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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

A HISTORY OF MEDICAL PSYCHOLOGY. By *Gregory Zilboorg* in collaboration with *George W. Henry*, M.D. New York: W. W. Norton & Company Incorporated, 1941. Pp. 606. \$5.00.

With the increasing need for knowledge of psychiatry on the part of lawyers, criminologists, penologists and others who are interested in the mental mechanisms lying behind misconduct, there arises the need for conveying information about this medical specialty to all types and sorts of people. The simplest way of educating any lay group in a scientific discipline is by offering its members a well written, interesting, logical history of the development of the field. The science can be explained in its most simple terms when discussing the early days of its existence and as the field develops the historical steps in its development lead the reader by easy stages into a rather good, comprehensive, general acquaintance of the whole matter. Although it was probably not Zilboorg's intention to educate the criminological group, there must have existed in the back of his mind, as there is in the minds of all of us who have written histories of this subject, the concept that the book would be useful, particularly to those who wish to be educated and nobody can deny that this history of medical psychology carries out that concept.

The book is very well written as a whole. There are a few minor technical flaws that can be picked out by one who wishes to be hypercritical but nevertheless the style is easy; the book is comprehensive; it is logical. The subject is taken up from its earliest days and the material has been culled largely from contemporary writings in the time of the early Greeks rather than from legend and from fable. Medical psychology's gradual rise through the dark ages is discussed in some detail and many contributors to the field of medical psychology are brought into the picture who have not been mentioned in previously published histories of psychiatry. In Zilboorg's mind psychiatry reached two peaks: one about the time of Pinel at the turn of the Nineteenth Century; the second shortly after the turn of the twentieth century. His discussions of these two peaks are extremely enlightening, particularly the second for he has a comprehensive knowledge of the Freudian psychology which is the backbone of the present psychiatric renaissance. No one is better fitted to write such a book than Gregory Zilboorg. He has a wide acquaintance with foreign languages and cultures and a vast background in general history with stress on the present subject of psychiatry. He is also an expert in the medico-legal application of the science of psychiatry but unfortunately he makes few references to the medico-legal side of this field in the present volume. There is a brief but interesting interdigitation of the earlier cases involving criminal responsibility with contemporary thought but beyond this legal medicine is, perhaps properly, neglected.

Dr. Zilboorg leaves two chapters, one on the organic mental diseases and one on mental hospitals to Dr. George W. Henry.

Anyone who feels the need to have background material, particularly a well diversified background of the psychological side of psychiatry rather than the physical can get most of what he needs by reading this most interesting book.

LOWELL S. SELLING, M.D.

Recorder's Court
Detroit, Michigan

A MANUAL OF BUSINESS METHODS FOR THE INSTITUTIONS AND DIVISIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS. By *John C. Weigel*. Published by the State of Illinois. 1941. Pp. xviii. 499.

The Manual of Business Methods of the Department of Public Welfare of Illinois is a significant contribution to the literature of institutional accounting and business management. It is at once a record of the reorganization of an accounting structure and a guide for the operation of the system. It should be interesting to students of public administration as a record of accomplishment and to accountants and other business people as an example of good accounting method. The author, Mr. John C. Weigel, has been Fiscal Supervisor of the Department of Public Welfare of the State of Illinois since 1933 till lately when he became Director of O. P. A. in the Chicago Area.

From the standpoint of reader interest, the Introduction to the Manual is an account as interesting as the main part of the book. In the early pages are discussed very briefly but most engagingly the history of fiscal control in Illinois, the function of the fiscal supervisor, the preparation of the budget and the technique of control, and illustrations of problems met in reconstructing business methods and procedures of the Department.

