

Winter 1937

Book Reviews

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Recommended Citation

Book Reviews, 27 *Am. Inst. Crim. L. & Criminology* 766 (1936-1937)

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BOOK REVIEWS

THORSTEN SELLIN [Ed.]

LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND CRIME CONTROL. By A. C. *Millspaugh*. xii+259 pp. The Brookings Institution, Washington, 1936. \$2.00.

This new volume by Arthur C. Millspaugh reviews the findings of research studies on crime control in the United States, and projects them against the general background of local self-government philosophies. While the contrast between the two is so striking as to raise doubts whether programs of functional integration can ever be realized in any large measure, there is no mistaking the direction and meaning of the general trend, and Mr. Millspaugh is encouraged to note that this trend, as a whole, meets the test of rationality. The emphasis of the book is therefore placed on what he terms the strategy of evolution, with adaptation and adjustment to the ends of expediency. He observes that

"Reorientation of thinking, perfecting of research, and strengthening of promotive effort are academic exercises unless they lead to official action. Each must look forward to a fairly definite, theoretically sound, practicable step-by-step program of legislation. . . . Each step must be such as to facilitate and expedite the next step. Each move may be something of a compromise; but a temporary compromise should never be per-

mitted to obscure the permanent goal."

Any such scheme of approach requires close coordination between the parties seeking changes along more rational lines, and on this score the author finds much to criticize. The general student of public administration, while comprehending the whole field of local government in his plans, tends to stress control and economy, strives for coordination, and ends by proposing a centralization of executive authority. On the other hand, the functional specialist is likely to ignore the larger problems of government at each of its several levels, and to concentrate upon his own limited field of governmental service.

The author's concept of the "strategy of evolution" would start with a reconciliation of these two differing viewpoints. His grand conclusion, however, is that "the obstacles in the way of organizing effective crime control cannot be easily or quickly removed—perhaps not removed at all—except as the larger problems of democratic government are advanced toward solution."

In its summary of the results of the many studies which have been conducted for the purpose of developing new governmental relationships in crime control, this volume performs a valuable service. There is a stimulating introduction, which briefly deals with

the broader aspects of the whole question.

BRUCE SMITH.

Institute of Public Administration, New York.

OVER THE WALL. By LEE DUNCAN. 368 pp. E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc., New York, 1936. \$3.00.

It is unfortunate that the best evidence we have of the effect of our penal system upon personality must be viewed with suspicion because of the inevitable bias of the source. Prison memoirs and experiences are related by inmates invariably are regarded as highly exaggerated. They fall neatly into several categories: there are those convicts who insist that they have undergone treatment which no normal civilized person can believe still exists in this country; there are others who maintain with vigor that our penal institutions are permeated with corruption and depravity; there are other former inmates who declare that they have learned to hate society and the law and all these represent; there are still others who are given to selfpity and to preaching that crime does not pay. How much one may believe, that is, how much is actually historical and how much carefully fabricated, no reviewer can say. The most one can do is to evaluate the statements in the light of what is known to be generally true with respect to prison administration.

In the present volume the general conclusion appears to be that there is little profit in a life of crime, more especially in a life of crime that lands the author behind the high wall. Mr. Duncan started early on the road that leads to the penitentiary and followed that

road with unswerving accuracy through forgery, burglary, robbery, and desertion from the United States Army. He managed to escape but each time his freedom was short lived. He planned the escape of others and saw many of them done to death for their daring. He is at present on parole from the Oregon State Penitentiary.

Without resorting to the bitterness so commonly found in the writings of ex-convicts he presents a readable and interesting account of his sojourn in a penitentiary where suspicion, fear, and treachery were the motivating forces to send men back to society and the good life. Here is set forth in all its funereal and deadening drabness the highhanded action of guards and wardens, themselves prisoners, whose only emotional outlet appears to be the exercise of authority upon the helpless in their charge. Here again we learn of the "hole" into which refractory inmates are thrown for violation of prison rules. Roasting to a cinder in the heat of a steel cell in summer and freezing in the same cell in winter with only an unfurnished bed and the bucket, that symbol of law and order, inmates serve their time. Is it any wonder they vow vengeance upon release!

