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## Book Reviews

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## Book Reviews

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CONCERNING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY: Progressive Changes in our Perspectives. By *Henry W. Thurston*. Columbia University Press, N. Y. C. VIII. + Pp. 228. \$2.75.

This volume avowedly is not intended to present new and radical notions (as though we needed any!) concerning juvenile delinquency, its causation and treatment. It does offer to the field worker a useful compendium of significant theories on that subject held by acknowledged authorities in behavior and disorder, plus other valuable historical material organized in an orderly and logical fashion. The author describes his work as an effort to give "perspective" to those engaged in the task of performing successful case work among predelinquent and delinquent juveniles, and among the other persons with whom contact is made in what frequently appears to be a "futile" campaign against recidivism as well as in the discouraging area of prevention.

The approach is broad in scope, definitive and objective in its method of presentation; with few exceptions Mr. Thurston has been eminently successful in achieving his announced goal. Illustrative cases abound in its text and appendix; the transition "from mischief to murder" is stark drama without being unnecessarily garnished. Utilizing the novel device of presiding over a hypothetical forum, at which the distinguished authorities who people its pages are called upon for their diverse views, the author liberally sprinkles the volume with a wide range of quotations from their writings, describing an arc at one end of which appears the tragic hyperbole that "juvenile delinquency on the whole results from the clash of civilizations . . . low grade, intellectually dull immigrants thrust into our complicated, highly organized civilization" (p. 37); and, at the other end, the oversimplification that manufacturers of toy pistols are largely responsible for the emergence of gun-toting bandits (p. 45). These extremes fortunately are more than counterbalanced by the author's judicious use of excerpts supporting the preponderant and far sounder theory: that a *complex* of causal factors—economic, familial, social, psychological—resides at the root of criminality, and that now, as always, the delinquent youth is a "total personality in a total situation."

It is regrettable—though understandable in light of the sociological emphasis of Mr. Thurston's rich background—that so little space, relatively, was devoted to the role of the tested disciplines of psychology, the competent practitioners of which need no longer stand, hat in hand, waiting for admission to the charmed, inner circle of those coping with manifestations of maladjustment. Acknowledging the infinite possibilities of psychiatric clinics in connection with the delinquency problem, the author stresses by quoting others—the failure of such clinics in the past to achieve integration of their functions with other agencies. The failure, the existence of which is palpable, was found by Paul Blanshard and this reviewer in a recently published study of Probation Techniques and Psychiatric Clinics in New York City to be attributable to a distrust of this aspiring science, resulting in an inordinately stubborn resistance to an implementation of the personnel and facilities of clinics. Lack of "orchestration" (coordination), which Mr. Thurston so eloquently decries, gives rise to a disinclination on the part of judges, probation officers and social workers to accord to find-

ings and recommendation of competent psychiatrists the dignity of adoption in the planning of rehabilitation programs for individual cases.

The timeliness of this volume is noteworthy. The war, as was to be expected, is already producing an alarming upsurge of juvenile and adolescent delinquency. Private and official agencies—including, of course, the courts—dedicated to constructive efforts in finding the solution to war-time delinquency (the causes of which are merely modifications and exaggerations of causes found to exist during peace-time) should profit by the warning Mr. Thurston gives against perpetuation of "soloist" activities in the "orchestra" of common aims. Rugged individualism, the trade-mark of an era just passing, we trust, into limbo, cannot be permitted to survive as a habit of thinking among these agencies—each claiming for itself the magical melodic formula with which to soothe the juvenile beast. When they begin to act as part of an integrated whole, those really concerned with the delinquency problem may make some belated progress.

EDWIN J. LUKAS

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THE CLARKS: AN AMERICAN PHENOMENON. By *William D. Mangam*, with an introduction by *Edward Alsworth Ross*. Silver Bow Press, New York. 1941. Pp. 257. \$2.50.

The student of "white collar" criminality will find this book an interesting case study. It is a terse, unemotional account of the rise and fall of the Clark mining empire, founded by "copper king" William Andrews Clark in the late nineteenth century. The pattern of acquisition and dissipation of the huge American fortunes has become well-known through the works of Gustavus Myers, Ida Tarbell, Lewis Corey, and others, and this work adds another typical example to the list. The author, who served for thirty years as general business manager for one of the sons, describes the manner in which William Andrews Clark amassed the property and money which made him one of the greatest mining magnates of America, and one of the richest men in the world. He is portrayed as a capable, ruthless man, a more or less typical member of the species known as "robber barons."

