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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

ALFRED R. LINDESMITH [Ed.]

THE TRIAL OF RUTH SNYDER AND JUDD GRAY. By *John Kobler*. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, Doran & Co. 1938. Pp. 377. \$3.50.

The greatest of all sets of criminal trials is, of course, William Hodge's "Notable British Trials Series," now containing about seventy volumes. For years we have seen the steady output of these familiar red volumes, nicely edited, interesting, and affecting. For Scotland, the same enterprising publisher has developed "Notable Scottish Trials," and in France there is the famous *Causes Célèbres*. George Dilnot issued a dozen volumes, "The Famous Trials Series," for Geoffrey Bles, with two American Trials.

But in this country we have lagged behind in trials publication. For a century our trials were reported through badly printed pamphlets, sold like dime novels, supplemented by a few official publications in Massachusetts and impeachment trials elsewhere. Our lag was largely ended by Lawson's magnificent set, entitled "American State Trials," now in seventeen volumes, with each volume containing several trials. The Lawson set rescued from oblivion several score of celebrated trials, but was not extended to the recent ones, nor did it follow Hodge's plan of but a single trial in each volume.

In the past few years we have seen two American publishers be-

gin a series of American trials after the English pattern. Alfred A. Knopf, through their General Editor, Samuel Klaus, has issued three volumes which covered the Milligan case, the Molineaux case, and the Sacco-Vanzetti case. And now Doubleday Doran has entered the field with its "Notable American Trials Series" and has published three volumes, "The Trial of Lizzie Borden," "The Trial of Bruno Richard Hauptmann," and last the book we now review, "The Trial of Ruth Snyder and Judd Gray."

We congratulate both Knopf and Doubleday Doran and trust that costly competition will not injure their efforts to duplicate the success of William Hodge. The American books are better printed and in all technical aspects superior to the English books, which are cheaply bound with flimsy covers, poorly illustrated, and unattractive in paper and type. By comparison "The Trial of Ruth Snyder and Judd Gray" is a most attractive volume.

Why do we study criminal trials? Of course, specialists in criminal law have something to gain, but the sale of most trials naturally is to the interested layman. Perhaps his interest lies in the fact that he can see himself as defendant, or as prosecutor or defense counsel. He can translate himself over into the courtroom and obtain a vicarious thrill from the tense excitement so prevalent there. Our book's introduction begins with the statement,

"no crime stings popular imagination so sharply as one that is essentially commonplace." And that may explain the avid interest which the public has in attending trials or reading about them. The newspapers found this out long ago.

As a matter of fact, the Snyder-Gray affair was a commonplace thing. A small-town, giddy wife, tired of her husband, entered into illicit relations with another man, and they plotted to kill the husband. This was done in a rather gruesome way, and they were neatly trapped by the police, tried, and executed. Such affairs have happened before and unfortunately may be expected to happen again, and often. One reason for the notoriety of the Snyder-Gray case is the fact that the newspapers seized upon it as a *heart-interest affair* and "for eight rapturous months they rattled the editorial drums over the Snyder-Gray case." The case stimulated circulation, and so more and more space was given to it. The additional space stimulated further interest in the case and so on until the climax occurred at the death chamber, where an enterprising staff photographer of the New York Daily News carried, concealed in his trouser leg, a tiny ankle-camera and violated strict orders by taking a picture of Ruth's body as it heaved against the leather straps. Needless to say the illicit picture appeared, and the photographer was given a promotion. We repeat, the Snyder-Gray case was essentially a newspaper case. There is little in the actual facts of the case to arouse extraordinary interest. A simple adulterous relationship is not unusual, nor is a stark murder growing out of the relationship. But it was a "celebrated" trial, and deserves a

place in the Doubleday Doran series.