It has been said before and probably will be said many times again that no code confers upon any authority the right to ruin a person's health as a part of his punishment. It has been said and will be said again that the penitentiary is a psychological monstrosity, which by its very nature makes reform impossible. That modern students are convinced of this is of small moment. These students do not appropriate the

public monies for prison construction. As long as legislators prefer to listen to the irrational clamor of constituents for larger fortresses with million dollar walls, and prefer to ignore the necessity to make available sufficient funds for early identification and diagnosis in the younger age groups of the population so that much of our crime problem may be discovered early enough to eliminate part of it, just so long will prison memoirs appear with their wholly unnecessary descriptions of broken men and personalities twisted and distorted by a compelling hope and wish to get even when they are released. Some day we may learn that the most important moment in the life of the caged man is when the doors of this cage release him back to the community to make good his determination to collect the debt he is confident we owe him.

J. B. SHALLOO.

University of Pennsylvania.

INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT OF DELINQUENT BOYS. PART 2. A STUDY OF 751 BOYS. By *Alida C. Bowler* and *Ruth S. Bloodgood*. v+149 pp. United States Government Printing Office, Washington, 1936. \$0.15.

This publication of the Children's Bureau of the Department of Labor is the second part of a study of institutional treatment of delinquent boys and its results.¹ It can be considered to be one of the major statistical studies of juvenile delinquency of a decade

¹*Institutional Treatment of Delinquent Boys, Part 1, Treatment Programs of Five State Institutions for Delinquent Boys*. United States Children's Bureau Publ. No. 228, Wash., 1935.

which has produced several. Due to changes in physical facilities and practices, however, the data recorded in the second part of this survey are not ascribable to the institutional programs described in the first part.

The 751 boys studied were under the care of these five State Institutions and had been released a minimum of five years prior to the time of the study. In 623 cases (83 per cent) these boys were located and interviewed. Personal interviews were extensively supplemented with institutional records. The field investigations were done by male agents on the staff of the Children's Bureau.

Statistical results of the study of crimino-genetic factors as broken homes, school retardation, and truancy are of perennial interest. Concerning the first of these, the authors found that the "parents of only 50% of the 619 boys for whom information on this point was obtained were both living and were maintaining a home together" (p. 22).

The incidence of school retardation was high. "Of the 586 boys for whom last school grade completed prior to commitment was reported, at least three-fourths were retarded. Only about one-sixth of the 521 boys who had not finished the elementary school grades had completed the grade normally to be expected" (p. 35).

Data relating to truancy were found in 497 cases. In 15 per cent of the cases there was no record of truancy. In 12 per cent truancy was reported as occasional. Habitual truancy was recorded in 60 per cent. Uncharacterized truancy was reported in 13 per cent of the cases.

Lack of adequate educational fa-

cilities and the limitations of curricula in institutional programs are stressed. The need for individualized vocational programs, in the authors' opinion, is great. Institutional needs most frequently dictate the type of vocational education offered. Hence, in 591 cases for whom data was obtained, 77 per cent "had not been able to make any use of such knowledge or skill as they had acquired" in the institution (p. 60).

Of the 623 cases 494 were not re-institutionalized for parole violation, 129 cases were returned for some violation. The authors do not consider this a measure of the success of parole, due to differing methods of parole.

In final evaluation of their data on adjustment, the authors' findings, "based on consideration of all the adjustment ratings on specific phases of adjustment, resulted in a rating of generally successful in 200 cases (32 per cent), doubtful in 203 (33 per cent), and unsuccessful in 220 (35 per cent)" (p. 99).

This study is a valuable addition to existing statistical material in criminology, although as the authors point out, we need much more detailed and accurate case histories in the future.

FREDERICK J. GAUDET.

University of Newark.

GIRLS ON CITY STREETS. By *Jacob A. Goldberg* and *Rosamond W. Goldberg*. Pp. 394. American Social Hygiene Association, New York, 1935. \$2.50.

Community indignation is easily aroused over publicised specific sex crimes committed against young girls. Social workers, educators, judges in morals courts and par-

ents have been cognizant of such existing conditions, but the public at large has had no concept of their incidence nor of the social factors that contribute to their etiology. This study of 1400 cases of rape in New York is a scientific yet popularly written analysis of specific situations in an attempt to discover the cause of such relationships and to encourage corrective measures for these social shortcomings.