The plan of the Manual proper embraces the following divisions:

Part One—The books of Record and Accounts

Part Two—Control of the Dollar. Appropriations

Part Three—Control of Miscellaneous Collections and the Petty Cash Fund

Part Four—Control of Trust Funds: The Patients' Trust Fund; The Amusement Fund; The Commissary Fund; Accounting for Patients' Personal Property

Part Five—Control of Bequest Funds

Part Six—General Office Control; The Fiscal Supervisor

Each of the parts is a complete and clear exposition of the procedure of one phase of record keeping. The reader is at once impressed with the painstaking research which must have gone into the development of the Manual, and of the months of careful follow up and enforcement which must have been devoted to making it effective. The Manual is complete with instructions and filled out forms, so clear that even the newest employee must understand them. When it is appreciated that the Department of Welfare of the State of Illinois takes care of about 56,000 persons—31,000 of them patients in state hospitals, 12,000 inmates of penal institutions, 7,000 feeble minded, and so on—it is clear that the task of perpetuating the methods which have been found the best ones is not easy.

To a reader trained in accounting systems design, the features of internal check—those based upon the law and those based upon the systems experience of the designer—are endlessly interesting. Accountants will enjoy reading, among others, the sections on the control of expenditures. There are described such points as the following:

(1) Classification of accounts, in which balances will be immediately meaningful and the likelihood of burying expenditures in the wrong accounts is minimized.

(2) Setting up the appropriation

(3) Calling for sealed bids

(4) Establishment and maintenance of purchase specifications

(5) Examination of incoming goods and approval of invoices

(6) Vouchering invoices for payment

(7) Detail posting of accounts with complete references to supporting

documents to permit making a satisfactory audit with a reasonable expenditure of the auditor's time.

The reviewer feels that the author has made a contribution to the literature of accounting systems as well as performed a service in the immediate field of his endeavor.

Northwestern University

CECIL GILLESPIE

UEBER SITTICHKEITSVERBRECHER, KRIMINALISTISCHE ABHANDLUNGEN. *Dr. Med. Rudolf Koch*, ed. by *Dr. Franz Exner*; *Dr. Ernest Wiegandt* Verlagsbuchhandlung, Leipzig 1940. 126 Pp., RM 3.-

This study which qualified the author for an instructorship in the medical school of Muenster, is restricted to a survey of the endogenous and exogenous causes of offenses against morals. Koch's conception of crime does not transcend the viewpoint of positive law. Although a medical man could reasonably have been expected to carry his analysis beyond strictly legal and therefore not too illuminating categories, this author is satisfied with a few lines on the limits of legal responsibility as laid down in Art. 51 of the criminal code.

Koch is very sparing in expressing opinions of his own. In presenting the views of other scholars, he seems to overlook the fact that the category "psychopathic" used so frequently does not explain much without further analysis.

The concluding chapter is concerned with the prevention of offenses against morals. Here the official phraseology is omnipresent. The reader will find some interesting remarks on homosexuality, however. The statistics show that homosexuality has become a main source of criminal behavior in National Socialist Germany. According to the authors quoted by Koch, the Third Reich fights homosexuality not only for the sake of the birth rate but also because of the strong cohesion shown by homosexual groups. They are said to form a state within the state, inducing a selective principle for leadership according to erotic standards rather than ability.

Institute of Social Research
New York, N. Y.

OTTO KIRCHHEIMER

THE DOCTOR AND THE DIFFICULT CHILD. *William Moodie, M.D.* New York: The Commonwealth Fund, 1940 [Second Printing 1941]. Pp. ix + 214. \$1.50.

In the words of the author, "this is not a scientific treatise; it is rather an informal discussion of fundamental disturbances of behavior or personality in children and how they can be recognized, investigated and treated." Dr. Moodie, who is director of the London Child Guidance Clinic, devotes the first part of his book to diagnosis and treatment; the second to a discussion of various child problems ranging from stealing to lack of concentration.

Since a doctor is the natural confidant of worried parents, he is in a key position to observe difficulties which may lead to later delinquency and personality disorder. For this reason, any emphasis upon the need for taking psychological as well as physical factors into consideration in dealing with young patients is to be commended. It is disturbing, however, to find a book expressly addressed to "the pediatrician, the general physician and the intelligent layman" written in superficial style and adding little to knowledge usually presented in a first course in mental hygiene or child psychology. To the physician already acquainted with psychiatric and psychological resources, "The Doctor and the Difficult Child" will not have much to offer. To those who are not, it may give the impression that the only requisite for practice in child guidance is a medical education and the perusal of Dr. Moodie's book.

