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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

THORSTEN SELLIN [Ed.]

THE SOCIAL WORKER IN THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF DELINQUENCY. By *Margaretta Williamson*. xx+236 pp. Columbia University Press, New York City, 1935. \$2.50.

This is volume four of the Job Analysis Series published under the auspices of the American Association of Social Workers. It deals with the functions of workers in three definite fields concerned with the treatment of delinquency: in part one, with probation and parole; in part two, with agencies of the preventive and protective type. In part two, five chapters are given to the protective agencies in general, with particular reference to the juvenile protective associations; one chapter deals with the Big Brother and Big Sister service; and three chapters cover the police-woman's work. In a foreword by Janet Thornton the scope and methods of the study are defined: it is ". . . a statement of duties and responsibilities, relationships, qualifications and conditions attached to the work as these were brought out in the course of interviews with workers. Along with descriptions of general practice are included certain variations of practice which, though not yet generally adopted, indicate lines of experiment and trends of development." In terms of practical value the study is designed to provide for "the staff worker or the administrator . . . an opportunity to scan the processes inherent in

jobs as these are practiced in agencies dealing with the delinquent." To the "administrator and board member" it may furnish "suggestions for improving personnel practices, for informing the community about the work of an agency, and for plotting future development." To the training school it may be of use in "planning the curriculum, to the student and research worker in seeking information, and to the vocational advisor in counseling and making placements." It is explicitly stated that the study "is not intended as a manual of instructions to the worker, nor is it an attempt to set up standards and ideals, to determine what constitutes good technique, or to elucidate the philosophy underlying social work in the field of delinquency and crime."

As a job analysis in terms of a detailed description of the functions that constitute the various positions dealt with here, the study is a thorough and painstaking piece of work. Within the limits of the scope set it is undoubtedly the most complete statement available. Of particular interest and value are the chapters on case supervisors and executives in these fields. Their responsibilities and functions as to the guidance of their workers, as to the shaping of policies and as to the selection of staff members are treated with great clarity and understanding. The essential phases of good and effective leadership are skilfully emphasized.

To have placed the preventive and protective agencies on an equal

footing with probation and parole is a very fortunate move. They belong together, they are servants to the same goal, and thus they are of equal importance. This study will contribute much in bringing out this significant fact.

The restrictions which were deliberately placed on this study are probably its weakest points. It is difficult to see how a job analysis is to be built on fundamentals without clarifying the issues which necessarily lead to a discussion of the "underlying philosophy," and of "standards and ideals." This is particularly and pathetically true of probation and parole. Certain definitions are given, certain distinctions are made, but the practices described are so varied that an evaluation in terms of standards would have been extremely helpful in guiding workers and executives toward a fuller and deeper concept of this work. This variety has a confusing effect. If one compares the sections on probation and parole with the one on the protective worker, where definitely established concepts and methods of social case work are being practiced, the need of defining standards and of evaluating practices seems evident.

In reading this study one suppresses with difficulty a feeling of deep regret that in merely touching the surface of the scope of these fields a splendid opportunity was missed to give court and parole workers a deeper understanding, a more profound philosophy, a more surging interest, a broader outlook and a more seeking attitude toward their work with delinquents. We are still too intent on emphasizing the motions of a job at the expense

of those much more essential things.

HANS WEISS.

Juvenile Court of the
District of Columbia.

TEXTBOOK OF FIREARMS INVESTIGATION, IDENTIFICATION AND EVIDENCE. (In One Volume with *Textbook of Pistols and Revolvers.*) By Julian S. Hatcher. xiii+342+533. Small Arms Technical Publishing Company, Marines, N. C. 1935. \$7.50.

In examining a book of this type it is well to examine the author, particularly because this volume will appeal to many prosecuting attorneys and other trial lawyers and the authenticity of such a reference work must be beyond reproach.

Major Julian S. Hatcher, Ordnance Department, U. S. A., is, in addition to his professional attainments, one of the few real firearms experts. He actually "practices what he preaches." His list of attainments is formidable and his professional status and reputation is enhanced by his background covering service from days before the War. He is not only a distinguished pistol shot in the U. S. Army, but his various details, both of a technical nature in this country, and as an officer detailed to observe foreign practices abroad, fit him unusually well to comment upon the various types of arms, designs and operations of such arms to a greater extent than anyone else who has yet written on this subject.

We consider that every statement that is made in this book is authoritative to a high degree and may be quoted and referred to without fear of refutation. This book, itself, is the most comprehensive volume yet

available on the combined subject of pistols and revolvers and firearms investigation, identification and evidence. The preceding volume by Major Hatcher on pistols and revolvers is a standard reference book in the hands of practically all those who follow the vocation of firearms identification (erroneously referred to many times as forensic ballistics).