Causation of sex delinquency is studied in this instance through segregating case histories of similar mien. While the authors recognize that a social diagnosis cannot be adequately based on an isolated factor, it has been possible in a treatise of this type to catalogue, with reservations, individual cases as being the result of such specific circumstances as parental relationships, broken and crowded homes, poor environment, mental problems and varying levels of intelligence. The 160 case histories cited are not handled in any unusual manner and from the reader's standpoint it seems unnecessary for the treatment given them. However, apparently only sordid details can arouse a lethargic public to remedy the conditions that permit these youthful tragedies.

Factual and statistical material has been obtained to give a fairly correct picture of the situations and of the girls involved, as well as of their prototypes whose stories are not included. The analysis very capably shows the extreme youthfulness of many of the girls, the fact that most of them were born in the United States where they had benefits of education in American schools, that 30% of them had lost their fathers and 14.7% had lost their mothers by

death. The practice among families of low incomes of permitting male roomers to share their inadequate quarters is provocative of moral disaster. The automobile is involved in sex delinquencies arising out of the so-called pick-up acquaintanceship. An attempt is made to differentiate between those who were forcibly assaulted and those who gave at least their tacit consent to the act of violation. Places where rape occurred are indicated; community factors of demoralizing influence and community debts to growing young people are presented in such a convincing form that a society which is apprised of them and does not recognize the challenge thrown before it and act aggressively for the abolition of these factors lies under a severe social indictment.

ALTHEA H. KRATZ.

University of Pennsylvania

PREVENTING CRIME. Edited by *Sheldon* and *Eleanor Glueck*. xi+509 pp. McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., New York. 1936. \$4.00.

In the past there has been little faith in prevention, because prevention meant interference in what is now considered a well-known causal chain. As long as crime was believed to spring from viciousness, so to speak, there was no room for anticipation nor from exercising influence on antecedents. The final expression of the will had to be awaited, censured and punished.

Prevention has two different aspects. First of all we need an exact knowledge of the causes of crime. Otherwise there can be no intervention before the personal or social conflict (crime, suicide, disease, accidents, etc.) has ripened. Furthermore, the means applied

must be more effective, less prejudicial to all sorts of interests, more effort-saving and cheaper than mere punishment. A preventive war may have many advantages in comparison with an impending defeat; nevertheless, using the means of warfare, there can be no genuine prevention.

The volume, edited by Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck, is a first and successful attempt to approach the manifold topics of prevention. A glance at the book displays the variety, even the heterogeneity, of the problems connected with or aiming at prevention.

All the experiments described by the 26 authors (and most of them are very interesting and impressive and deserve mature consideration) start with the supposition that criminal careers begin in childhood. True as that is, we need a more profound knowledge of what is very generally termed "criminality," because not every one of the many preventive means described and proposed applies to every youngster. Before organization and action come research and study. Then follows the transmission of the knowledge so acquired to the agencies interested in prevention. Finally come organization and activity, in theory at least. I am well aware that police, farms for problem boys, children's villages, summer camps, boys' clubs, etc., might procure important raw material, recklessly going ahead and experimenting in an empirical way. The whole book shows how courageously and intelligently many agencies started, but the book also shows that without this compilation many of the experiments would have been lost for the common good or confined to a narrow circle.

Do we really know what are the deep-rooted impulses and situations driving the child to criminal actions instead of to a quiet and decent life? Certainly there are slums and malnutrition, broken homes and the endless unoccupied time from Friday afternoon till Monday morning, the child's craving for popularity, his superabundant energies and his emotional greediness. But many things are left for research and cure: the only child, for example, the unwanted child, the ugly youngster, the complex-driven child of small stature, of red hair or of a disdained race, not to forget the problems of the juvenile gang which can easily be broken up by force but is so difficult to replace by other sounder substitutes.

I can not help thinking that it would be best to concentrate all preventive efforts in a suitable police bureau. Only the police possess every opportunity of investigation and of prompt executive action. The school, the guidance clinic and all the other agencies described in such a telling way in this book could be brought into play by a police prevention bureau. Not every police department is prepared today for such a task. The papers written by Henrietta Additon about the Crime Prevention Bureau of the New York City police department and of Elisabeth Lossing about the crime prevention work of the Berkeley police department are convincing evidence of the advances in the direction made by modern police in this country. I resist the temptation to mention the contributions I like the most. There are more than is usual in a compilation of this kind. Besides, not all the articles

one likes are always the most instructive.

Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck strike the right note in their excellent introduction in saying that "Evidence such as is found in this symposium justifies our looking to the future of crime control with at least some degree of optimism."

HANS V. HENTIG.

