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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

THE ADOLESCENT CRIMINAL, by *Norwood W. East*, in collaboration with *Percy Stocks* and *H. T. P. Young* with foreword by *Sir Alexander Maxwell*. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd., 1942. Pp. XI and 372.

This inquiry is based on the investigation of 4,000 male adolescent offenders taken in the urban area of London and vicinity in the years 1930-1937. The method is chiefly statistical; there were, however, interviews with the boys and their parents and information was secured from teachers, employers, etc. The answers to the problems of the casual factors of adolescent criminality and problems of suitability for Borstal detention and improvement in the allocation of the lads to appropriate institutions are noteworthy through their cautious and non-committal character. It should therefore be read with great attention.

The bulk were offenses against property with all the others, including sexual offenses only in minor or negligible proportion. While in certain cases psychiatric factors including heredity could be demonstrated they don't seem to play a considerable part not even in the form of direct criminal heredity. Family life definitely plays an important role: so does the type of control whether lax, careless, repressive or judicious; there are however boys intolerant of apparently judicious control, they, too, show a great tendency to recidivism. No association of the presumable intensity of sexual urges with sexual offense could be demonstrated. It is also important to note that the sexual offense group had better housing conditions than the average while boys with multiple convictions and without sexual records lived in poor-class districts. The mental deficiency rate—not the rate of psychoses—was high in sexual offenders. The authors caution against certain diagnostical oversimplifications especially against the overworked term 'psychopath.' Certain types of aggressive and acquisitive conducts are not affected by ordinary penal methods. "The present investigation shows the need for further research in connection with normal as well as abnormal offenders." Such investigations in the opinion of the authors and this reviewer should also make use of the so-called life history method.

W. ELIASBERG

New York City.

THE ARMY AND THE LAW, by *Garrard Glenn* and *A. Arthur Schiller*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1943. Pp. IX and 203. \$2.75.

This second edition by Prof. Schiller of Prof. Glenn's 1918 book is as modern as the U. S. Supreme Court on the relation of the U. S. District Courts to U. S. Army Courts Martial.

Since Courts Martial deal with criminal matters, in contradiction to Prize Courts, Courts of Claims, Military Commissions, Provost Courts, and Boards of Inquiry, and since this book does not embrace those others, it will appeal to many of the reader audience of this JOURNAL. It is well organized and well written. Superseded decisions are not cited. The reader scholar will enjoy it.

The U. S. Army in peace and in war, in our country and abroad in neutral, allied and enemy countries has different rights and duties and limitations.

The American civilian in peace and war, here or in neutral and allied

and in enemy countries also, has different rights and duties and limitations in relation to our army as to the armies of the other nations.

Our courts are very definite about these rights, duties and limitations. For example, treason may not be tried by court martial, but only by a U. S. District Court. In some matters, actions which are a crime against the State and also against the army, state courts and courts martial have concurrent jurisdiction.

If a court martial exceeds its jurisdiction or authority, or if an officer or soldier is prosecuted by malice, or if he is charged with obeying an illegal order (one the issuing authority had no right to order), then the U. S. District Court has jurisdiction.

What the authors of this book did *not* say is quite heartening. The United States, because of its laws, can never wage war on a less than civilized level nor ignore the rules of war nor the ethical culture of its people.

HAROLD S. HULBERT

Chicago, Ill.

YOUNG OFFENDERS, by *A. M. Carr-Saunders, E. C. Rhodes and Dr. Herman Mannheim*. Cambridge, England: The University Press; New York: The Macmillan Company, 1942. Pp. 168. \$1.75.

This pocket-size book is a big one, first, because of its quality and quantity of data from a thoroughgoing "enquiry" into juvenile delinquency in seven London areas and six provincial towns. Secondly, because of a concise review of eighteen studies of juvenile delinquency in England beginning with the *Report of the Committee for Investigating the Causes of the Alarming Increase of Juvenile Delinquency in the Metropolis*, published in 1816, immediately after the Napoleonic Wars.

Early in 1938, the Secretary of the Home Office, concerned over the progressive rise in delinquency from 267 per 100,000 of population in 1921, to 568 in 1936, called a meeting in London to plan a study. Plans were formulated. Collection of data began on October 1, 1938. The work was completed six months later.