This new volume is divided into two major sections:

The first deals with the subject of firearms identification and the handling of evidence involved in this particular phase of criminal activities, and the second section is an up-to-the-minute revision of his former book, *Pistols and Revolvers*. In connection with this second section, it may be stated that Major Hatcher has been responsible for the academic determination of relationship between various cartridges in connection with stopping power, shock of impact, etc. This has always been a moot question, but his analyses of the factors involved in the actual effectiveness of one cartridge against another as a stopping agent remains as a reference which cannot be denied. The various chapters in the section devoted to *Pistols and Revolvers* cover quite adequately all of the details that would be necessary for a prosecuting attorney, or law enforcement officer to be cognizant of generally, in order to properly appreciate the validity or otherwise of testimony offered on this subject. There are too many instances wherein persons of mediocre knowledge, offering expert testimony as to the performance of guns and ammunition aside from the particular phases of firearms identification, whose statements go unchallenged; a prosecuting attorney, with a few questions

based upon some of the major chapter headings in this new book can readily determine the degree of knowledge and accuracy the self-proclaimed expert really has relative to modern Pistols and Revolvers.

To return to the section on Firearms Investigation, Identification and Evidence, Major Hatcher has outlined clearly and specifically the various types of apparatus, and "modus operandi" that should be followed when this subject is logically pursued to its conclusion, which is the offering of testimony in court as to the relationship or otherwise between a certain gun and bullet. In this connection, reference might be made to the fact that Major Hatcher was selected by the Hon. J. Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, to cover the subject of Pistols and Revolvers, Firearms Identification, etc., in the highly specialized classes held by the Department for new special agents and the foreword by Mr. Hoover, itself is a testimonial as to his ability in this direction.

This book is recommended without qualifications, not only to prosecuting officers, who must of necessity rely upon some authentic publication or reference source for their knowledge of a highly specialized subject such as is involved in Firearms Identification and its allied phases, but also as constituting a valuable addition to the library of one who is interested in firearms generally, whether from a professional standpoint or merely lay admiration.

The volume, itself, consists of, roughly, 875 pages, 27 chapters, illustrated with over 250 photographs and line drawings. This reviewer feels that this volume represents a noteworthy addition to the all too

meager reference material on the subject of pistols and revolvers, firearms identification, investigation that is available to the public. There is no other volume in English, or, as far as we know, in any foreign language that covers the subject more adequately, from the standpoint of essential information particularly applicable for use in our own courts in the United States, as well as general information.

SETH WIARD.

Cleveland, Ohio.

HAUPTMANN TRIAL RECORD. 10 volumes, appendix and exhibits, 4791 +65 pp. Somerset Press, Inc., Somerville, New Jersey, 1935. \$35.00.

The entire transcript of the trial court's record of *State of New Jersey v. Bruno Richard Hauptmann* has been offered for general distribution by the publishers of the official report, which constitutes the "State of the Case" upon appeal to the New Jersey Court of Errors and Appeals. It consists of ten well printed volumes very neatly bound and with good paper covers.

To the expert witness the record of the testimony given by Osborn, Koehler, and others in this case should be of particular interest. Moreover, the appendix contains photographs of many of the exhibits accepted as evidence by the trial court.

FRED E. INBAU.

Scientific Crime
Detection Laboratory.

THE HUMAN PERSONALITY. By Louis Berg, M.D. xv+321 pp. Prentice-Hall, Inc., New York City. 1934. \$3.00.

Teachers, nurses, college students, and the "general reader" should find

"The Human Personality" an interesting introduction to human psychology. The book in its earlier chapters gives promise of a dynamic, eclectic approach to the problem of personality. The author is alive to the everyday interests of mankind and illustrates his points by lively references to classic and modern literature.

Our concern regarding the book is that writing as a physician, the author may give the impression that in his discussion of medical topics he presents more than a personal point of view. It is doubtful that present day endocrinology has reached the exactness and definiteness which seems ascribed to it in this book. Another weak section is the chapter on the criminal personality, particularly coming from a psychiatrist with special experience in this field. Too much has been written on the mental defectives in this country to justify or even permit the phrase that mental defectives are "pre-criminal personalities." Reference to Glueck's finding in Sing Sing that only 22% of the prison population are free of all mental disorder is also misleading. Glueck's work in Sing Sing is a criminological landmark but present day psychiatry and penology has gone far beyond the days when the problem of crime was disposed of as the problem of the "psychopath." (The problem is today recognized as more complex.)