The editor, John Kobler, does a good job with his editing. He cut down the lengthy testimony quite skilfully to some three hundred pages, so that it presented the fact essentials, along with the trial procedure. Interspersed were some interesting illustrations from Ruth Snyder's scrapbook and various newspaper clippings bearing upon the case. In his 67-page introduction, entitled "A Study of the Snyder-Gray Case," Mr. Kobler makes the drab facts as interesting as any person possibly could do. We began the reading of this book as a reviewer's task. We had no desire at all to wade through this crime because of any peculiar interest or desire to profit from its reading. The editor's introduction, however, made it a pleasure.

It is significant that the dedication is with "affection and gratitude to Jack Lait," a sensational journalist. Mr. Kobler's style is extremely journalistic. For an example of his style, he starts off by stating, "the liquidation of Albert Snyder by his wife and her myopic cavalier could have occurred next door—next door to anyone." Isn't that typical of journalistic interest-catching technique? At several places in the introduction Mr. Kobler tells his story by making play actors of Ruth and Judd and putting actual words into their mouths. Necessarily this lacks accuracy, but it does stimulate our senses to the point where we read on and on with some degree of eagerness. Altogether, we think that Mr. Kobler is to be commended for a clever piece of work.

To the writer the trial was of great interest, not because of the killing of Ruth's husband, but in

the way that Ruth Snyder and Judd Gray, after their apprehension, turned upon each other and blamed each other for the murder. They were denied separate trials, and as a result we have a most interesting legal situation—the trial became a triangle, the State and Judd Gray attempting to convict Ruth Snyder. Because of this situation, the trial is of unusual interest to students of the law. But the editors have little to say about the actual appeal taken by the convicts which raised this legal problem. It seems to the reviewer that the editor should have reprinted in its entirety the case, *People v. Snyder and Gray*, which is readily available in 246 N. Y. 491. A short statement concerning the appeal is found on p. 374 of the reviewed book, but the reviewer found the words of the court in the printed opinion much more interesting and authentic. Perhaps the refusal of the trial judge to give separate trials resulted in their convictions. But nevertheless the matter of granting Mrs. Snyder's motion for a separate trial was left to the discretion of the trial court and nothing appeared which indicated that such discretion was abused.

We hope to see more volumes added to the "Notable American Trial Series," if the editorial standard set in the preceding volumes and this one can be maintained. Again, we desire to congratulate the American publishers in this undertaking and warmly commend this latest trial to the reading public.

NEWMAN F. BAKER.

Northwestern University
Law School.

RESEARCH MEMORANDUM ON CRIME IN THE DEPRESSION. By *Thorsten Sellin*. Social Science Research Council. New York. 1937. Pp. vii-133.

At the outset, Professor Sellin cautions against the use of crime rates as indices of criminality without first ascertaining whether or not there have been changes in the substantive law. Next the problem of the relationship between crime and economic conditions is considered, both from the standpoint of impressionistic interpretations and statistical studies. The author finds considerable variation in both the indices of economic conditions and in the classifications of offenses. This leads him to the question of what constitutes the best index of both crime and economic conditions. As to what would constitute the best index of economic conditions, Professor Sellin comes to the conclusion that the sort of data needed are not usually available, but if they were they should be of incomes of laboring classes. As to indices of crime, the author concludes that total rates are of little value, and therefore all indices should be for offense classes, particularly those which are highly reportable and detectable and which do not undergo artificial changes from time to time. Of the several sources of data, crimes known to the police are, Sellin believes, the most desirable bases for crime indices. He considers tabulations of the offender as the unit, a poor substitute for offense statistics, though he grants that study of the offender is essential to the explanation of the correlation between crime and economic conditions. Examination of the sources from which data upon crime come,

leads Sellin to the conclusion that arrest rates for many types of offenses constitute measures of law enforcement rather than of criminality and must therefore be used with this qualification in mind. In the final chapter a number of hypotheses are formulated, ranging all the way from the effects of depressions upon the substantive law and administrative procedures, to its effects upon crime, both in general, and in its specific forms.

