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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

A. R. LINDESMITH [Ed.]

VOCATIONAL ADJUSTMENT OF EX-PRISONERS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. By *Sister Helen Angela Hurley*. Washington, D. C.: Catholic Univ. of America, 1938. Pp. 210. \$2.00.

Perhaps one of the first efforts actually to determine the practice of industry — rather than the mouthings of well-intentioned persons—toward the employment of prisoners, parolees and ex-prisoners, as well as the adjustment of the released prisoner industrially, is found in this doctoral thesis. The conclusion is not startling—the prisoner finds it difficult to make a vocational adjustment, employers generally do not hire them and the institution—the public institution which we call a prison or a reformatory—does not train its charges to find work or to do the job required any better than before this experience in a penal institution.

This is primarily a study of the determination of employer attitude to persons released from the Lorton Reformatory of the District of Columbia. From this the author concludes that "The evidence points overwhelmingly to the lack of Christian principles in society" . . . (p. IX). There were approximately one person per thousand in the city of Washington who was discharged from the institution during the period 1933-1938 and returned to that city to work. "If a discharge from prison meant that a

man walked out, trained in will and equipped in mind, to a society willing to receive him, there would be no need for adjustment studies. *Actually a convict's real punishment often comes on discharge* (Italics mine). Theoretically, he has paid his debt to society, but the interest exacted of him often entangles him in a virtual slavery. One important factor in his social adjustment is vocational stability. . . . The handicaps (to finding employment for prisoners) are more far-reaching than depression unemployment . . ." (3).

She points out that the majority of the fact-finding studies find a large percentage of the ex-prisoner group under observation unsuccessful in industrial adjustment. . . . The literature she reviews gives the definite view that "A substantial proportion of these authors regard vocational stabilization as the responsibility of parole officers" (7).

She quotes Frederick Moran in an address at the 1933 National Conference of Social Work as believing that parole officers "must carry on an educational campaign of tolerance and understanding in the community on behalf of *released prisoners* . . ." (9). She points out that private employers are thus asked to do what the government and the states are unwilling to do, in their denial to ex-prisoners of eligibility for civil service appointment, to service ap-

pointment, to CCC. In this opposition it is pointed out, organized labor also has long been active.

In the development of this study, Sister Hurley interviewed a representative group of employers: large industry, small business, employers owning their own businesses and employers acting in managerial capacities, choosing an adequate sample of employers in the city of Washington, the capital of the country. She finds that employers generally refuse to hire ex-prisoners, with some few exceptions; that they give one reason or another for refusal to give thought to the problems of the prisoner. ". . . As a whole, business fails to recognize that in so far as ex-prisoners suffer in social status because of industrial insecurity, to that degree is the community weakened . . ." (53). Business, it is said here, is operated for the profit motive solely, in a vacuum, as it were, with no thought of the larger community and its problems.

The exception to the above comes in her experience with owners of small businesses. She finds them closer to the community in their feelings, in their willingness to aid the next man, especially the ex-prisoner.

Supplementary to the above, almost 100 ex-prisoners were interviewed and their work and industrial training at Lorton and in the community—both before incarceration and after—studied. Her conclusion is that the jobs obtained were mainly unskilled, the period of employment generally short and that little contribution to the social adjustment of the individual was made.

Of equal importance in this study

is the emphasis that the Reformatory at Lorton (as at other institutions known to us) stresses the employment of prisoners at maintenance work of the institution, with only minor attention to the vocational adjustment of the prisoner when released. In other words (speaking in the larger sense of penal units, rather than particularly of Lorton), the institution sees its job in the immediate task of institution operation and passes over the ultimate need of the individual to make his own way in a competitive society on release. In Sister Hurley's words: ". . . Getting the work done is more important than its function as an agency in adjustment. . . ." (147).

"The purpose of the correctional system is the protection of society by the control of the criminal. The criminal's imprisonment represents the failure of the community's institutions to meet adequately the social need of an individual Crime within the community is reduced if the criminal returns to normal life with reshaped interests, attitudes, habits, and character" If these words may be extended by an interpretation of our own, it can be said that the control of the criminal by society, for its protection, embraces not only the period spent within the institution, but a rather insufficiently stressed view, also control after release. The protection and control become double-headed: first by the self-protection of the community, but of greater importance, the debt which the social order owes to the individual in fitting him to live as a normal human being, trained to work and provided, by society, with the opportunity to find such work.