New Haven, Conn.

PROSTITUTION. By *Tage Kemp*. 253 pp. Levin & Munksgaard, Copenhagen, 1936.

This work is based on the medico-psychiatric examination of 530 prostitutes reporting to the Copenhagen police, 1931-35. Dr. Kemp stresses biological aspects, and seeks to find ways of controlling hereditary factors. After sketching the development of treatment from regulation to medical and reformatory care, the author describes his method of investigating the cases from records and by means of interviews. He presents 50 summaries to illustrate the points made in his analysis.

Kemp considers, first, inherited traits, and finds that 50 per cent of the women are mentally retarded or feeble minded. Among those whose family histories were known, 65 per cent had abnormal relatives. Such tainted stock cannot stand the strain of urban life, and should be sterilized or given custodial care. We may not agree, however, that in some instances cited, alcoholism and criminality are proven to be caused by hereditary defects. In 47 per cent of the cases, serious chronic disabilities (besides venereal disease in 73 per cent) reduced normal earning capacity. Consequently, development defects

may also be considered predisposing factors.

The author does not neglect environmental conditions. He shows that 17 per cent of the prostitutes were illegitimate children; that 88 per cent came from poor homes; that a third were brought up outside; and that two-thirds grew up under unfavorable circumstances. He shows also that subsequently, low wages, poor living conditions and bad companions led most of the girls to rebellion and crime. In such a combination of unfavorable circumstances, it is easy to see how incompetent and abandoned women drifted into prostitution.

The author holds that more constructive welfare work and less punitive effort by the police are desirable. Even the enlightened public administration of Denmark reveals faults in coordination. Sixty-five per cent of the women had been imprisoned for breaking regulations and for other offenses. Sixty per cent had been fined—some more than thirty times. But such treatment does not cure prostitution. Early examination, continued supervision and effective placement in suitable jobs are recommended. The study is really a disclosure of the ill fate of neglected servant girls in Copenhagen.

Careful reading of the cases presented reveals that, in most instances, several personal and environmental faults were involved. Which of these factors was *the cause* of prostitution, is difficult to determine. In all but three records, the reviewer found evidence of both constitutional and circumstantial failures. Certainly prostitution is not an inherited trait. Neither is sexual promiscuity always a crime. If future investigators would spend more effort to show how society

creates the evil, and less time in measuring its victims, we might hope to find a satisfactory solution for this recurring problem.

HOWARD WOOLSTON.

University of Wisconsin.

CRIMINAL ACTIONS IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURTS OF OHIO. By C. E. Gehlke. xxix+ 326 pp. The Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, 1936. \$3.00.

A SYSTEM OF CRIMINAL JUDICIAL STATISTICS FOR CALIFORNIA. By Ronald H. Beattie. xvi+ 238 pp. University of California Press, Berkeley, 1936. \$2.50.

To the notable achievements in the field of criminal statistics one must add these two excellent volumes of Gehlke and Beattie.

No published work on criminal statistics contains as much detailed information on the procedural disposition of criminal cases and the sentences imposed on convicted offenders as Gehlke's *CRIMINAL ACTIONS IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURTS OF OHIO*. The details cover not one court but each one of the eighty-eight county courts in Ohio, for the first six months of 1930. For purposes of more convenient analysis, the counties are arranged into five groups according to population. This provides an insight into differences in the methods of dealing with criminal cases in rural, urban and semi-urban counties and enables Gehlke to conclude that there is no evidence in Ohio to support the theory that the court system of the United States, which grew up in a period of rural civilization, is better adapted to rural than to urban justice. Courts in urban counties have a considerably higher percentage of cases turning

out successfully for the State, and use a more severe standard in assessing punishment (page 289).

Beattie's analysis of criminal cases and punishments is not as detailed as Gehlke's. Nor does Beattie cover as many courts. His data are limited to the three California counties of Alameda, Los Angeles, and San Francisco which are analyzed for the years 1931-32. However, Beattie's *SYSTEM OF CRIMINAL JUDICIAL STATISTICS FOR CALIFORNIA* contains, in addition to an analysis of criminal cases, an excellent description of the techniques which should be used in the collection and compilation of criminal judicial statistics by a central state bureau. All the necessary forms and punch cards for the performance of this function are presented and discussed.