The *Memorandum* represents a critical survey of the literature upon the relationship between crime and economic conditions and arrives at a position in general with which one must agree. Much of the argument does not go counter to what is widely accepted by competent persons in this field. The author has neglected, however, to give due consideration to the problem of what case studies should contain if they are to be used in explaining the connection between crime and economic conditions. Furthermore, the question of the superiority of offense as compared to offender rates is one which has been too commonly solved in terms of the practical difficulties in the way of getting reliable records of arrests, rather than in terms of the theoretical implications of the two approaches. If the explanation of the relationship between crime and economic conditions lies in the connection between the offense as an act of an individual and the conditions which impinge upon him and cause him to act as he does, then theoretically the most satisfactory unit must be the offender. The author neglects also the potentialities of the ecological approach through which some of the administrative disturbances in crime statistics can be minimized. In the

main, however, the *Memorandum* constitutes a valuable addition to the literature upon the study of crime in general as well as upon the more restricted problem indicated in the title.

ERNEST R. MOWRER.

Northwestern University.

YOUTH IN THE TOILS. By Leonard V. Harrison and Pryor McNeill Grant. vii-167 pp. Macmillan, New York, 1938. \$1.50.

This little book commends itself by its brevity and lack of repetition. The illustrations while too brief to be of value as case studies are apt and to the point. For those unfamiliar with the criticisms and the weaknesses of our system of justice, the book gives a clear picture of the difficulties of mixing theories of retribution and reformation in the same institution; of the importance of personnel both as to ability, attitude, and mood; of the injustices from basing decisions on an arbitrary code instead of on a flexible one considering personalities and other variable factors; of bargaining for a lesser charge; of turning the offender free with no treatment because an appropriate agency seems to be lacking; of the possible horrors of mistakes, indifference and delay. On the treatment side emphasis is given to the separation of judicial and dispositional functions; the adoption of a new code for minors to be handled by a new special court; speeding up the process; better trained and more considerate personnel; classification and specialized treatment for each class.

The author states, "The period immediately following arrest is the most fruitful time for strengthening

the psychological foundations upon which offenders may be encouraged to build." This emphasis on early constructive treatment is one of the good points of the book. Its weaknesses, in the minds of some, will lie in its minimizing the hazards to the public of the trial and error method of classification while the offender retains his liberty and the faith that new forms of organization will of themselves produce more effective personnel than the old.

This book should help speed the day toward the creation of new forms of organization and the removal of some of the weakness and limitations of the old.

ALFRED GLEN BARRY.

Juvenile Detention Home,
Chicago, Illinois.

THE CRIMINALS WE DESERVE, a survey of some aspects of crime in the modern world. By *Henry J. F. Rhodes*, 257 pp. Oxford University Press, New York, 1937. \$2.50.

This interesting little book contains a great deal of information about crime and criminals. The author, who is a professor of criminology at the University of Lyons, France, has had first-hand experience with criminals and prisons in England, France, and the United States. His thesis is that society gets the criminals it deserves.

His first chapter has the suggestive title—"We Mass-Produce Crime." In it he declares that mass-production is not confined to industry. "We mass-produce everything from public opinion to motor-car bodies; and we mass-produce criminals, too." In a later chapter, he points out that mass produc-

tion began in America and hints at the fact that the gangster has simply applied the methods of big business to crime (pp. 171-186).

In this chapter, he also shows how the Industrial Revolution caused the concentration of large populations in small areas with the resultant creation of the modern slum, which he describes as "that worst of all mass-produced articles." Conditions of life in these slum areas inevitably result in crime and criminals.

The chapters in this small book are packed with examples of criminals and with illustrations of crime-producing conditions. He explains "how society strikes back" at the criminal, and how criminals "protect themselves" by the use of the same scientific methods that society develops in its effort to suppress crime.

Other topics dealt with are "the economics of murder"; "low cunning and high"; "scraps of paper", in which modern forgery is described; "twisted in making" discusses sexual crime; and "opium for the people" explains the methods used by illicit sellers and receivers of drugs.