A statement to the effect that "few practicing physicians have the time, even if they have the specialized knowledge and experience to investigate child guidance cases fully and the doctor is usually glad to avail himself of the services of a convenient clinic," is relegated to a footnote.

Dr. Moodie's own skill and understanding as a child therapist is evident in his discussion of "Direct Treatment of the Child." His method is based on the principles of relationship and release therapy, rather than on psychoanalysis, and he shows a wholesome wariness of over-interpretation. In regard to this, he says: "In interpreting, the vague, indirect, and tentative method is the most successful, and eliminates the undesirable danger of suggestion, but, in many cases it is unnecessary to interpret at all." The section on treatment also includes a brief presentation of some of the newer techniques for uncovering the child's phantasy life which have proved valuable both for understanding the motivation of problem behavior and for releasing emotional tension which underlies it.

The book is full of illustrative material, but the reader is somehow reminded of the successful cook who is asked to explain her art. She recommends a pinch of this and a dash of that and may point out what makes a cake fall. But all this is small help to the amateur who tries to duplicate her results. This author gives many practical hints, but generalities replace exposition of principles and assumptions on which procedures are based. There is no "last chapter." After a short section on mental deficiency, the book comes to an abrupt close.

A number of questionable generalizations and a few glaring misstatements appear in these pages. In his chapter on "Treatment Through Work," Dr. Moodie describes a typical "highly strung" child, presenting all manner of symptoms from blushing to fear of thunder. "The cause is almost invariably lack of proper occupation through which he can get relief for his surplus energy . . . The child's brain is always producing energy which, if it is not utilized, will accumulate and raise the mental potential and it is this which causes the symptoms . . . If such cases are investigated, all manner of mental disturbances can be discovered, but this is not to be advised. The cause is clear and if these children are sent to school and given plenty of academic work to do with, of course, adequate play as well, the difficulties clear up in a surprisingly short time." In the next sentence, however, he remarks, "Such cases may become serious if they are allowed to go on for long. The behavior may become a habit. Then the tangle must be unraveled." To most consultants, it would seem wiser to get at the original knot before the snarl becomes more complex. Furthermore, the long exploded and ever vague concept of "surplus energy" seems an ineffective tool for the purpose.

The author speaks of expressing test results as "a percentage called the intelligence quotient" (p. 27). Obviously this quotient is, as the term suggests, not a percent but a ratio. Since mental age cannot be said to have either an absolute zero or a known upper limit, to speak of mental age as a percentage of chronological age or the reverse, is mathematically indefensible and distorts the interpretation of test findings.

Other debatable statements are the following: "Most children when they reach the age of ten are fully aware of their position in school. (p. 130) . . . Some children seem to inherit a tendency to strike out at anything which gets in their way. (p. 157) . . . There is a natural tendency in every child to shrink from the subject of sex and things connected with it." (p. 160).

In the realm of physical diseases it is conceivable that a single cause, a decayed tooth for example, may be responsible for a variety of symptoms. But in understanding behavior problems, the conception of multiple causation for patterns, syndromes and even single symptoms (such as tics, or

thumb sucking) has been found more profitable. Yet Dr. Moodie frequently makes such statements as the following: "The cause was clear . . . just a feeling elaborated in his mind and founded on his own view." (p. 122).

Dr. Moodie refers to child guidance as a "branch of clinical medicine," a statement with which many would disagree. As such it should be, as the author mentions, "practiced by adequately qualified and experienced specialists to be scientific and safe." Then why present the fundamentals of investigation, and treatment in a few too easy lessons? Not many dentists, for example, would attempt an "informal presentation" of skills which the general physician might apply in looking after teeth. It is not surprising that one short book cannot adequately cover the field of child guidance, but one wonders why a man of Dr. Moodie's ability should undertake it. His book would be more useful if it were more modest in its aim. As a report of his own experience it has value, but as a handbook for untrained practitioners it could be more dangerous than helpful.