In general, there is too much made of the glib and the superficial. For example, mental hygiene has matured somewhat in the matter of the parent-child relationship. The pendulum has swung back to the realization that children with insufficient emotional attachment from and to the parents are not fortunate. The author disposes of mothers and

grandmothers too readily. His following Margaret Mead in Samoa is probably also more a personal viewpoint than that of general psychiatry. We are not ready to assume that the last word has been said on the advanced stage of the savage.

Discounting a rather weak conclusion, the final chapter on the mental hygiene point of view and its brief description of the method of psychiatry is done with understanding and moderation and skill.

MAX WINSOR, M.D.

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MODERN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION.

By Harry Söderman and John J. O'Connell. xiii+461 pp. Funk & Wagnalls Company, New York. 1935. \$3.00.

Since the publication in 1906 of the English translation of Hans Gross' immortal work, "Criminal Investigation," several attempts have been made by others to produce in the English language a similar comprehensive guide to *modern* criminal investigations. Else and Garrow's "The Detection of Crime," published in 1934, came closest to providing satisfactorily for this long felt need, but it did not quite come up to the desired standard and unfortunately for us in the United States this book was intended primarily for the benefit of English investigators. Recently, however, an excellent publication has appeared in this country under the very appropriate title "Modern Criminal Investigation." Its authors are Harry Söderman, Head of the Institute of Police Science, University of Stockholm, Sweden, and John J. O'Connell, Deputy Chief Inspector of the New York Police

Department and Dean of the Police Academy. Both men were eminently qualified to undertake such a task, and they have succeeded admirably in presenting to the law enforcement officers of this country a very valuable aid to modern criminal investigations.

In the introductory chapter, probably for the purpose of dispelling the natural fear of the practical police officer who ordinarily looks with much alarm and some disrespect upon the so-called scientific and modern methods, it is made quite clear that in police investigations there will "always exist opportunity for the time-honored methods of practical detective work." Having thus rendered this "apology" for their adventure, the authors proceed to discuss modern police science, which they classify into three distinct phases: (1) The identification of living and dead persons; (2) Field work carried out by specially trained detectives at the scene of the crime; and (3) Laboratory analysis of evidence.

"Psychology in Detective Service" is the subject of the second chapter and in it an investigating officer may find many very helpful hints concerning the interrogation of witnesses and suspects. Incidentally, in that part of this chapter concerning methods of detecting deception, it is rather interesting, and somewhat surprising, to observe an indication of a semblance of the "copper's attitude" on the part of the writers when they refer to so-called "lie-detectors" as "contrivances," and then seem to infer that since the results of such tests are inadmissible as evidence they are practically useless—"even if they at times give some hint to the investigation." Although apparently out of tune with the general theme song

of the book, this remark does not constitute a very serious offense.

In chapters bearing the following titles the reader may find some valuable information upon the subjects thus indicated, which perhaps is the handiwork of Inspector O'Connell who has many years of practical experience as a police investigator to offer as authority for the statements contained therein: "Tracing the Fugitive," "Investigation of Homicide," "Investigation of Burglary," "Investigation of Larceny," "Robbery," "Investigation of Arson," and "Sabotage."

Other parts of the book treat of such topics as "Fingerprints at the Scene of the Crime," "Footprints," "Questioned Documents," "Problems of Attacks with Firearms," "Problems of Broken Windows," "Stains of Blood, Semen, etc.," "Hair," "Traces of Tools," "The Police Laboratory," etc. Perhaps for such material the reader is primarily indebted to Dr. Söderman, a highly respected scientist in the field of criminal investigation.

"Modern Criminal Investigation" deserves a place in the library of every investigator, alongside of the classic work of Hans Gross. Each represents, in the reviewer's opinion, the best comprehensive exposition of its respective age upon this ever-

increasingly interesting and important field.

FRED E. INBAU.

Scientific Crime
Detection Laboratory.

HANDWÖRTERBUCH DER KRIMINOLOGIE UND DER ANDEREN STRAFRECHTLICHEN HILFSWISSENSCHAFTEN. [Dictionary-Encyclopedia of Criminology and other auxiliary sciences.] Edited by *A. Elster* and *H. Lingemann*. (Sec. 16. Strafzumessung-Unlauterer Wettbewerb). W. de Gruyter, Berlin, 1935. M.6.00.

Previous issues of this work have been reviewed in this journal. The present section nearly brings to a close the second and last volume. It contains sixteen complete articles of varying length and ranging from the "Sentence" to "Illegitimate children." One major article on the "Death penalty" is written by Professor Edouard Kohlrausch of Berlin and Dr. E. Roesner, chief of the criminal statistics division of the National Statistical Office, the former dealing with history, the abolition movement and comparative law, the latter with comparative statistics.

T. S.