The final chapter contains the author's observations upon the future of crime. He refers to the great increase in juvenile crime in England between 1933 and 1935. In 1935, 4,700 extra offenses were committed by juveniles, nearly 13 a day. Such an increase is very significant because it means eventually an increase in adult criminality. In his opinion there is really no need of surprise at this increase. Many children are born to blind-alley occupations, which leave them stranded at sixteen without work or the prospect of securing it. There is consequently

no emotional outlet for their energy. They have been educated by the schools for something better with the result that strong emotional and mental conflicts are set up. Many times their offenses have "an unpleasantly professional look." A boy of sixteen was charged with housebreaking. The method used was so ingenious that details were withheld in court.

There has been a great improvement in the technique of crime. In spite of increased efficiency in the detection of crime, forgery is still highly dangerous to society. "The clumsy forger hardly exists and geniuses with pen and photographic process are common enough." A large percentage of these offenders are men who once had a legitimate occupation of a skilled kind. They have not turned to crime because of a lack of capacity for other work. They have often lost their regular work because of business changes over which they had no control. In the judgment of the author, this type of lawbreaker is increasing and will continue to increase under modern social conditions.

In his concluding sentences, the author makes the following statement:

"Our punishments, no less than our criminals, are the symptoms of the decline of a system which is quickly outliving its usefulness. It creates many more criminals than it cures, by confirming in them that anti-sociality which is an amplified function of its own defects and failures. We not only create, but perpetuate in our penal system, the kind of criminal we deserve." Without accepting all the implications involved, we may properly

ponder this expression of opinion of an experienced observer.

FRED E. HAYNES.

State University of Iowa,
Iowa City, Iowa.

MACHINE POLITICS: CHICAGO MODEL.
By *Harold F. Gosnell*. xx+229
pp. The University of Chicago
Press. 1937. \$2.50.

Long before the appearance of the book here under review, Harold F. Gosnell was well known to the students of the fundamentals of democratic politics. His *Negro Politicians: The Rise of Negro Politics in Chicago*; *Boss Platt and His New York Machine*; *Why Europe Votes*; *Getting Out the Vote: An Experiment in the Stimulation of Voting*; and *Non-Voting: Causes and Methods of Control*, done jointly with Charles E. Merriam, have placed in his debt those who had an inclination to get below the surface of things political. *Machine Politics: Chicago Model* measurably increases that indebtedness, particularly as to the problems of democracy in a cosmopolitan, metropolitan urban setting.

The immense amount of detailed study that has gone into the making of the book is indicated by the fact, among others, that it involved a careful perusal of the Chicago newspapers over a ten year period, and obtaining the records of one hundred and seventy-five ward leaders and of nine hundred precinct captains. Add to this the investigation of Chicago's population from the standpoints of nationality, religion and economic status in relation to voting habits and one begins to get some conception of the effort made to remove the study of

urban politics from the realm of guess and wishful thinking and place it on a basis of fact.

This reference to the extensive collection of data upon which Professor Gosnell's study is based might suggest that the book will prove to be dry and uninteresting to the average reader. Such is far from true. The book is readable and will be interesting except to those who are not content with anything except flamboyant conclusions drawn from whatever political data may be under consideration. It is true that the book is compact. The author wastes no words. With the same data, and covering the same ground, too many of our political scientists of eminence would have produced a volume of twice the size.

The title of the book also might suggest that it will prove to be of use and interest only to those concerned with the tangled and spotted skein of Chicago politics. Such is not the case. For, although the data which form the foundation of Professor Gosnell's study relate to Chicago, there is a strong probability that the conclusions drawn therefrom will prove to be valid in large measure for other large American urban communities. However, the Chicagoan who wants to get a clear picture of changing party fortunes in Chicago during the last ten years, who wants to know why it is so difficult to lick a ward boss, or wants to know about the activities of Chicago precinct captains and the changing character of these party functionaries, will find all his answers in the first four chapters of this volume. Moreover he will not only find the answers in these chapters, but he will find them in no other one place

and nowhere in such a definitive form.