Northwestern University

HELEN SARGENT

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY. By *J. H. Bagot*. A comparative Study of the Position in Liverpool, and in England and Wales. London, Jonathan Cape, 1941. Pp. 93.

The emphasis in the study is necessarily upon carefully compiled data from Liverpool, inasmuch as the author found almost insuperable difficulties in using statistics in England and Wales for control purposes. In some instances, the reviewer could not but question the value of the comparative material.

In summary; ". . . it has been found that juvenile delinquency in Liverpool is not a widely spread problem; it is concentrated in one section of the population, the very poor, and even within this section minor sub-normal groups are responsible for a large proportion of the total number of cases. The rareness of delinquency from even comfortable families emphasizes the powerful influence of poverty. It has been shown that more than three out of every ten coming before the court are going to appear again. These are likely to be boys who are mentally backward, unemployed, from large, overcrowded families where normal relationships are broken in some way, where discipline is weak, and where there is probably already another delinquent."

"The second aim was to examine the influence of the various factors in the two years, and to try to discover whether any of the factors were so much more influential in 1936 than 1934 as to account, even in part, for the growth in the number of cases. One of the most outstanding features of every section has been the close agreement between the proportions in the two years; in no case has any difference been found which could be said to indicate a change between the two years."

The book is especially interesting because it is indicative of a trend in British studies which should in the future make it increasingly possible for British and American students of delinquency and crime to compare notes profitably. "It is noteworthy that in England, in striking contrast with America, little effort has been made to examine the facts of juvenile delinquency in the light of information obtained in the preparation of reports on home and family circumstances." The book will also be of interest to American readers because, as Mr. Bagot points out, "The conclusions reached in the present inquiry may be of value as a measure of the extent to which Dr. Burt's offenders are 'typical of juvenile delinquents'."

An appendix *Delinquency During War-Time* shows that an increase comparable to that in 1915 is already underway. The book is carefully

written and the author is especially cautious in drawing conclusions from mathematical data.

WILLIAM F. BYRON

Northwestern University

PSYCHIATRIC CLINICS FOR CHILDREN. By *Helen Leland Witmer*. Commonwealth Fund, N. Y., 1940. Pp. xix + 437. \$3.50.

Much of the factual data in this book (in 414 pages) were collected by the National Committee for Mental Hygiene and by various Smith College Studies in Social Work.

The material presented is divided into three parts: (1) a descriptive analysis of the background of clinical child psychiatry in the United States; (2) an analysis of the clinics financed by State governments and, (3) a description and critical analysis of the three divergent objectives of child clinics together with the author's suggestions for a practical solution of the many problems resulting from these divergent objectives.

The material is presented clearly and succinctly as well as interestingly and Parts I and III particularly make fascinating reading whether one agrees with all of Dr. Witmer's conclusions or not.

The theoretical and historical background of our present day psychiatric clinics for children is graphically described. Credit for developing dynamic psychiatry and stressing its psychological concepts is given to two different groups, the first that of Freud and his followers, the second that of "the 'new psychology' of the nineties" developed by Adolph Meyer together with the university psychologists, William James and Dr. G. Stanley Hall.

The aim in developing the various types of clinics financed by State governments is "not to present a statistically accurate report of current conditions" but rather to describe typical set-ups so that the resultant tentative evaluation of trends and practices can be of value in planning new programs.

Dr. Witmer finds three different objectives inherent in the practice of child psychiatry although quite often the objective is not definitely formulated by a given clinic. These three objectives are, "(1) to reduce the number of admissions to State institutions, (2) to prevent psychoses and crime, (3) to promote the mental health of children irrespective of future contingencies." The author critically analyses these three objectives, both the good and bad features of each.