This volume presents a carefully documented and evaluated study of the lot of the problems of the ex-prisoner seeking to earn his living. It brings a carefully annotated bibliography. It suggests no plan and lacks details of the manner in which the community, sorely devoid of community responsibility for the ex-prisoner, might better meet his needs, not only for the sake of the prisoner, but also for its own self-service.

W. A. GOLDBERG.

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FRUSTRATION AND AGGRESSION. Published for the Institute of Human Relations. New Haven: Yale University Press. 1939. \$2.00.

The discussions in this volume are based frankly on the assumption or hypothesis that aggression is always a consequence of frustration. Predicated on this postulate five authors and three collaborators proceed to explain aggression in terms of prior frustrations in the experience of the individual as well as in all social contacts. With a clinical analysis of child training, adolescence, criminality, race prejudice, democracy, fascism, communism and primitive society, an effort is made to show that aggression is the natural and inevitable result of earlier frustration.

Divested of much technical language the idea elaborated in this book is that negative reaction to all parental, social and legal inhibitions is a very human trait. This tendency of human behavior is displayed both in individual and group relationships. As the authors say, the book endeavors: "to

place within a common discourse such diverse phenomena as strikes and suicides, race prejudice and reformism, sibling jealousy and lynching, satirical humor and criminality, street fights and the reading of detective stories, wife beating and war." The infant and adolescent, the inebriate and the idiotologist finds himself hedged about with conformities against which he rebels. The acquisitive aggressions of the criminal is frustrated by the limitations of the law.

In an interesting chapter on the "Adolescent" the restrictions placed upon youth by an adult society is exemplified by numerous examples, studies, questionnaires and discussions with students over long periods. Citations are given of "those conscious dissatisfactions which have to do largely with restraints, over-protection, and the parents' unwillingness to trust young people with responsibility, and the less conscious but more significant resistances to subtle pressures which the young people themselves cannot define."

In adult life there is still a seeming frustration of individual impulses as an essential of a cooperative society, and to avoid a state of anarchy. As the authors summarize their thesis: "Frustration is a constant feature of in-group life because of the necessity of interfering with existing goal-responses so that new ones may be learned."

The Chapter on "criminality" makes it clear that both crime and punishment are forms of aggression, the one being anti-social and the other pro-social. In the case of the offender his aggression is a reaction to his sense of frustration in securing economic and social satisfactions. Punishment likewise

is aggression in the interest of an orderly society, which acts as a frustration to the offender. The point is raised in this Chapter as to characteristic deviations of the criminal from the general population. "To what degree do these deviations imply either a higher-than-average frustration, or lower-than-average anticipation of punishment?" The assumption here is that criminal aggression will vary positively with the former and negatively with the latter.

Important factors in criminal aggression are shown to be the economic, vocational, and educational status of the offender. Innate intelligence, age, health, size, physical appearance and defects, together with race and nationality all have their bearing upon the feeling of frustration, and the defense reaction of aggression. Reference is made to the relation of criminal aggression to the forces of social control and character forming agencies and institutions in normal neighborhoods, as well as to the lack of these forces and ideals in delinquency areas, and the conflict of cultures in a growing city.

Responsibility for crime is thus shown to reach beyond the individual to economic and social causes which thwart and frustrate wholesome satisfactions. A fitting summary to the argument is given in the following quotation from Healy and Bronner, who have squarely faced the problem of frustration in relation to delinquency for many years:

"It is through the lack of satisfying human relationships that feelings of inadequacy, deprivation, or thwarting are created. When these discomforts are powerfully experienced, the

driving forces of wishes and desires naturally develop into urges for substitute satisfactions. When the young individual does not then find satisfactions enough in socially acceptable behavior (or does not develop inhibiting neurosis), he may find an alternative mode of self-expression through seizing upon the idea of delinquency. Thus delinquency really represents a portion of the stream of human activities which has a strong current behind it. Beginning with various types of discontents at frustration and continued as a drive for substitute satisfaction, the current has turbulently flowed along into the forms of self-expression that ideas of delinquency have suggested" (62, p. 201).

