

1943

## Book Reviews

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## BOOK REVIEWS

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**SOCIAL PROBLEMS.** Third edition, by *John Lewis Gillin, Clarence G. Dittmer, Roy J. Colbert and Norman M. Kastler.* New York: D. Appleton-Century Company, 1943. Pp. 528. \$3.50.

This is the third edition of a work originally published in 1928. It has had wide circulation as a college text. The present edition retains most of the materials in its predecessors, though with some rearrangement and combination, the net result of which is some reduction in size instead of the usual expansion. A new collaborator, Professor Kastler, has been added and to him fell the major burden of revision. Some chapter titles have been changed to good purpose; but for others the same can hardly be said: for example, Chapter 10 assumes to include "Primary Social Problems of Industry" while Chapter 11 covers "Secondary Social Problems of Industry." To the candid reader the materials in both seem to be of the same order. The final chapter on "Proposed Ways Out" suggested the possibility of much new material, in view of the hundreds of proposed solutions of the world's post-war problems; but actually this chapter remains substantially as it stood ten years ago. The readers of this *Journal* will be interested in the excellent additions both of content and bibliography to the chapter now entitled "Problems of Crime and Penology."

It is in no spirit of levity that the reviewer must conclude that a work which can be carried to a third edition at a time of global turmoil cannot be "laughed off" but must possess very substantial merit.

ARTHUR J. TODD

Northwestern University

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**SURVEY OF OBJECTIVE STUDIES OF PSYCHOANALYTIC CONCEPTS; A Report** Prepared for the Committee on Social Adjustment, by *Robert R. Sears,* State University of Iowa; Social Science Research Council, 1942, pp. 156. \$1.25.

This is a comprehensive study of published experimental and observational investigations bearing upon the validity of psychoanalytic theory. When Freud began to formulate his concepts from his clinical discoveries, experimental psychology had not developed to the point of conducting researches on the structure and growth of personality. Since then not a little has been accomplished in this latter field. It has been deemed wise to compare findings. Sears, as the result of his survey, tells us that, "In some instances Freud's views have been supported and his principles importantly extended. In others, the new techniques have failed to cast much useful light on the behavior in question. All the work, however, serves to emphasize the increasing significance attached to psychoanalysis, by non-analysts, as a guide to the planning of research on personality."

For this *JOURNAL* it would seem out of place to review the technical considerations of the report. Some of the especially interesting specific points that are made run as follows: Freud's conception of infantile sexuality is rather well supported by other sources of information. However, it is clear that Freud's conclusions in some respects were drawn from his knowledge of childhood life in a special cultural setting. It would appear that he vastly underrated the importance of the child's immediate milieu as a source of the kinds of learning that have to do with the development of notions and emotions about various features of sexual life. Various studies cast doubts on the alleged universality of the Oedipus situation, and in connection with this, the universality of a sexual latency period between six and twelve

years of age. Also, sources of evidence indicate the over-estimation of the frequency of the castration complex—although it must be said that Sears does not sufficiently indicate what the evidence is. Doubt is also cast upon the importance of childhood sexual aggressions.

The great theme of repression seems likely to have little added to it but the methodology of experiment, but to the reviewer's thought, the fact of repression is so plain that it needs no added verification. The objective evidence proves adequately the concept of motivation in dreams—Freud did well when he classed dreams with other orderly psychological phenomena. But then, it must be remembered that Freud did not limit all motivation to sex. Repression, projection and dreams are intimately dependent on strong emotions and on motives, but they are also dependent on language and verbal report. Hence, progress in their investigation by non-analytic techniques must be slow.

Out of ethnological data, longitudinal studies of personality development carefully developed, and out of intimate investigations of the influence of different types of family life and of cultural conditions there will grow up a much better understanding of the human personality and of human behavior. How the theories of psychoanalysis can be incorporated into such a general body of scientific knowledge is a puzzling question, but they cannot be ignored.

WILLIAM HEALY

Boston, Massachusetts

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SERVICES TO THE ORTHOPEDICALLY HANDICAPPED, by *Louis P. Hover and Charles K. Hays*, Philadelphia: Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 1942. Pp. 125. \$.50.