The only lack the reviewer finds in the entire book is a stress upon the need for a long-term comparable follow-up of the results of these three objectives is not stressed. One is inclined to agree with Dr. Witmer's conclusions but still they are theoretical and intuitive. A follow-up study of the efficacy of various types of examinations, various types of treatment procedures and for various types of child patients, would be, it is granted, a difficult and expensive proposition. However, the amount of money spent on organizing and keeping up such a clinic is very great, and it would appear that a check, as objective as possible, upon the effectiveness of the different rationales in selection and therapy should be made. Some *individual* studies of this sort are reported by Smith College students of social work, but they are not comprehensive enough for broad conclusions nor do they compare the various approaches.

PHYLLIS WITTMAN

State Hospital Elgin, Ill.

HANDBOOK OF AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS FOR DELINQUENT JUVENILES, Volumes I, II, III. The Osborne Association, Inc., New York.

The ambitious project of The Osborne Association has been making steady progress in spite of international disturbances, difficulties of financing,

and preparations for war. The scope of this project includes the study of all federal and state institutions established to care for delinquent juveniles. The program of study for each institution includes its legislative background, administrative personnel, plant and equipment, program of treatment and training, and release procedures, together with constructive critical comments and suggestions. To facilitate the survey the Association divided the country into eight geographic areas. Up to the present writing reporting on only three of these areas has been completed, namely West North Central States, Kentucky and Tennessee, and the Pacific Coast States.

The need for such a study was obvious, because of a dearth of impartial scientific factual information. The Osborne Association was in a particularly sound strategic position to make such a study because of its experience in nation-wide studies of correctional institutions for adults. The project got under way in the middle of 1937 but has been slowed up because of financial difficulties and so far has been able to issue only the three reports under review.

The field studies were made by specially qualified investigators. In every case their reports were submitted to the authorities of each individual institution studied, and before publication have been approved by a reviewing subcommittee of a general Committee set up by the Association for this specific purpose. The makeup of this advisory Committee (including such names as Sheldon Glueck, Judge C. W. Hoffman, James E. West, Frank Bane, Ray Huff, Arthur Wood, E. H. Sutherland, Miriam Van Waters, Thorsten Sellin, and J. L. Gillin) warrant confidence in the integrity, scientific character, and constructive nature of the undertaking.

The point of view of the whole study is that institutions for delinquent juveniles should be training centers rather than institutions of punishment and restraint. This outlook is based upon the report of the Committee on Delinquents of the White House Conference on Child Welfare and Protection. It represents, therefore, what may be considered as the most carefully thought out concept of treatment for juvenile delinquents. These three volumes constitute, so far as they have carried the study, an encyclopedic handbook of facts on public institutions for juvenile delinquents in three more or less typical areas of the United States. Volume I as of 1937 covered 13 institutions in the West North Central states including Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota; Volume II covered Kentucky and Tennessee; Volume III, California, Oregon, and Washington.

In addition to the history and factual data for these 22 institutions the report includes several pages of comment, findings, and recommendations for each institution and also a general introductory chapter summarizing the findings for the whole area under study. In each volume appears a detailed statement of the 20 to 22 major objectives which should dominate the policy of each and every institution. The space limits of a review do not permit the detailed statement of these objectives. They are well worth reprinting, however, as part of a major article sometime in this Journal because they represent policies and procedures which ought to be familiar to every student of criminology, police science, or public administration.

These field studies reveal an enormous range in the quality of the service rendered by these institutions. For example, as to the institutions in the West North Central states the general finding corroborates the statement made by the White House Conference in 1930 that in the various states their institutions for delinquents represent "almost every stage in the development of principles and methods of treatment for children committed

