

1944

## Book Reviews

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## BOOK REVIEWS

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**CULTURAL AND RACIAL VARIATIONS IN PATTERNS OF INTELLECT.** Performance of Negro and white criminals on the Bellevue Adult Intelligence Scale. By *Solomon Machover*, Ph. D., Teachers College, Columbia University. Contributions to Education, No. 875. 1943. Pp. 91.

The aims of this investigation are: a) the testing of intelligence tests; b) the differentiation of the following groups which were otherwise matched (1) Negro criminals of southern, low-standard up-bringing, (2) Negro criminals of metropolitan up-bringing, (3) white criminals, and (4) non-criminal whites. The purpose was to find out which one of the three factors, criminality, race, or general cultural background, is the decisive one.

The modern assumption that an intelligence test is a pattern of functional organization in which the individual projects significant aspects of his life history, rather than a mere measure of an isolated function, intelligence, is confirmed. The author rightly points out the restrictions of the mere quantification (p. 86). Particulars about the quantification method used by the author must be read in the original. General results: of the three factors criminality, race, and culture, the last is the most important for the life history and also the criminal fate. Performance tests were found to be at least as culture-bound as abstract verbal tests.

W. ELIASBURG.

New York City.

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**BEHAVIOR AND NEMOSIS**, by *Jules Masserman*, University of Chicago Press, May, 1943.

This book is an extremely ambitious attempt to not only reporting an experimentation in this field but, "of presenting the theoretical background of the work as a whole in relation to other traditional concepts of dynamic and comparative psychology; of reviewing the data and formulations of other investigators working along allied lines and finally of indicating the applicability of the basic principles of psycho biology derived from these several sources to psychoanalysis, clinical psychiatry and psychotherapy." To this reviewer it does not seem that the book accomplishes all this.

Elgin, Ill., State Hospital.

PHYLLIS WITTMAN.

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**SOCIAL FACTORS IN CRIME**, as explained by American Writers of the Civil War and Post Civil War Period. By *Ellen Elizabeth Guillot*. Thesis in Sociology, the University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, 1943. Pp. 197.

Criminological texts usually start off with a historical survey, reminiscent of a chamber of horrors. Readers are made to see how much we finally achieved, and it adds up to more or less complacency and eulogy about the humanitarian age, reaping triumphs in criminology. The present text attempts, instead of such unwarranted laurels, to historically scrutinize the ideas of American men of practice of a certain short period. It gives a description of both the outstanding personalities in the organization of the struggle against and the research of crime. The period was rightly chosen. In the Reconstruction Period, modern ideas about the sociological and social-psychological reasons for crime put in an appearance, while psychiatry and psycho-analysis were not yet what they are supposed to be today. The author, herself, sees the main difference between that by-gone period and the modern era in criminology, in the better use of case investigation and the study of the individual offender on the one hand and the better

development of mathematical statistics, measuring of correlations, measuring of human intelligence, and economic fluctuations.

Missing from the list of authors who were quoted in the Post Civil War Period are the names of LaPlace, Auguste Comte, and Karl Marx. Miss Guillot feels, and justifiably so, that the American writers like Dr. E. C. Wines, Brace, Richard Vaux, Z. B. Brockway, and others, were of a calibre equal to their European colleagues.

W. ELIASBERG.

New York City.

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TENDENCIA, MUNDO CIRCUNDANTE Y PERSONALIDAD EN CRIMINOLOGIA. By Manuel López Rey y Arrojo. Mexico, D. F. Cuadernos "Criminalia." 1942. Pp. 81.

This stimulating essay, written by a distinguished Spanish professor and author of a number of learned treatises on criminology, represents a thoughtful attempt to systematize the relationship of hereditary and environmental factors to individual personality in the study of criminology. In emphatically repudiating the classical school by denying the validity of uniform enforcement of prescribed codes, the author defends the fundamental theses of the positivists, but adding thereto a demand for an increased application of psychological data to the analysis of individual case studies.

As personality traits are conditioned mainly by environmental stimuli (external influences on internal tendencies), the reactions to which may be as variable as the diversity of individuals, Dr. López Rey posits the negation of absolute types, particularly criminal types. The author quite correctly does not deny that relatively similar attitudes may be produced by widespread economic maladjustment or the impact of natural catastrophe, but environment so broadly interpreted is hardly useful in integrating the commission of a criminal offense to a solution for rehabilitation. Both hereditary tendencies and environmental factors must be filtered into a narrow focus on the individual's personality; and personality traits with a disposition to criminal activity frequently may be guided into wholly productive channels through the recognition of correctible factors of environment.

While provocative, the study is mainly a synthesis of the definitions and conclusions of a number of prominent thinkers in the field of criminology—particularly Mezger, Gault, and Exner—rather than the exposition of a series of original tenets. To an unimportant extent, the author is pedantically academic and guilty of dialectical hair-splitting in insisting on minute appraisal of every facet of a definition already clear in itself. On the whole, however, not only as a cosmopolitan scholar but as a representative of Spanish and Latin American thought, Dr. López Rey has contributed a work both interesting and useful.

WILLIAM S. STOKES.