In general, the statistical picture of the administration of justice which may be had from these two books is one with which readers of criminal justice surveys are already familiar. Both Gehlke and Beattie stress the importance of administration as contrasted with rules of procedure. In both Ohio and California most convictions are obtained by pleas of guilty. Trials are of minor importance in the administration of justice in these states. Both studies document the predominant position of the prosecuting attorney in the disposition of criminal cases. Gehlke, for example, observes that "we have turned the operation of the courts over to one elected official, the prosecutor. Whereas another elected official of the court, the judge, functions pretty largely in the glare of the court room, the prosecutor may make his secret way for the great bulk of the cases, The vaunted superiority of our

Anglo-Saxon system over the Continental systems pretty largely disappears when we observe that fundamentally the life or death of a case is in the hands of an official whose acts are by no means as subject to check as, for example, those of the French *juge d'instruction*" (page 290).

There is considerable material in both books that is not generally found in the surveys. Both studies attempt, for example to correlate procedural outcome with the type of counsel that represented the defendant, the personal characteristics of defendants and the delay encountered in the disposition of cases. Beattie indicates that convictions are higher in public defender cases than in cases in which the defendant was represented by a private attorney or a professional criminal lawyer. Gehlke finds that 73.8 per cent of the negro defendants are found guilty, as compared with 64.2 per cent of white defendants. Thus equality before the law seems to be something of a dream for the negro in states north of the Mason-Dixon Line, as well as in states to the south of it. Gehlke's data on the speed of justice provides documentation for the oft expressed opinion that delay favors the defendant.

Both books, and particularly that of Gehlke, indicate that there are tremendous variations between counties in the number and types of criminal cases handled, in the methods used to dispose of them, in the procedural results achieved, and in the punishments imposed. This points to the need for greater centralization in the administration of justice through such agencies as ministries of justice and central sentencing boards. Only through centralization will it be possible to

control the influence of geography and to obtain uniformity in disposition of criminal cases and the treatment of convicted offenders.

MORRIS PLOSCOWE.

Juvenile Delinquency Commission,
Trenton, N. J.

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EIN BEITRAG ZUM PROBLEM DER
RÜCKFALLSPROGNOSE. (A Contribution to the Problem of Recidivism Prognosis.) By Robert Schiedt. 77 pp. Münchener Zeitungs-Verlag, Munich, 1936.

This study will interest American scholars, for it is one of the first attempts made outside the United States to establish a scientific basis for the prognostication of future conduct in prisoners. Dr. Schiedt begins with a survey of the researches of Burgess, the Gluecks, Vold, and Monachesi, gives special approval to the techniques employed in the first-mentioned one, and generally acknowledges his indebtedness to all of them. He then reports the results of a study of 500 unselected male prisoners released in 1931 from the Bavarian prisons. The case records were made available to him by the Crimino-Biological Center, and their post-release criminal records were secured from the Penal Registry, the data of which were assumed to be complete.

Arbitrarily selecting 21 factors assumed to possess etiological significance, he examined the relationship of each of these factors to the recidivism of their possessors. He found, for instance, that only 39.2 of those with "normal" heredity recidivated, while 58.9 of those with unilateral, and 90.9 per cent of those with bilateral de-

fective heredity committed new crimes after their release. The following fifteen factors were chosen finally because of their "high prognostic value:" bad heredity, criminality of parents, poor educational advantages in youth, poor school record, uncompleted trade apprenticeship, irregular employment record, criminal career before 18 years of age, more than four prior punishments, rapid recidivism, interlocal offenses, psychopathic diagnosis, drunkenness, poor disciplinary record in prison, under 35 years of age at release, poor economic status after release. Illegitimate birth, marital status, physical type, nature of last crime, nature of most preferred crime, presence of penitentiary sentence among earlier punishments, were declared to be of no prognostic significance.

The author proceeds to classify his cases according to the number of unfavorable factors and finds that only 3.3 per cent of those with no unfavorable factors in their records recidivated, while 100 per cent of those with 12-15 factors did. The table is reproduced below.

Group	Number of unfavorable factors	Number of prisoners in group	Percentage of recidivists
I	0	30	3.3
II	1-3	101	14.8
III	4-6	170	40.6
IV	7-9	118	68.6
V	10-11	50	94.0
VI	12-15	31	100.0

The reason for the change in the basis of the classification in Groups V and VI is explained by the author as due to the fact that he found all those 12 unfavorable points among the recidivists and therefore placed them in Group VI.