for institutional care." Some were dominated by politics, others not. Some institutions were housed in modern fireproof buildings, but more than half of all the children in the training schools of this area were living in buildings where there is constant danger of death by fire. Whereas one had a fine progressive school most reveal a rather sterile academic program. Constructive, intelligent discipline in some schools was in sharp contrast with the repressive wholly negative discipline found in others. The investigators were shocked to find in these institutions such punishments as whipping, wearing handcuffs, being shackled to the bed at night, working in shackles and leg chains, cold tubbings, confinement in straight jackets and long hours of standing rigidly at attention. Amongst the institutions in Kentucky and Tennessee the investigators found wide diversity ranging from one wholly impressive institution bent on positive professional achievement to the other extreme of several backward and ineffectual institutions dominated by a strictly custodial or punitive approach in their treatment of delinquent children. The institutions in the Pacific Coast area "range from the good to the bad, but do not present so wide a diversity in facilities and program. Those between the two extremes are neither very good nor very bad institutions" when measured by similar schools in other parts of the nation.

The word "politics" occurs frequently, as might have been expected. Of the institutions in the West North Central area for example, investigators found that although partisan politics and patronage with their immeasurably detrimental effects were a negligible factor in 4 of the 13 centers, they dominated the management of 5 and were influential in the administration of the remaining 4. Of those in Kentucky and Tennessee it is said that "In 5 of the institutions appointments are indefinite but are actually understood to run only a long as the particular party or faction under which the appointment was made, remains in power." However, there was one outstanding exception in Kentucky, namely, Ormsby Village. In the West the institutions were found relatively much freer from political interference.

An interesting confirmation of these reports comes from a statement published only two months ago which released findings of a recent investigating committee appointed by the governor of Kentucky which publicized conditions at the Greendale Training School which, according to the writer, would have made Charles Dickens turn in his grave.

In certain places, for example in Volume III, the ever latent conflict between the layman and the professional social worker reveals itself. Of course it is not possible for the professional investigator to point to any absolutes for proving that his "standards" are completely objective and universally accepted. Local mores, history, local pride, and local standards are elements in the "total situation" which may escape the imported professional investigator. But on the whole, these reports impress the reader with their general fairness, lack of bias, common sense, and consonance with standards established by the best practice and sanctioned by the best expert judgment now current.

As might have been expected officers responsible for some of the institutions have protested against the Association's findings; nevertheless it is evident that the investigators were not only accurate in their gathering of facts but also cautious in their findings and recommendations; consequently these reports stand as authentic documents which no amount of political outcry so far has been able to impugn. They represent the most complete survey so far available for a cross section of this phase of the contemporary American scene. It is a revelation of some of the less familiar and less flattering aspects of our culture. Many chapters of these three volumes ought to be syndicated and broadcast by newspapers throughout the nation.

It is to be hoped that the Osborne Association will be able, before too long, to carry this study to completion in all of the areas originally contemplated.
Northwestern University

ARTHUR J. TODD

MURDER OUT YONDER. By *Stewart H. Holbrook*. Macmillan Co. New York. Pp. 255., 1941. Price \$2.50.

Here are vivid, true accounts of ten "back country" murders from Oregon to Maine. There isn't a plain, knock down crime among them. Each of them is more or less unqualifiedly describable as a mystery. The author isn't daydreaming. He covered 11,000 miles and had adventures of his own aplenty while he was accumulating material for this book.

Mr. Holbrook is of opinion that cities cannot furnish as good murders as those that are to be found in the backwoods. At any rate the latter are more entertaining than the former. They are folklore and are at the same time a part of the history of their respective communities.

Holbrook is a high grade stylist and humorist. And he gives one the impression that he is a careful selector of sources of information.

Evanston, Ill.

ROBERT H. GAULT

YOUTH AND THE FUTURE. The General Report of the American Youth Commission. American Council on Education, Washington, D. C. 1942. Pp. 296. \$2.50.