The highlight of the story of his life is reached in the description of his notorious and successful attempt, following the fashion among the multimillionaires of the time, to wrangle his way into the United States Senate. To accomplish this purpose he spent huge sums of money, estimated as more than \$2,000,000 by Senator William E. Chandler, mainly in the bribery of public officials and newspapers in his home state of Montana. However, one crowning ambition of his life, to become ambassador to France, was never attained.

The two sons, William Andrews, Junior, and Charles Waller Clark, and the daughter, Katherine, are portrayed as persons who shared their father's unbounded faith in the power of money to buy anything and everything. With their father's money they purchased sexual experience, licit and illicit, heterosexual and homosexual. They received expensive foreign educations; they purchased public good will by making donations to community projects and erecting public monuments; they gambled and drank and married for money; they travelled abroad and established palatial residences in various parts of the world. Social prestige was theirs for the price, and, still true to form, they became connoisseurs of art, and finally ended up by disposing of the mining properties of their father and fighting over the spoils. The climax of the latter part of the book is reached in the description of the homosexual orgies of William Andrews Clark, Junior, who, nevertheless, managed to get

himself elected as an honorary member of Phi Beta Kappa, receive two honorary degrees, and be awarded the Service Watch by the Los Angeles Realty Board for "having rendered the most valuable and unselfish service to the community during the year." (p. 228-229.)

The author does not often state the sources of his data, and there are many gaps in the story. However, there is a ring of authenticity about the narrative derived from the author's long and close association with the family, and considering the nature of many of his disclosures, one feels for his sake that they had better be authentic!

ALFRED R. LINDESMITH

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THE JUST AND THE UNJUST. By *James Gould Cozzens*. Harcourt, Brace & Company, New York. 1942. Pp. 434. \$2.50.

This is a tale of a rural murder. It is also a kaleidoscopic view of what goes on in the minds of small town lawyers when they set out to "win a case or else." It is a narrative of judges and their sons who succeed them, of prosecutors who could never be anything else, and of defense lawyers who go all the way to take advantage of the many laws made for the protection of every defendant who must be considered innocent until proven otherwise.

Of the 4,000 inhabitants in this mythical town of Childerstown everybody knows everybody else and when one is angry recites the vices of his or her enemies and forgets the virtues.

The conduct of the lawyers on both sides would make one want to hide the fact that he is a member of the legal profession.

We hear of the vicissitudes, trials and tribulations of "lawyer" families. We are told the story of the judge who threw a litigant out of his office when he was offered \$25,000, and when his colleagues sympathized with him over the insult that he'd been offered, he said to them: "Gentlemen, I didn't worry about the insult—you can't insult integrity; what worried me was that he was getting too close to my price."

It's the old story already heard so often: "third degree," "double cross," "stool pigeon," political favors, malice and misinformation, dishonor among thieves, blind justice, loose women, professional liars, prosecutor and crooked politicians, bullets and bedlam, the just and the unjust in the little town of Childerstown.

The trial is long drawn out, as most criminal trials are where the defense uses every subterfuge to "beat the rap." How unfortunate are those who have to sit through an actual trial such as this—and there are ever, ever so many under our present set-up of so called justice.

Is this tale of a kidnapping and murder drawn out and tiresome? We think so, but we also think it was purposely made so by the author who evidently is well acquainted with our procedure of criminal law.

The purpose seems to be to so confuse the issues, tire out the jury, "hang them on the ropes" with objections and legal technicalities that when they retire to deliberate they will be too confused and in such a state of ill temper that they won't be able to think rationally, and following a loud and boisterous argument will be glad to settle for the easiest way out—a verdict of acquittal. Here it is in all its glory—justice blindly staggering in a maze of legal technicalities.

It is fiction, interesting, and as up to date as peeps and jeeps.

JOHN I. HOWE

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ALCOHOL EXPLORED. By *H. W. Haggard* and *E. M. Jellinek*. New York. Doubleday-Doran. 1942. Pp. 297. \$2.75.

This book is both interesting and factual. The authors realize the complexity of the problem they are dealing with and the appalling amount of both written and spoken "verbalization" that has been wasted upon it. Hence they *define* their terms and they present *facts*, facts that have been brought out by controlled experimentation. When they discuss theories about incidence, etiology, or treatment they call attention to the fact that they are merely theories.

The authors conclude "that physiological and psychological research in the field of inebriety, after long and justifiable concentration on isolated aspects of the problem, must at last be concentrated on the origin of excessive drinking, whatever their forms."