Unlike many surveys, this report of a study made under the auspices of the Widener Memorial School and the Board of Education of Philadelphia, is not a compilation of statistics. Instead, it presents a compact and comprehensive report on a nation-wide problem, including methods by which it is being met and constructive suggestions for their improvement. Specific questions such as the selection of personnel, criteria for admission to orthopedic schools and classes, and lists of available opportunities are discussed, in addition to more general problems of registration and discovery, coordination of community resources and other basic considerations. Suggestions for the extension downward to the pre-school child, upward to the adult, and outward to the home-bound are also offered.

The book is well illustrated and contains a convenient bibliography which should make it an invaluable reference handbook to all who are concerned in this branch of education and social work. At least as important as its practical value is the philosophy consistently set forth throughout the book. In these pages, there is an understanding spirit of service, but none of the atmosphere of the "sunshine club" seeking to bring here cheer to the unfortunate. It presents, rather, a challenging demand for the further development of means to educate handicapped individuals not for segregated protection, but for participation, to the fullest possible extent, in normal society.

HELEN SARGENT

Northwestern University

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MENTAL HYGIENE IN SCHOOL AND HOME LIFE (for Teachers, Supervisors and Parents), by *Lester D. Crowe and Alice Crow*. New York: McGraw Hill, 1942. Pp. 474. \$3.00.

In their preface, the authors state that they "believe that except in rare instances, the constructive function of hygienic principles of prevention and preservation, rather than cure, should be the chief concern of educators and parents as they strive to effect not only the desirable adjustments of young people, but also the direction of their own behavior patterns." It is, perhaps, only the date of publication—1942—which makes both this statement and the manner in which it is followed through, seem rather unreal and academic.

Books and articles on mental hygiene have been appearing for years and they serve a very useful purpose. But when a "new" book on the subject is offered today, it is not unnatural that the reader should look to it for an up-to-date application to present and future problems, rather than a restatement (no matter how adequate) of factors involved in ideal homes, schools and communities. Such ideals are not to be abandoned, but since we have *not* "prevented" and "preserved," a book which fails to face and grapple with the results cannot be regarded as timely. In this book, "Community Factors in Adjustment" are treated in the traditional fashion, with suitable emphasis on clean government, civic responsibility, leadership and the like. But the word "war" does not appear in the index, and the obstacles in the way of personal adjustment in the present world are not specifically considered.

Just how the prevention of maladjustment can be accomplished without treatment of ills as they exist, or how the two can ever be separated in practice, is nowhere explained. The book abounds in "musts" without suggestion as to how they are to be accomplished. The teacher who is looking for ways to help confused adolescents while at the same time dealing with her own current problems is given little choice except to revamp the school system, eliminate all maladjusted co-workers, and change all the parents' attitudes. This is, of course, exaggeration but it describes the feeling with which the reader is left. Parents who read, on page 337, that "the child develops desirable or undesirable emotional and social habits to the extent that the parents themselves are calm, emotionally balanced, personally and socially well-adjusted and contented," is likely to be downright discouraged when the paragraph concludes with the slim comfort that this "is not dependent primarily upon the superior educational level or financial affluence of the home but results from the application of the kinds of principles and practices that motivate the behavior of the individuals comprising the home." Clinical experience has shown that many parents and teachers are more disturbed than helped by such pronouncements.

As an introductory test in the mental hygiene field, the book covers most of the familiar problems and principles. It is well organized. Teachers who use it will, however, be called upon to supplement from other sources if the very real contribution which psychology and mental hygiene can make in the present and post-war situation is to be made meaningful to students of our times.

HELEN SARGENT

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HANDBOOK OF AMERICAN PRISONS AND REFORMATORIES. The Osborne Association, 114 E. 30th Street, New York City. Vol. II, Pacific Coast States. 1942. 455 pages.

This book portrays an intensive survey of five Federal and six state penal institutions in the Pacific Coast Area. The reader will be able to get a very good picture of their present status, and compare the best with the worst. Personal visits for the study were made to all except one by the

Field Staff of the Osborne Association. In fact, a double check was made by visits in 1940 and again in 1941 revealing significant improvements in some of the prisons during that period.