This volume will be of special interest to Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Prison Administrators, and Social workers, as well as to all those especially interested in the underlying causes of crime.

F. EMORY LYON.

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Chicago, Illinois.

THE SLUMS OF NEW YORK. By Harry M. Shulman. New York: Albert and Charles Boni, 1938. Pp. xiii-394. \$3.00.

This interesting volume summarizes the findings of a survey sponsored by the Rotary Club of New York during a year of prosperity, 1926, and two years (1931-32) of the Great Depression in four slum areas in Manhattan Boro of New York City. It represents the Rotarian interest in the disintegrating community life of a large city. The book is a semi-typological "Street Scene" treatment of slum

areas in which the author uses four streets or "social blocks" as representative of the slum as a whole. The social block, according to the author, "consists of two sides of a street facing each other, from corner to corner" in contradistinction to the "census block" which consists of two rows of houses back to back, facing on different streets" (p. 379). Hence the "Street Scene" treatment.

From the four "social blocks" the author and his workers selected 779 families with male children between the ages of two and twenty-one. The 779 families represented over 4200 persons, of which 2,298 were in the 1926 survey and 1,945 in the 1931-32 investigation. Included in these two studies were the records of 834 boys in 1926 and 702 in 1931-32.

The study in the main is a quantitative and statistical account of the slums in which the author is more concerned with the cultural pattern and the manner of living than he is with the housing and sanitary condition. The book attempts to answer a number of interesting questions. Is the slum a colony of Old-world residence persisting over a long period of time or is it composed of migrants? What are the activities and interests of slum dwellers? How did the amount of juvenile delinquency in the area compare with the official police and court records? How did the Great Depression affect the slum inhabitants? What social institutions are operative in slum areas?

Each of these questions is answered by presenting much minute detailed information which is almost microscopic. While this may be a virtue it does not develop an analytical synthetic picture of the

slum. The volume has an important contribution in the general field of urban sociology but it does not make a significant addition to the understanding of crime or juvenile delinquency. The book verifies the observation that the slum is not a place where people live but a *way of living*. The Survey points out that a better *way of living* may be accomplished through a socialized community public school program.

WALTER A. LUNDEN.

University of Pittsburgh.

DER WIDERSTAND GEGEN VOLLSTRECKUNGSBEAMTE (Resistance to Law Enforcement Officers). By Fritz Manglkammer. Leipzig: Ernst Wiegandt, Verlagsbuchhandlung, 1938. Pp. 65. RM 2.

This is the 36th monograph in the series under the editorship of Prof. Franz Exner.

Section 113 of the present German criminal code provides that anyone who resists a law enforcement officer in the performance of his duties by actual force or through threat of force is punishable by imprisonment by from fourteen days to two years. If there are mitigating circumstances the punishment is imprisonment up to one year or a money fine. During the years 1925-1927 the annual average number of convictions for those resisting arrest totaled close to 20,000. Using the German criminal statistics as his principal source the author seeks answers to the following questions. What are the circumstances in specific cases which lead to the resistance? What was the attitude of the offender at the time of resistance? How did the officers comport themselves?

The form and degree of severity of the resistance is of less interest than the motivation and objective factors which led to it. The author declares that in order properly to control this particular crime the attempt must be made to understand the causes which lead individuals to resist officers of the law.

The statistics on resisting enforcing agents are presented for the period 1882-1936. The individual offenders are described in terms of sex, age, occupation, previous criminal record and mental abnormalities. A separate chapter is devoted to describing the influence of liquor on resisting arrest.

One hundred cases (1930-1936) taken from the Munich court are briefly described. The author states that the term "resisting" an officer should be broken down into various *kinds* of resistances. Other aspects of this particular crime must also be considered, viz., the behavior of the arresting officer, i.e., his attitudes and the manner of carrying out the arrest.

The author suggests that in order to reduce the incidence of the crime, resisting an officer, drunkards in the larger cities should be picked up by "sanitary patrols."

Improvement in social relations, reduction of unemployment, teaching respect for the State through participation in the activities of the army and the storm troopers (smashing stores and burning synagogues!) will also, according to the author, tend to reduce the incidence of this crime.