The current study of some two-thousand pre-World-War II delinquents, plus a like number of "controls," which is here reported in statistical detail, comes to conclusions not too unlike those of the report of 1816. ("The improper conduct of parents. The want of education. The want of suitable employment. The violation of the Sabbath and habits of gambling in the public streets.") It is not sufficient to read the "Conclusions." This chapter is more a critical evaluation of the method and procedure than an analysis of data. American students might well spend some time making a more extended summary. Those who are engaged in the statistical study of delinquent behavior should observe the technique of this inquiry. The conclusions of some American studies, made without controls, appear to be ill founded when compared with some of the findings reported here. This study indicates that it is the quality of living—not the quantity—that makes the difference between the delinquent and the non-delinquent. A few quotations follow:

Broken Homes: "We can only point out that broken homes may have some influence on delinquency though since we get control cases coming from broken homes, we cannot assert that there is a direct link between this factor and delinquency." (p. 62)

Neighborhood: "When the neighborhood is graded as fair or poor, the

differences—(between delinquents and controls)—are not significant for provincial towns and are barely significant for London." (pp. 74-75)

Recreation: "That there is no real difference between delinquents and controls in regard to recreation facilities . . ." is linked with the fact that controls were chosen from the same neighborhoods. (p. 77)

Club Membership: "It is doubtful if there is any real significant difference between the delinquent and control groups indicated by these figures. This is unexpected in view of the importance commonly attributed to club membership." (p. 89)

What data do distinguish the delinquent from the controls? Here are a few quotes:

Parents: "There appears to be a greater incidence of irregularity in habits of parents amongst the delinquent group," (p. 65) "There is relatively more friction amongst the parents of the delinquent group than amongst the control group." (p. 67) "Thus it appears that the chance of a delinquent coming from a home with a disturbed home atmosphere is three or four times as great as the chance of a delinquent coming from a home with normal atmosphere." (p. 72)

Employment: "Irregularity of employment is of greater incidence with fathers of delinquents than with fathers of controls." (p. 84) "For each age, the proportion of unemployed amongst delinquent cases is higher than the corresponding proportion amongst control cases. Hardly any of our controls are unemployed." (p. 102) "On the average, the delinquent cases have experienced greater mobility in employment." (p. 103)

The reader should consult the context from which the foregoing quotes are taken and note the data on other equally important factors.

Most of us will agree with the author's commentary upon further research: "So far as specific causes of delinquency are in question, much is already known . . . about conditions which predispose toward delinquency. Action is overdue, and it is little use refining research in this field unless there is some prospect of action in regard to conditions which have been long identified as deleterious."

HARVEY L. LONG, Sup't

Division for Supervision of Delinquents for Illinois

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOTHERAPY: NEWER CONCEPTS IN ACTION, by *Carl R. Rogers*. New York: Houghton Mifflin and Company, 1942. Pp. 450. \$3.60.

For several reasons, this is one of the most important books to appear recently in the field of clinical psychology. It deserves thoughtful reading by all who are concerned in counseling or advising individuals who have personal problems or emotional maladjustments. This, of course, includes not only professional clinicians, but deans of men and women, personnel counselors, social workers, ministers and others.

The significance of "Counseling and Psychotherapy" is threefold. In the first place, it presents a systematic theory as to what counseling is for both client and counselor, and a definitely structured technic by which its ends may be achieved. In the second place, although Rogers' point of view is not entirely new (having had its origin in certain of the principles of relationship psychiatry and in the author's earlier work) the book marks the first attempt to place interviewing technics on a scientific, testable basis. Finally, it includes a complete series of interviews with one client, phonographically recorded and carefully annotated. The reader who studies the series is enabled to analyze, with the author, reasons for the failure or

success of each counselor response, and to follow the progress of the subject from neuroticism to growth in insight and self-direction.

Much that Rogers has to say in regard to principles, methods and objectives will be questioned, if only because it is directly opposed to counseling approaches which are widely practiced. But the book itself can hardly fail to interest, if not convince, for the reason that it is more demonstration than argument. The data is there for others to judge, and the method is clearly stated for others to test. It is thoroughly objective in its presentation of facts, figures and means for evaluating treatment progress, and abundantly illustrated with case material. The interviewing process, as it unfolds throughout the discussion, loses none of its finesse or dynamic quality in the operation of scientific dissection. For the first time a teachable counseling technic, instead of one largely dependent on "natural skill" or "intuitive understanding" appears hopeful. Many of the illustrations are from interviews conducted by counselors in training under the author's direction.

It would do the book an injustice to attempt to state its major principles in a sentence. Primarily, it offers a "non-directive" method for counselors to use in helping clients to solve their own problems. The interested reader is urged to examine it for himself; few will put it aside without having gained something to ponder about in relation to people, their perplexities, and our none-too-satisfactory current methods of dealing with them.