Northwestern University

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STALK THE HUNTER, by Mitchell Wilson. Simon and Schuster. (New York City, 1943). Pp. 274. \$2.00.

An Inner Sanctum Mystery! Espionage and counter espionage! Smiling deceit and unspeakable terror in the midst of which the implacable hunter is caught. A hair raising story by an experimentalist who is employed in a commercial laboratory for electro-magnetic research.

ROBERT H. GAULT.

Evanston, Ill.

NEW HORIZONS IN CRIMINOLOGY, by *Elmer E. Barnes and Negley K. Teeters*. Prentice-Hall, Inc. New York, 1943. Pp. 1069. \$4.50.

This volume by two well known authors and with a foreword by Professor Frank Tannenbaum is so important that it cannot be reviewed fairly in the short space that is available. As far as the reviewer is aware there has never before been published such a stimulating book covering the general field of criminology.

The writers have made generous use of the historical backgrounds of present practices in the field and of appropriate pictorial illustrations. These are very useful features of the book not only because they suggest the futility of a good deal in our present procedure that hangs over from the distant past. That is the purpose that the authors intend to serve. But at the same time history within this area is somewhat encouraging because it tells us that we have got a distance away from the crudest expression of barbarism in many jurisdictions at least. Goodness knows we need a little encouragement.

The relation of the prevalent crimes of a period to the cultural setting in which it occurs is inescapable to the reader of this book. It is no accident that we have organized crime in our time. Nor is it an accident that in most regions of the world—and perhaps especially in our country—the man of “great affairs” can “get away with it” whereas another may be put through the traces. Our culture honors success in tangible things. The relation between the crime and the culture of a time and place will suggest that, if the primary root of criminal behavior is in men’s original selfish nature, the finished product, which is the delinquent action, is “what man has made of man.”

The authors have no short and simple statement of the causes and cures of criminal action. The days are gone in which one could get an audience by proclaiming and expounding the source of a majority of criminal acts as just in failure of the schools, in mental defect or disease, or even in a lack of early and wholesome parental guidance—potent as is each of these alone.

One is tempted to observe that all of these factors and others co-operate in the evolution of an unwholesome “who cares” attitude. One of our favorite screen actresses is reported to have lately told an audience of younger folk: “The trouble with you people is that you are not proud of anything outside yourselves.” There’s a thought there that we do not exploit as we might, and that we should follow up very earnestly.

The authors emphasize one fact that needs to be everlastingly driven home: prisons are futile as correctional institutions. The best purpose that they serve is that of restraint for proven incorrigibles—which is a necessary function. The continued investment in “bigger and better” prisons is folly in the face of the facts as they seem to be now. Imprisonment has had a pretty thorough trial in the great laboratory of social control. Let’s give equally thorough trial to probation and parole during the next quarter of a century and see what happens.

The reviewer gets the impression that the authors could have done a better job at drawing a picture of the new life and high-grade functioning on the part of the police and of records in bureaus of identification. In this relation, twenty-five years have shown a phenomenal and encouraging growth and we will serve ourselves well if we make the police proud of their record.

Barnes and Teeters should find occasion to keep this excellent book up to date through many successive editions.

ROBERT H. GAULT

Evanston, Illinois

RACE AND CRIME, by *Willem Adriaan Bonger*. Translated from the Dutch by Margaret Mathews Hordyk. Columbia University Press (New York, Moringside Heights, 1943). Pp. 130. \$1.50.

This book by the late Professor Bonger, of the University of Amsterdam, examines critically recently published views on criminality as affected by race. Professor Bonger was very well equipped to write just such a treatise as this. He was the prime leader in criminology in the Netherlands, successor in eminence to George van Hamel, one of the great triumvirate who founded the International Association of Criminology more than a century ago.

A biographical note on Professor Bonger by the late Dean John H. Wigmore appeared in this Journal for March-April, 1941. This note indicated Dean Wigmore was a great admirer of Bonger's and also aided materially in the publication of this, his last work. Before his demise Professor Wigmore had this to say of Bonger: "Among the criminologists of the passing generation Bonger stands out as a preeminent specialist in the sound analysis of statistics, and the leading exponent of the philosophy of crime as a social and not a biological phenomenon." In this one sentence you have as complete a review of this work as could be written.

It often happens that a review of the author gives a better insight into his works than a mere cut and dried review of the written page. It does here. Bonger cites his statistics dependably. He tears apart many of the crack-pot fallacies we so often hear regarding race and crime. He soundly interprets his subject and comments at length on the diversified views offered by others. The contents are: Willem Andriaan Bonger, by John H. Wigmore; Translator's Note; Author's Foreword; (1) Introduction. On Race in General; (2) Race and Crime. General Considerations. History. Theory; (3) Race and Crime. Case Studies. Negro Criminality. Jewish Criminality. Mediterranean Criminality. Alpine Criminality. The Criminality of the Nordics. The Criminality of the Ugro-Finns. The Criminality of the East Baltics and Others. (4) Resumé and Conclusion. Bibliography. Index.

When we presume to write about men like Wigmore and Bonger we can only bow to immortals in their respective fields. *Race and Crime* is "must" reading for all interested in any aspect of criminology.

JOHN I. HOWE.

Captain  
Chicago Police Department

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