE. By *Louis Berg*, M.D. 249 pp. Macaulay, Pubs., New York. \$2.00.

This volume, written as a novel, is a thrilling story of sordid abuses in a certain City prison. To those who know the possibilities of such conditions, it is too realistic to be taken as fiction. To be sure, it is difficult to believe that any one prison could contain the entire combination of corrupt officials, gangster control, and degeneracy, together with the presence of an honest deputy warden, and such angelic behaviour as is placed in the picture. And yet, this story, recently written, obviously reveals the location of the prison, and portrays many of the facts brought to public notice by Commissioner McCormick, of New York a few months ago.

It is somewhat surprising that a physician should have written a book in which the resident physician is described as the outstanding scoundrel of the staff. However, the latter's indifference and neglect of his patients in the hospital, is largely

counter balanced by the faithful service and finally the heroism of the inmate physician, serving a sentence for an abortion.

If one-half of the corruption related in this book is typical of what is going on within our prisons, then the half has not been told. If it is characteristic of any considerable number of them, then the sooner we abolish prisons the better, and find some other way to deal with crime.

This book is essentially a human document, with no considered attempt to solve the problem, or point a remedy. It is, however, well worth reading, if for no other reason than to open one's eyes as to what to look for under the surface in prison routine, and to find one answer to the ever recurring prison riots.

In other words, the chief message of Dr. Berg's narrative is in showing what a prison ought not to be. He summed it up thus: "I've come to feel that God made man and man made hell—and called it a prison."

F. EMORY LYON.