HELEN SARGENT

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RECREATION AND DELINQUENCY—a study made for Chicago Recreation Commission by the Committee on Recreation and Juvenile Delinquency; Chicago, Ill.; 1942; 277 pp.

No other study of its sort, probably, has been made on such a scale as this. Its findings on the whole are supported by an impressive array of excellent charts and statistical material; its text reflects serious thought on a topic that has been exposed to considerable loose thinking and extravagant claims. It constitutes a valuable contribution to the rapidly mounting stockpile of literature on delinquency. Despite the current apathy of public authorities concerning the question, we still cling to the attractive notion that the most practicable recommendations of this study, as well as in others on related topics, will one day be integrated with the scheme of social security that emerges from our planning for post-war problems. Nowadays one is frequently discouraged from believing (not from hoping) that at least a modicum of improvement in this increasingly troublesome area will come before war's end.

Some idea of the scope of this survey may be obtained from a brief description of its statistical climate: the field work was carried on in four of the areas in Chicago having fairly high delinquency rates, for the period commencing in the summer of 1938 through the spring of 1939. During that year 15,217 boys and 7,939 girls in the ten-to-seventeen-year age group were reported to have participated in supervised recreation activities; 1,262 boys (8.3%) had records as "official delinquents," 536 boys (3.5%) were "unofficial delinquents" (known to be, but not given official cognizance as delinquents). The children devoted a total of 1,281,853 hours to supervised recreation in organized play groups (a seemingly large figure, but about 80% short of the time they would have spent therein had each devoted one full hour a day). Two methods: the traditional but unsatisfactory *question-*

naire and, more extensively, *observation* to discover empirically, were employed in tabulating the children's attendance in recreational activities.

The findings indicate, *inter alia*, that a smaller proportion of delinquent than non-delinquent boys was represented in supervised recreation; that both the delinquent and non-delinquent were particularly fond of radio crime and mystery programs; that approximately twice as much time was spent by boys in the movies as in supervised recreational activities—delinquents more frequently than non-delinquents; that delinquents who attend organized recreation groups are less likely to recidivate than those who do not attend, and the proportion of non-delinquents not engaged in these same recreational activities who subsequently become delinquent was three times as high as the rate for non-delinquents so engaged.

(Space limitations forbid discussion of the Committee's failure to make allowance for *spontaneous* withdrawals from what threaten to become patterns of antisocial behavior—"phenomena" that may and do occur without reference to supervised recreation.)

All of which is most interesting, to the extent that these facts were suspected but, perhaps, not heretofore established. But it is legitimate to speculate on the soundness of a few of the Committee's otherwise splendid recommendations, based on what are assumed by it to be incontrovertible postulates: that more supervised recreation should be provided in all the neighborhoods where the delinquency rate is higher than the average for the city as a whole (the Committee holds this would serve as "an important preventive of delinquent behavior"); that mass recreational programs should be more adapted to pre-delinquent boys, also as a preventive measure; that if the older boys (14-17 yrs.) were reached by a program of supervised recreation possessing continuing interest, they would contribute less to the incidence of delinquency.

Acknowledging the need of and the benefits derived from group work in the *treatment* of delinquency, there is nevertheless abundant respectable authority for the proposition that mass recreation has not accomplished the objective of delinquency *prevention*; among other reasons, problem children, handicapped by personality and behavior inadequacies, are found to continue their social isolation within supervised recreation; and they remain unaffected by the outlets provided for normal groups because supervised recreation centers are within themselves, comprised of free play groups who may and do reject the problem child.

In the Committee's emphasized belief that leisure time, profitably or constructively spent, alone prevents antisocial behavior, we encounter a rejection of the firmly entrenched theory of crime causation as one which, to quote Sheldon Glueck, is a "hierarchy of causal influences." On this theory, it is to be seriously doubted that mass or group recreation (as distinguished from *individualized* attention to pre-delinquents and delinquents) does prevent delinquency in a child who may be otherwise launched on such a career because of the presence of one or more of the classic contributing causes. The problem is complex because the mechanisms of the children we are dealing with—those mechanisms that conspire to obscure the motives of man and at times seem to render his emotional, psychoneurotic and habitual actions inexplicable—are likewise complex.

But, without further cavil, recreation is disclosed here to be a salutary factor in treatment; this study should be found on the reading list of all who aspire to a constructive role in the field of delinquency.

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