Only one chapter of this latest publication of the American Youth Commission is specifically concerned with delinquency and youthful crime. Nevertheless, since behavior is a unified phenomenon every section of this work has some bearing upon the problem of delinquency. The facts brought out are familiar to most students of criminology. The point of view of the Commission appears in the opening statement of Chapter XII: "Antisocial conduct in its more serious aspect is not evident in a large proportion of young people and has perhaps been over emphasized as a youth problem . . . Though crime may not bulk large among youth, young people are a disturbingly large element in crime." The Commission rather contemptuously dismisses the belief that crime represents a spontaneous outburst of malignant human nature; and by direct refusal to trace antisocial conduct to a single cause holds that every type of maladjustment in a complex society is a causative factor in delinquency; but amongst these causal factors the Commission lists either too much or too little parental control; strained emotional relations between parents; economic insecurity; lack of space for home recreation or failure of parents to understand youth's needs and interests; antagonisms between pupils, teachers and school administrators; inadequacy of public health efforts; lack of facilities for public recreation; absence of helpful contacts with older youth and adults.

While the problem of delinquency and youthful crime is ascribed mainly to faults of omission nevertheless there is the familiar charge that American handling of the juvenile offender is to say the least inadequate. For example, the Commission charges that "in no other civilized country are young men and women given so much latitude of conduct, and in none are they punished more severely when they misuse that latitude." The Commission has no good words to say for our reformatory system and is not entirely convinced that the juvenile court is a cure-all. Juvenile courts, say the Commission, "are usually overworked. There is also serious doubt whether they can deal effectively with the more mature psychology of the older youth of both sexes as long as their services are primarily designed to meet the needs of children."

The measures proposed by the Commission to avoid the maladjustments

which lead youth into crime are highly general. They include occupational adjustment, guidance in the use of leisure, overcoming the tragic lethargy of youth by giving it some stimulation to self direction, training for family living, the development of special skills and interests. "To reduce delinquency to a minimum we need especially to correct the environmental defects known to be causative factors in crime. We need to give stability to the economic basis of family life to build homes with space enough for healthy living, and for family recreation, to provide parks and playgrounds sufficient for the needs of our population, to place medical care within the reach of all, to insure an adequate food supply to everyone, and to give them the nutritional knowledge that will enable them to employ it effectively." Specifically, the Commission commends the plan for a Youth Correction Authority in each state, also urges federal-state youth policy conferences, and stresses the need for supporting character building agencies such as the Scout organizations, YMCA, YWCA, settlement houses, police and other boys' clubs and even the Salvation Army.

While ostensibly the Commission bases its case fundamentally upon "some recognition of the spiritual in life in every creature" as the preventive of juvenile delinquency as well as for a sane and rational way of life, nevertheless conscious devotion to this topic bulks very small as against the other measures recommended as cure and prophylaxis, for only three out of 290 pages in the report are devoted to this weighty subject.

The Commission is to be commended on the notable piece of bookmaking which it has produced, because the report is not only beautifully printed and bound, but is of such convenient size and shape as to make it attractive to handle and read. It deserves the widest circulation.

Northwestern University

ARTHUR J. TODD

BORROWED CHILDREN. By *Mrs. St. Loe Strachey*. New York, Commonwealth Fund, 1940. Pp. 149. \$0.75.

This story of 730,000 English school children evacuated from their homes during the first days of September 1939, is valuable, in relation to child welfare, in peace as well as in war. It is a book for intelligent, untrained people, for parents who have children of their own, and all those others who try to understand and help other people's children.

The emphasis is not so much upon the problems of those who suddenly become the foster parents of so many children of all ages and classes, but on the fundamental truths about all children, upon the national importance of every individual child; the basic needs and wishes of all children, for comfort, warmth, affection, for interesting things to do, for safety, for an "emotional background of security which is the prime factor in the bringing up of all children"; upon the emotional disturbance which has deep reactions when the secure basis of a child's home is threatened; upon the great need for child-guidance clinics for most of the problems of evacuated children had existed long before they faced this crisis; upon the need to maintain our educational system for "in England the first major casualty of the war was the national system of education."

The details of evacuation are interesting but it is of far greater importance that the qualities needed in the persons who assumed the care of these evacuated children are the same as are needed in their parents, their teachers, in all who influence their lives.

The stories of these children and their hostesses mark an epoch in our knowledge of how to avoid many pitfalls in the bringing up of children.

Juvenile Protective Association of Chicago.

JESSIE F. BINFORD.