In comparing his results with the social prognosis made at the time of the release of these prisoners by the physician, he arrives at the conclusion that the physician's judgment was less reliable than his prognostic device would have been, for of those given a "favorable" prognosis by the physician, 25.7 per cent became recidivists, and so did 55.8 per cent of those given a "doubtful," and 72.2 per cent of those given an "unfavorable" prognosis.

THORSTEN SELLIN.

University of Pennsylvania.

GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY. By *Francis L. Wellman*. xi, 298 pp. The Macmillan Co., New York, 1936. \$1.00.

This is a reissue of a book originally published twelve years ago and many times re-printed. Its observations on trials and their participants — witnesses, lawyers, judges, jurors — its anecdotes, drawn from history and the author's experience of thirty years as prosecutor and defense attorney, its sound comments and pertinent illustrations, its conversational style, and its warm defense of the jury system, would make it interesting as well as profitable to the readers for whom it is primarily designed, the prospective jurors, could they be reached by this type of book.

MUSIC IN INSTITUTIONS. By *William van de Wall*, assisted by *Clara Maria Liepmann*. 457 pp.

Russell Sage Foundation, New York, 1936. \$3.00.

Music in penal institutions is, to the minds of most persons perhaps associated with devotional services. In that connection it has, as a matter of fact, a long history. Its value was probably dimly understood by the administrator, but its full exploitation as a therapeutic as well as a disciplinary instrument had to wait until radical changes occurred in the concepts of punishment. Group singing of secular songs was impossible while solitary confinement was the mode and only religious songs were deemed proper for prisoners; dramatic presentations could be arranged only when the cell began to lose its influence and the religious influence began to wane. Orchestras and bands, glee clubs and quartets are symptomatic of a changed attitude toward prisons, and since this change in attitudes first affected the punishment or correction of juveniles and women offenders, it is in the institutions for these classes that we find the widest employment of music for recreational ends.

Mr. William van de Wall is well qualified to consider the important problems arising when music and its allied arts are regarded as therapeutic devices as well as recreational ones. He was for many years engaged in directing musical activities in the institutions for the mentally ill in the State of Pennsylvania and in applying the results of his experiments to the inmates of other types of institutions. He has written his book "to bring to the attention of public-minded citizens, especially those interested in welfare institutions, ideas and suggestions about the

use of music in such work. They are based upon experience gained in the utilization of music as an organic detail of institutional life and treatment, and are planned to meet the inmate's need for social adjustment and the integration of his personality." The author believes the function of music in an institution to be the stimulation and refinement of the forces which are attempting to achieve this integration, for music "makes inmates for the time being both less defensive and less aggressive in their attitude toward their environment; . . . develops a feeling of tolerance and closeness and sympathy with other human beings; . . . releases emotional tensions and produces a craving for their relief which can be directed into the proper channels." Finally, it "establishes a dynamic contact between leader and inmates" which facilitates constructive treatment.

There are nineteen chapters in the book, grouped into five parts: The function of music in institutional care and treatment, chiefly a discussion of "social education" and the psychological aspects of the listener to or the producer of music; the aims and scope of musical activities in various institutions, covering institutions for normal children or adults, for physical infirm or mentally deficient, mental hospitals, correctional institutions, etc.; the organization of institutional musical activities; the institutional music worker; and the administration of music in welfare institutions. This abbreviated list of the contents of the book gives some idea of its scope but none of the wealth of detail and the care of presentation. It is the sort of manual which is sorely needed by the specialist in penal administra-

tion and it is curious that the most recent "innovation" in institutional therapy should, so far as penal administration is concerned, be the first to have a good handbook while the prison warden, the prison physician, the prison cleric, the prison psychiatrist, etc., lack one.

Dr. Clara Maria Liepmann, whose book on the self-government of prisoners may be known to the readers of the *JOURNAL*, has collaborated with Mr. van de Wall in the planning and composition of the book, a foreword was written by Dr. Samuel H. Hamilton of the Bloomingdale Hospital, and a preface by Dr. William C. Sandy, Director of the Bureau of Mental Health of the Pennsylvania State Department of Welfare. In an appendix may be found a discussion of the function of music in that Department. A selected bibliography of nineteen pages and an index complete the book, which is attractively bound.

THORSTEN SELLIN.

University of Pennsylvania.