From the standpoint of the non-Chicagoan the remaining five chapters, though based on Chicago data, are likely to be regarded as of as much significance for urban politics in general as for Chicago. In these chapters one finds a discussion of the response of voters, the conduct of voting on propositions, the action of the voter on propositions directly submitted to them, the relation of the press to voting, and the role of urban politics. In the course of these chapters Gosnell gets down to the bedrock of many questions which are usually discussed hotly with no other basis for conclusions than inadequate data and emotional bias. Among such questions are whether women tended to vote more conservatively than men in the 1936 national election; the effect of national relief money on voting at the same election; and the influence of economic status and of nationalistic and religious groupings on voting behavior. It is only fair to say that, Professor Gosnell would probably be the first to protest that for the most part he makes no claim that his findings and conclusions relate to other than the Chicago scene. However there is a strong probability that, making due allowance for variables as between Chicago and other cosmopolitan urban communities, his conclusions drawn from Chicago data have broad general validity.

At the outset the author suggests that the discerning reader of his pages may discover "a Jeffersonian skepticism of urban democracy." And, indeed, as one follows the cold and merciless analysis of Chicago's recent politics that is likely to be the first impression. How-

ever, when one comes to appreciate the objectivity with which the study has been made, the conclusion will probably be that what at first appears to be skepticism is nothing more than that questioning attitude and salutary doubt which must mark any really scientific investigation. And, cautious as Professor Gosnell is not to raise false hopes, there are here and there among his conclusions glimmerings of encouragement even as to the political future of Chicago. Note that in the preface he declares: "Certainly Chicago politics was not as corrupt, as violent, as vulgar, and as subservient to vested business interests in 1936 as in 1928." And later (p. 90), "The depression has brought some improvement in the ethical standards of party workers of the city, but these standards are still pitched at a very low level." Small crumbs of encouragement these, but at least something.

No review of this book would be complete without comment on the techniques used in the interpretation of the basic data of the investigation. In the words of Professor William Fielding Ogburn who writes the foreword to the volume, "This book . . . is something new in the study of politics. It is new because it brings to political science the whole battery of scientific techniques of modern social science." This must necessarily sound portentous to any general reader seeking a better understanding of the "innards" of urban politics. And, fortunately for the encouragement of the wide reading which the book deserves, Professor Gosnell has placed his description of factorial analysis, and three and a half pages of formulas and equations used in his computations,

in appendices where they will be discovered and gazed at in wonder, not to say dismay, by most of those who will have read, understood and enjoyed the one hundred and ninety-three pages of text. Had these pages been placed at the beginning it is probable that, after one look, most potential readers would lay the book aside with the same alacrity that they would a treatise on the theory of relativity.

In other words, it is possible to understand Professor Gosnell's latest book without commanding "the whole battery of scientific techniques of modern social science." Indeed, it is the impression of this reviewer that any other investigator with equal intelligence, industry, ingenuity and capacity for observation, would have reached the same conclusions with the application of no mathematics higher than grade school arithmetic. This is not to say that the techniques employed by Professor Gosnell and praised by Professor Ogburn do not have value, though it is probable that their chief value is not quite that which Professor Ogburn has in mind. It is respectfully submitted that the principal value of the techniques used in connection with this particular piece of research lies in the demonstration that the employment of these most highly developed and refined methods for measuring and evaluating political data has yielded substantially, if not altogether, the same results as would have followed the employment of familiar tools at the command of every intelligent and moderately educated person. This is not to disparage the processes followed by Professor Gosnell in his research. For it is precisely the testing of our usual processes of investigation and mea-

surement by these more refined methods which sufficiently justifies the development and use of these "scientific techniques of the social sciences." What every social scientist should avoid is leaving the impression that he considers no conclusion trustworthy unless reached by processes that few can understand. Professor Gosnell is not open to any such charge, though there is more than the shadow of a suggestion in Professor Ogburn's foreword that, in the field of politics, there can be no worthwhile research unless the "whole battery of scientific techniques" is brought into action.