NATHANIEL CANTOR.

University of Buffalo.

port, 1938, of Chief Probation Officer of the Court of General Sessions, New York City.

This book of Halpern's is a plain paper-bound official report, packed with facts and unusual studies; submitted to his Court and his city, giving strict account of his stewardship. It is addressed indirectly to his many fellow probation administrators of the country, and to an ever growing body of readers concerned about probation's hit-and-miss efficiency in our country.

The chapters of his report give convincing support of the declaration of Franklin Roosevelt in his "Looking Forward" that:

"If the criminal's past history gives reason to believe that he is not of the naturally criminal type, that he is capable of real reform and of becoming a useful citizen, there is no doubt that probation, viewed from the selfish standpoint of protection of society alone, is the most effective method that we have."

Here in this book one sees a moving picture of striving human personalities, advantaged by training *for* and *in* the service of probation. One sees the methodology and professional technique; one sees the theory of probation working out in man-to-man reactions. One senses the compelling urge of capable men and women to help men to help themselves up. One senses the satisfactions of both probation officials and probationers. or at times, their bitter disappointments.

Halpern's book answers completely the oft-repeated multiple-branched question: *What is probation? Why is it? How does it work? What are its actual results?*

A DECADE OF PROBATION. By Irving W. Halpern. Official Re-

True, the probation idea during the past ten decades of American criminal jurisprudence has sprouted up in every section of our broad land; it was put forth as an adventitious root-shoot of our common law or as a statutory seedling. As author Halpern says:

"From the welter of confusion of thought and the diverse attitudes assumed toward crime and the criminal has come one contribution which is distinctly American—the probation system."

It is true, as Halpern suggests our probation system, in certain areas, has grown rapidly in response to intelligent public interest and support. To mention a few systems outside of New York, one may venture to name the probation systems of Baltimore, Boston, Buffalo, Detroit, Los Angeles, Minneapolis-St. Paul, and Newark, N. J. Halpern's very critical evaluation of his decade of work for the New York City Court of General Sessions—adult criminal, 1927-36, will be read with approval by the probation officials of the above named areas and by others, and also by the administrators of the increasingly successful Federal probation system.

It is regrettable that in many areas of our country, where public interest and financial support has been superficial or inadequate; where the administration of city, county and state systems of probation have been plagued by partisan politics, with the consequent low level of standards of personnel and of professional technique; and where tradition-fettered judges rule with near-sighted social vision; this book will be read, if at all, with mixed emotions. On

the one hand, this ten-year exposition and analysis will evoke cynically disbelieving comment; on the other hand, it may provoke inefficient but sincere probation officials to examine their work in the New York Court's mirror and may stimulate them to make renewed efforts to renovate and rebuild their own probation systems.

Halpern's book satisfies a long-felt want. Judges, probation officials, students of criminology, and leaders in progressive social legislation can be informed as to the best ways and means to use, and as to the actual results to be expected of a completely equipped and ably operated probation unit. In her great book, *Youth in Conflict*, Dr. Miriam Van Waters voiced the complaint of many sincere probation officials and judges and others in saying:

"A swelling tide of disrepute threatens to engulf much social work already in existence for delinquents. The *public cannot know* that probation as conceived by students of human behavior, has never been applied to any large area for any length of time."

The best chapter of Halpern's book is number seven, "Post-Probation Study." "In January of 1937," he says, "the original fingerprints of 331 probationers who were discharged in 1932 were taken from our case histories and cleared through the N. Y. C. Police Dept., the Dept. of Corrections of the City of N. Y., and the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Dept. of Justice." Only 41 (12.39%) of the 331 discharged during 1932, over an intervening period of 4 to 5 years had come into further conflict with the law. Even a drunk

and disorderly conviction put the discharged probationer into the list of failures. 290 of the 331 had proved successful — as Halpern says, “supervision has helped to develop desirable personality traits, inhibitions and resources, so that without assistance he can continue to adjust in society.”