HUMAN GENETICS AND ITS SOCIAL IMPORT. By *S. J. Holmes*. viii, 414 pp. McGraw-Hill Co., Inc., New York, 1936. \$3.50.

Social scientists today generally assume that biological factors play an important role in the socialization of the individual and must be studied if his conduct is to be scientifically explained. Professor Holmes notes that sociology texts are heavily loaded with biological data, and while he does not suggest that these data have been misused, his book is specifically designed to show the social import of heredity. It is constructed in the manner usually employed by the textbook writer, each of its

twenty-five chapters being supplemented by suggestions for further readings, questions for class discussion or report, and a selected bibliography.

Chapter Thirteen is of special interest to the student of criminology, for it deals with "Genetic Factors in Crime and Delinquency," surveying rapidly a few selected studies in criminal anthropology, psychology, and psychiatry. In view of recent studies in the United States—especially those of Professor Hooton—he cautiously suggests that "apparently, the last word on the significance of criminal anthropology has not yet been said." (p. 173.) He indicates that there is probably some relationship between juvenile delinquency and subnormal intelligence and that mental abnormalities have some causative importance. Recent researches on twins leads him to assume that "like heredity in environments which are as a rule of much the same kind is associated to a rather surprising degree with similarities in criminal careers." (p. 181.) Professor Holmes' conclusion is presented in the first paragraph of the chapter. "The role of genetic factors in the causation of crime is difficult to appraise . . . Probably some kinds of heredity more than others predispose people to commit anti-social acts, but whether an individual actually becomes a criminal depends largely upon the accidents of his environment." If this is taken literally, it means, apparently, that biologists are unable to lend much assistance in explaining the causation of crime and that the criminologist must be primarily a sociologist.

THORSTEN SELLIN.

University of Pennsylvania.

CHARACTER AND CITIZENSHIP TRAINING IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL: AN EXPERIMENTAL STUDY OF THREE SPECIFIC METHODS. By V. Jones. Pp. xi+404. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1936.

The nature of this book is more accurately suggested by its subtitle than by its principal title, for instead of a generalized discussion of the problem, we find it to be hardly more than a clear, readable account of a carefully planned experiment, preceded by a brief historical foreword summarizing nine previous experiments, and followed by an even briefer chapter of conclusions and implications. The experiment was conducted in 1932-33 in two schools in New Haven, Connecticut, using four seventh-grade classes and four eighth-grade classes, numbering in all 304 children. For each of the three experimental conditions and control, one seventh-grade and one eighth-grade were used. Training was conducted as a part of the regular social-studies program, following a carefully planned curriculum of 13 units, by the regular classroom teachers under the tutelage and frequent observation of the experimenter. The three teaching methods compared are characterized as (1) the first-hand experiencing method, E, (2) the exclusive discussion method, D, and (3) a combination method, E-D, in which children had not only the benefit of direct participation, but of generalized discussion of their experiences.

The relative efficacy of the three methods was measured by means both of teachers' observational ratings and by a series of 17 tests, most of which were given twice, at the beginning and end of the school year. These may be classified as

five tests of honesty and truthfulness, two of cooperation, two of moral standards and self-evaluation, and measures of intelligence, home background, and psychoneurotic tendencies. The remaining tests were used in connection with three supplementary studies, one on change of pupil-attitudes after seeing motion pictures, one a re-test six months later the principal experiment, and a general social-studies test to discover whether the inclusion of the experimental curriculum had seriously detracted from the regular social-studies program (estimated to be less than 5%). The curriculum and methods are described in considerable detail in an eighty-three-page chapter, which it is suggested may prove of help to others who would like to repeat the experiment in their own schools.

In general, the author found the E-D method distinctly more effective than either of the other two methods, and the only one consistently superior to the control groups on any of the tests. Even this method, however, did not pro-

duce better scores on all the tests, improvement being most noticeable in those which most closely resembled some part of the training program.

The book is to be praised for its clear, orderly presentation, its well-phrased chapter summaries, and its honesty in stating the weaknesses and limitations of the experiment, as well as its positive findings. Thus, although the author definitely aligns himself with those who believe that the schools should attack the problem of individual character training more directly and seriously before abandoning the effort in favor of a reorganization of the social order, he is frank enough to admit that even the most encouraging results of his own and others' experimental programs fall far short of satisfactory. Nevertheless, he has definitely shown that the problem is not yet to be dismissed as insoluble.

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(From the *Psychological Bulletin*, December, 1936.)