Professor Gosnell has produced a noteworthy book. It should not only be read but studied by everyone who desires to understand the politics of present day American cities.

A. R. HATTON.

Department of Political Science,
Northwestern University.

DIE KRIMINALITÄT ENTLASSENER FÜRSORGEZÖGLINGE UND DIE MÖGLICHKEIT EINER ERFOLGSPROGNOSE. By *Dr. Edgar Friedrich Kohnle*. Pp. 77. Dr. Ernst Wiegandt, Verlagsbuchhandlung, Leipzig, 1938. RM 2.50.

As the title indicates, Dr. Kohnle's monograph deals with two distinct problems: the statistical survey of criminality among juvenile delinquents of the neglected type, i.e., those, for instance, whose homes have been disrupted as a result of the parents having been divorced or having been subjected to prison sentences, and so forth; and, the possibility of a prognosis of the behavior of juvenile delin-

quents who have spent a certain period of time in correctional or reformatory institutions.

The figures produced by Dr. Kohnle in his study seem to bear out the contention that at our present state of knowledge it is premature to draw any definite conclusions regarding the anti-social effect of family neglect among the underaged. It goes without saying that an abandoned or neglected child is more likely to join the ranks of juvenile delinquents than a boy or girl brought up under what may be termed normal family conditions. However, a statement such as this is nothing but a truism, while the extent and scope of the negative influence of the disintegration of the family is of necessity an equation with a number of "x"s. It is because of this condition that the statistical tables set forth by Dr. Kohnle (pp. 16, 23, 54, 55) are anything but convincing. The only observation one can derive therefrom is that compulsory social reintegration, both among boys and girls, in many cases, well over 30%, thus far, has proved either dubious of results or obviously unsatisfactory. Even from the standpoint of the influence of sex upon individual behavior during the post-reformation period, the picture drawn by the author is contradictory, and one that justifies no generalizations.

All the more vague are Dr. Kohnle's findings in the sphere of prognosis. Again, here, there is of course a marked criminogenic tendency among the juveniles with tainted heredity and psychotic constitution. Equally, a distorted school record frequently accounts for anti-social conduct among both males and females under the age of twenty-one. But beyond these

well-known facts nothing positive can be suggested.

We may say, then, that Dr. Kohnle's study adds little to our present knowledge of either the immediate results of compulsory treatment of juvenile delinquents in reformatory institutions or the possibility of a correct prognosis of their behavior after they are released from detention.

It is to be regretted that Dr. Kohnle has paid but casual attention to the vast, and in many ways, valuable literature on juvenile delinquency in France, England, and the United States. This conveys to Dr. Kohnle's study a somewhat provincial character, rendering his monograph even less valuable than it might have been had he brought into his discussion of German juvenile delinquency such data and findings as have been assembled in other European countries and in America.

BORIS BRASOL.

VALID OR FORGED. By *Lloyd L. Jones*. Pp. 167. Funk & Wagnalls. New York and London. 1938. \$2.00.

This handbook illustrates and briefly explains a few of the manifold problems connected with the examination of questioned documents, including the examination of inks, paper, and typewritten documents.

For the student, police officer, or other person interested in the subject of document examination, though unfamiliar with the complex techniques employed by the examiner, this book may serve as a guide or an introduction to a more complete study of the subject. Due to the impracticability

of confining in such a brief contribution a subject of the broad scope suggested by the title, the book is quite inadequate as a text book and would require considerable supplementary reading of other works on the subject to provide even a fair working knowledge of the fundamentals of questioned document examination.