His review of each case history touches upon such factors as: age, color and sex; health problems (mental, physical, emotional) solved or unsolved during probation; family and neighborhood situation; economic and employment situations; education; recreation; religion; thrift; attitudes toward social discipline, probationary and otherwise; and future prospects at the time of discharge in 1932, after an average of 2 to 4 years of supervision.

In this chapter of research, just as in his other chapters, Halpern's handling of facts—descriptive, narrative or statistical—wins admiration and confidence. He is circumspect, cautious of overstatement, balanced of judgment, yet withal deeply discerning. Read chapter seven first and then read the whole book. It is informative and stimulating.

JOEL R. MOORE.

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Jackson, Mich.

RASSENHYGIENISCHE VERBRECHENS-
BEKÄMPFUNG (The Racial-hygi-
enic Struggle Against Crime).
By Hans Fickert. Leipzig:
Ernst Wiegandt, Verlagsbuch-
handlung, 1938. Pp. 124. RM
3.

This study is the 37th in the series of crime monographs issued under the editorship of Prof. Ex-

ner of the University of Munich. This particular work is chiefly concerned with an examination of Article 1, Section 1 of the German Marriage Health Law of October 18, 1935. Before entering upon the discussion the author presents a brief historical review of the theories and methods of criminology (since the time of Lombroso) to orient the reader to the present study.

The present Marriage Health Law (*Ehegesundheitsgesetz*) had been deliberately formulated to exclude crimino-political considerations. It is strictly a eugenic measure prohibiting marriage on the part of anyone who manifests mental disorder (*geistigen Störung*). Other legislation (Sec. 42 of the German Penal Code) provides castration for dangerous sex offenders. (Sec. 1 Unfruchtbar-machungsgesetz) and sterilization for confirmed inebriates and those born mentally defective.

Dr. Fickert undertakes to show that the several statutes can be brought closer together, that they can be made to serve a common purpose. In other words he maintains that the same principles which justify sterilizing individuals as a health or eugenic measure also justify sterilizing socially dangerous and certain recidivistic criminals.

He describes, in some detail, the recent studies on the criminality of twins and the families of offenders to fortify the conclusion that the causes of criminal behavior in many cases, as in the case of “psychopaths,” are to be found in biological, constitutional types. According to the author, the conclusion therefore follows that the Marriage Health Law can justifiably be extended to prohibit

marriage for socially dangerous, i.e., psychopathic, feebleminded, recidivistic, and sex offenders—all who are constitutionally inferior types.

A valuable feature of this work is the bibliography which lists the most important recent European studies on the etiology of crime, especially the research in "criminobiology."

NATHANIEL CANTOR.

University of Buffalo.

GUIDING HUMAN MISFITS: A Practical Application of Individual Psychology. By Alexandra Adler, M.D. New York City: Macmillan Co., 1938. Pp. 85. \$1.75.

In this discussion of "personalities at odds with reality," the author has held closely to the principles of "individual psychology" formulated by her father, Alfred Adler, using illustrative material from her own clinical experience. Every individual must face three important issues in life—his adjustment to work, to society, and to the problems of love; and his concern over his shortcomings is the fundamental conflict in personality. The way in which the individual meets these three important issues and his method of handling the anxieties centering about his inferiorities, organics or otherwise, determine his "style of life." The importance of the early formative years in the development of neurotic behavior patterns is stressed.

One chapter is devoted to the psychology of the criminal, a subject which is receiving increasing interest. Dr. Adler compares the neurotic and the criminal, stating that the important difference be-

tween the two is the way in which they attain their respective goals. The neurotic stresses his symptoms, which he uses as alibis for his failures; he recognizes the social demands but implies that he cannot be expected to do better. On the other hand, the criminal denies social demands and actively fights against society; he feels that his anti-social activities are justified. This difference between criminal and neurotic behavior is pointed out, but not analyzed further. We would question, also, the author's easy dismissal of economic and social factors in the development of criminal behavior. Because "criminals have developed at all economic levels, both during prosperity and depression," she concludes that "economic conditions of themselves do not adequately explain criminal tendencies," and leaves the subject there. Accepting this conclusion as sound, we still would feel that such problems as bad housing, inadequate recreational facilities, family tensions, poor health, etc., which grow out of economic deprivation, often have some direct bearing upon the development of criminal behavior. There is a tendency in this chapter, as there is throughout the book, to make generalizations which are open to question.