This book is written for the lay person but is well enough written to be read by the technician with interest and value.

PHYLLIS WITTMAN

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MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY. Edited by Becker, Hill and Others. D. C. Heath & Company, Boston. 1942. Pp. 663.

This symposium of twenty-seven sociologists, economists, doctors, zoologists, educators and pastors attains greater unity than is common to such enterprises. Largely because of a sensible and fairly logical outline of subject matter and because although each essay expresses the individual author's own opinion, the two editors have not hesitated to add their corrective notes where it seemed that the writers were riding hobbies close to the danger line of being too easily misunderstood by the immature minds to which the volume is primarily addressed.

Family origins are minimized except to show that man did not invent the family, and to dismiss rudely the fallacy of moral relativity as related to sex conduct.

On the whole the Symposium represents what might be called the constructive conservative point of view which is true liberalism. It lacks case materials and tends somewhat to over emphasize the physical and material aspects of marriage and family life. The chapter on techniques of family administration is most unusual in books of this sort. And one would have to seek far to find the equivalent of the materials compacted into the section on family crises and ways of meeting them.

The final summarizing chapter by Editor Hill is a sensible and on the whole optimistic review of the whole book and forecast of the future.

ARTHUR J. TODD

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GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS IN THE UNITED STATES. By *Harold Zink*. Published by The Macmillan Company, New York, 1942. Pp. 1091. \$4.00.

Professor Zink's book is intended primarily to be an introductory textbook for college students in American Government. It contains, however, several distinctive features useful to the person interested in criminology and criminal law.

First, its treatment of the federal and state court systems is much more comprehensive than that found in the average introductory text. This expansion is highly desirable for the judicial branch of our government has been all too commonly neglected by writers in the field of political science.

Second, the book is useful in presenting clearly and colorfully the various branches and problems of the government in relation to each other. The specialist in any field of political science is apt to overemphasize the importance of his own work and to tend to ignore other aspects of the American political scene. Few persons interested in the administration of law enforcement and correction would not benefit from a careful perusal of the entire panorama of American government.

Lastly, in these times especially it behooves us to rethink carefully the foundations upon which democracy is built. All too commonly we take for granted the superiority of democracy as a political system. The march of the totalitarian countries in the past decade has shown us that one of the prime obligations of Americans is to forget our superficial conflicts and get down to the roots of the democratic system. In this quest Professor Zink's book is most useful.

ROLLIN P. POSEY

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PRINCIPLES OF APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY. By *A. T. Poffenberger*. D. Appleton-Century Co., New York, 1942. Pp. 655. \$4.00.

This substantial volume by a well known experimental psychologist contains four chapters aggregating 63 pages on subjects that have a direct interest for criminologists. The chapters are entitled as follows: "The Causes of Criminal Behavior"; "The Witness and the Accused: The Determination of Guilt"; "The Psychology of the Jury and the Judge" and "The Treatment of the Offender."

In such short space the author, of course, is unable to present a very impressive discussion of so vast a subject as is implied by the phrase: "Psychology Applied in Criminology" and he has not attempted the impossible. In each of the four chapters designated he has avoided the armchair and has made use of what he considers a few outstanding contributions by research students. His choice will not, in every instance, satisfy all of us—but men's opinions are not preordained to be in agreement.

Sometime we shall have a text in Criminology (and in Applied Psychology, generally) that will pay adequate respect to morale and to the affective attitudes. These topics do not occur in the chapters referred to above. They are among the less tangible subjects.

In his chapter on "The Witness and the Accused: The Determination of Guilt" Professor Poffenberger gives four pages to a discussion of "Physiological Indications of Guilty Knowledge" including the "Blood Pressure Test," the "Psychogalvanic Reflex Test" and the "Brain-Wave Pattern Test." He points out what is often overlooked—that it is assumed in using these tests that the mechanisms for gross external muscular innervations, for respiration and heart beat, vascular adaptations and mechanisms for the secretion of sweat, saliva *et alia* "respond differentially to excitement, fear, anger and a deceitful attitude of mind." Whether such a differential is actually in the picture remains to be seen.

The "Brain-Wave Pattern Test" is little known in criminological literature. Professor Poffenberger pays his respects to it briefly in the present volume. The electroencephalogram (a tracing that indicates alterations in cerebral electric phenomena that occur in varying mental states) is known to be changed in form as one passes from rest to excitement and vice versa. We may expect more experimentation on this topic, partly as a result of currently improved devices for amplifying and photographing oscillations.

ROBERT H. GAULT

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