The chapter "On the Witness Stand" could be greatly modified. That part devoted to suggested questions and answers in qualifying the expert witness, I believe has failed to recognize sound psychological principles. Some of the queries, if not actually leading, border closely thereon, while the replies are framed in words that I fear most jurors would construe as an exposition of the conceit of the witness.

It is believed that the author would have enhanced his contribution by deleting several paragraphs here and there and in substitution, devoting a page or two on methods of securing exemplars or standards for comparison.

EDWIN C. SCHROEDER.

Indiana State Police.

DIE KINDER DER SICHERUNGSVERWAHRTEN (The children of prisoners sentenced to preventive detention). By *Dr. Ludwig Kuttner*. E. Wiegandt Verlagsbuchhandlung, Leipzig, 1938. Pp. 35. Mark 1.50.

The author's aim is to prove that sterilization is justified and necessary for persistent criminals. The recently revised German criminal code provides that dangerous habitual criminals might first serve

their sentence and thereafter be sent to an institution for preventive detention.

Dr. Kuttner tries to support his thesis by a rather doubtful method. He compares the prisoner's own children with the stepchildren who are frequently found in these family-groups. This comparison is apparently misleading or at least unconvincing since the age- and sex-distribution is not the same in both groups and nothing is known or reported about the former surroundings of these new-comers. The assumption that the stepchildren have been reared "in the same or in a similar bad milieu" (page 10) is unapproved.

Some of the data given are striking and demand an explanation. How does it happen that 65.9 per cent of the 611 prisoners sentenced as dangerous habitual criminals are single? Other German authors present absolutely divergent figures: Riedl, only 18.2 per cent and Stumpff, 6.6 per cent in first offenders. How is it possible that among 208 married, divorced, and widowed prisoners 59.1 per cent were divorced, 11.6 per cent widowed and only 29.3 per cent married? Have these prisoners been divorced following, and on account of, the heavy sentence, and why did Dr. Kuttner not choose the marital status at the time the last crime was committed?

26.9 per cent of the prisoner's own children and 37.1 of the stepchildren were above the age of 26. The study therefore does not represent the criminality of younger age groups ("children") as the title seems to indicate. The nature of their criminality remains undefined, but a few cases given at the end show that begging, slander, disorderly conduct, prostitution,

etc., are included and no doubt account for the "criminality" rates which are as high as 14.7 per cent. This figure is probably not much higher than the offense-rate of children of the same low economic and mental level.

The figures which give the criminality of the prisoner's own children and the stepchildren 18 years and over are statistically unreliable, since far more stepchildren relatively are to be found in this age-group.

HANS VON HENTIG.

University of Colorado.

DIE AUßEREN ENTWICKLUNGSBEDINGUNGEN JUNGER RECHTSBRECHER (The exogenous developmental conditions of juvenile delinquents). By *Dr. Richard Stury*. E. Wiegandt Verlagsbuchhandlung, Leipzig, 1938. Pp. 77. Mark 2.50.

Dr. Stury takes up many environmental factors affecting 144 juvenile delinquents; criminality, alcoholism, mental disturbances and physical ailments, and marital life, etc., of the parents. He wonders that 26 per cent of the delinquent boys are born in cities of 100,000 or more inhabitants, whereas the corresponding percentage of the fathers is 11.8 and of the mothers 13.9. These figures reflect simply two facts: the age distance of the two generations and the growing urbanization of Germany which is more distinctly expressed in the younger mothers and less visibly in the older fathers.

Some instructive figures are given on the housing conditions of the boys. 34.72 per cent had to share their sleeping room with three to

eight persons. Of the 123 boys who had no sleeping room of their own, 61, or 42.36 per cent, share a room with a female person; mother, sister, or a strange woman. 39.58 per cent of the prisoners committed their offense in common with other persons, mostly friends.

Of the 144 prisoners 39.58% had never joined a Nazi youth organization; 60.42% had participated in some kind of party group. The author is probably right in contending that most cases of simple larceny were dealt with by suspended sentences or other means by the courts, since there is a striking and unnatural disparity between larceny and burglary sentences (11 per cent and 33 per cent). The relatively frequent cases of forgery are nearly all to be attributed to an illicit changing of license numbers in motorcycles. The survey, although covering a trifling number of cases, is worth reading.