Analysis of illustrative material is often superficial, showing the relation of symptom to symptom, of one bit of neurotic behavior to another, but with little discussion of the dynamic factors involved. Emphasis is placed upon the early formative years of the child, but those early relationships and their meaning to the child are not discussed except for the use he makes of them in his efforts to compensate for inferiority.

This is a very readable book, and does illustrate the practical application of "individual psychology," but the causes of human behavior are oversimplified, which detracts from its value.

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NOTES OF A PRISON VISITOR. By
Gordon Gardiner. London:
Oxford University Press, 1938.
Pp. 254. \$3.00.

The British prison commissioners have in the last seventeen years asked men of good-will to visit prisoners weekly in their cells. After having seen the men, Major Gordon Gardiner, one of these visitors, wrote the notes fifteen or sixteen years ago which form the content of this little book.

Major Gardiner naturally had a tendency to be more interested in ex-service men among the prisoners. They, in turn, were eager to be visited by a man who had known the war and military life.

This relationship accounts both for the merits and for the weakness of the book. The old major is very much impressed by some rather cheap outward expressions of former military training: he never fails to mention a polite greeting extended to him, respectful manners; when the prisoner places his stool for the visitor, when the man is clean shaven, and so forth.

One of these men disappointed the Major deeply. One day before his release he went to see him off, and his cell (which had been like a new pin) was, terrible to say, untidy.

The book thus becomes a rather

valuable contribution to the psychology of military judgment. Sometimes we are surprised by unexpectedly good observations. In one passage, for instance, Major Gardiner describes a civilian prisoner: "This is an unattractive little Russian Jew," he remarks with unveiled contempt. He continues telling the story of the man who made a very bad match, was tortured by his older wife, and then "fled to the comparative peace of the war."

HANS VON HENTIG.
University of Colorado.

PUBLIC PLUNDER, A HISTORY OF
GRAFT IN AMERICA. By *David
Loth*. New York: Carrick &
Evans, 1938. Pp. 436. \$3.00.

This volume is presented by the publisher as "a notable addition to our knowledge of this country," but it is no more, and probably was designed by the author to be no more, than a breezy account, written in better than average journalistic, of graft in the United States from the Virginia Company to 1938. Some of the early episodes in our history are refurbished and presented anew, but otherwise nothing is added to what is found in the works of such men as Steffens, Werner, Lynch, Landesco, Josephson and Myers. The story is confined mainly to Washington, New York and Chicago, and thereby omits the many exotic manifestations of graft to be found in the hinterland.

Mr. Loth, as probably was his purpose, is long on narrative and short on interpretation. Occasionally he offers a paragraph which makes one suspect that he has the capacity for a more estute and sys-

tematic analysis than he has given. In describing evasion through bribery of legislation aimed toward a society of independent yeomanry operating small farms in early Virginia, he observes that graft "served a genuinely desirable end. It prevented a violent clash between popular ideals and profitable colonial expansion." He notes that after the World War not a single permanent official was indicted. The civil service emerged "in surprising contrast to the money grubbing patriots hastily recruited at a dollar a year or a colonel's pay." And he makes some penetrating remarks about the effect of the development of a permanent bureaucracy with a public service ethic.

The naive final conclusion is disappointing: "The true solution of the problem is to overthrow the economy of profit for one of use." There are two ways to reach this conclusion: (1) define "graft" as that "graft" in a profit economy; (2) fail entirely to define the term. Mr. Loth apparently followed the second course.

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LIST OF SUBJECT HEADINGS IN SOCIAL WORK AND PUBLIC WELFARE.
Prepared by a Committee of the Special Libraries Association, New York. Mimeographed. ix+64. \$1.00. 1937.

The recent, rapid growth of the volume and scope of literature in social work and public welfare as well as of the vocabulary of social work has made necessary the development of new aids to librarians in social work libraries and to those who wish ready access to social work literature. The special Libraries Association made available a useful tool for teachers, students, and staffs. The suggested cross-references easily guide one to materials catalogued under a wide range of headings in the same and related fields. It brings together the older and newer terminologies in such a way that one familiar with either will not miss materials listed under the other.

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