The five Federal prisons here described are Alcatraz; MacNeil Island, Washington; Terminal Island, California; Du Pont, Washington; and Kooskia, Idaho. The last three are minimum security prison camps for minor offenders. They have been established by the government in recent years to provide for misdemeanants, many of whom have heretofore been boarded in undesirable county jails. Similar units have been added to the Federal prison system in other parts of the country. While their per capita cost is high, because of their limited population, the comparative value is recommended as a good investment.

The six state institutions inspected were San Quentin and Folsom, the two old prisons of California; the new Institution for Men at Chino and the Women's prison at Tehachapi in the same state. The state prison at Salem, Oregon, and the State prison and reformatory in Washington are included in the study. It is pointed out that marked changes have taken place in the conduct and atmosphere of San Quentin prison during the period of this survey, and great promise is held out for the new prison for men at Chino. On the other hand it is shown that Folsom and Salem prisons are hopelessly inadequate in their equipment and suffer in comparison with the others. The reformatory at Monroe, Washington, while well located and equipped, has failed to adopt, up to date, standards of administration.

Each prison briefly is described as to its history, equipment, industries, health, discipline, education, entertainment, inmate participation, religious instruction, and the classification of inmates. The latter is wholly lacking, needless to say, in backward institutions, newly instituted in others; but highly recommended for all. In fact, the chief recommendations of the survey have to do with the adoption of the proper study and classification of inmates; an adequate educational and industrial program, and sufficient housing capacity to permit only one man in each cell.

These surveys are undertaken only with the consent and cooperation of Governors and prison officials. The findings published only after official approval. The demonstration of enlightened prison management now being made by the Federal prison system and in some states should put to shame those who have not yet discovered that recovery instead of revenge is the purpose of imprisonment.

F. EMORY LYON

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THE NINTH BIENNIAL REPORT, Division of Public Institutions, State of Minnesota, for period ending June 30, 1942. Prison Printing Department, Stillwater, Minnesota. Pp. 309.

This report is well prepared. Each public institution in the State of Minnesota records the progress made, the present status of equipment and function, its needs and plans for the future. Of particular interest here are the correctional institutions.

The Training School for Boys occupies a beautiful site overlooking the Mississippi River at Red Wing. It has a capacity of 450, present population of 376, a 550 acre farm, a per capita cost of \$534.79. It has a progressive classification, educational, vocational, medical and release program, a commendable feature of which is that the program is planned *with the boy* rather than for him.

The Home School for Girls up to 18 years of age is located on 512 acres of wooded farm land on the shore of Sauk Lake. It has 15 cottages for

girls, capacity 320, present population 274, per capita cost \$537.72. It has a modern classification, training and out-placing program, which is distinctive in that the word "parole" is passing out of the vocabulary of its juvenile inmates. Instead they speak of being "released" or "ready for placement."

The State Reformatory for Women is on a beautifully landscaped tract overlooking the Minnesota River at Shakopee, has 167 acres, capacity 84, current population 45, per capita cost \$842.68. Each inmate has a room in a cottage. It is approved by the Federal Bureau of Prisons to receive women Federal Prisoners.

The State Reformatory at St. Cloud is located in a area of 1,057 acres, 55 of which are enclosed by a granite wall from 22 to 30 feet high, making it the largest such enclosure in America. Within its grounds is the finest granite quarry in the state. The capacity is 1,150 inmates, current population 1,021, no inmate age limit, per capita cost \$453.53. The institution administers four penal camps over the state, making possible a gradual release program.

The State Prison at Stillwater founded in 1851, was rebuilt according to modern conceptions in 1912. Its capacity is 1,376, current population 1,192, area 1,000 acres, per capita cost \$426.90. It has a modern penal and rehabilitation program, an industrial feature of which is a binder-twine factory where inmates are credited with earnings.

Charles H. Z. Meyer, U. S. Probation, Chicago.

THE CHILD AND THE LAW IN PENNSYLVANIA, by *Lillian L. Strauss* and *Edwin P. Rome*, the Public Charities Association, Philadelphia, 1943, Pp. 292 ..... Robert H. Gault 190

"The need for readily available information concerning the opportunities and protection offered to children by the laws of Pennsylvania seems urgent." In the face of war needs, there is a temptation to relax protective legislation. This situation could make the child "the forgotten man" of today. The present volume represents an effort to block that temptation in Pennsylvania.

ROBERT H. GAULT.

Evanston, Ill.