HANS VON HENTIG.

University of Colorado.

POLICE COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS.

By V. A. Leonard. Berkeley, California. University of California Press. 1938. Pp. 589. \$5.00.

To those of us who have found it necessary to attempt, chronologically, even a brief outline of police communication systems, for one reason or another, this book is a monument to hard work, ingenuity and understanding on the part of Mr. Leonard.

The book has a preface by the author, in which he gives due credit to collaborators in collecting the data. He states as his basic principle as a "base-line" for his dis-

ussion: "Performance in emergencies is taken throughout as the criterion for all communication activities; since, if a crisis can be met, the accommodation of routine business must follow as a matter of course."

The book has an introduction by Mr. August Vollmer, famous police scientist, who says: "In his description of the problem encountered by police in the communication field and in his presentation of the instruments, practices, and techniques employed by police in this country and abroad, Mr. Leonard has supplied the public and law-enforcement officials with a much needed tool."

Mr. Leonard covers the entire police communications field. He covers the field both from a practical and historical standpoint. He starts with early beginnings of both foreign and American systems, bringing the development up to date, and covers both police and private enterprise.

The historical panorama of early police systems presented in Chapter I, "Beginnings of Modern Police Communication," is well worth the price of the book. Mr. Leonard begins this chapter by relating one of the first criminal apprehensions by an early "modern police communication system. The story is about the use of a railroad telegraph system into London, just completed in about 1842, which was used to apprehend a murderer. Throughout this chapter he shows historically, giving dates and names, the developments and early attempts of police departments to communicate between precinct stations and with officers on patrol duty. He traces the development to the crude telegraph call boxes, the slow adoption of telephones, re-

call systems, alarm systems, facsimile, teletype, the radio, and other systems. This chapter is very interesting and has occasional humor thrown in.

Throughout the remaining chapters, totalling 589 pages, Mr. Leonard goes into great detail on all types and phases of modern police communication systems. His work indicates innumerable hours of collection and arrangement of data. In most cases he devotes an entire chapter to one type of police communication. He states modern trends of thought in police communications; he cites results to prove theories; compares the relative merit of various systems; shows how the systems interlock; gives facsimiles of record forms, and so on.

This book gives an excellent summary of police communication systems. It is written with an excellent clarity and a simplicity that should appeal to the layman, yet the book could be used as a textbook.

Every police executive should read this book, and no police communication officer should be without it.

CAPTAIN ROBT. L. BATTS.

Indianapolis Police Department.

THE SEX CRIMINAL. By *Bertram Pollens*. Pp. 211. The Macaulay Co., N. Y., 1938. \$2.00.

Dr. Pollens has worked at Columbia and as psychologist at Rikers

Island Penitentiary in New York City. The type is large, the pages small, the style direct and simple. The book is obviously intended for the lay reader. It attempts to make sex deviation intelligible to the layman and exhorts him to follow the author's recommendations for prevention and treatment.

Sexual development is described as a progression from an infantile polymorphous-perverse stage to narcissism to homosexuality and, finally, to adult heterosexuality. Sexual deviation represents not a regression but a failure to develop; the *id* fails to become subordinated to the *ego* and the *superego*. Psychiatric treatment is recommended, but the prognosis is poor; most sex criminals are habitual offenders. In fact, the non-habitual is an "accidental" offender almost by definition. Prevention is based on a realistic, unemotional contemplation of the facts, sublimation rather than repression, and accessibility to a normal heterosexual life. This last is to be brought about preferably through early marriage, but, by implication at least (p. 69), through extramarital affairs and prostitution where marriage is impracticable.

To anyone familiar with prisons or perversion, the book will be elementary, the cases and explanations oversimplified, the program mostly sensible but not new.

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