

1944

Book Reviews

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/jclc>

 Part of the [Criminal Law Commons](#), [Criminology Commons](#), and the [Criminology and Criminal Justice Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Book Reviews, 35 J. Crim. L. & Criminology 113 (1944-1945)

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology by an authorized editor of Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons.

BOOK REVIEWS

RACE RIOT, by *Alfred McClung Lee* and *Norman Daymond Humphrey*.
New York: The Dryden Press, Inc., 1943. Pp. ix and 143. \$1.50.

Race Riot is a sociological analysis of the causes of race riots and a program for their prevention, which uses as its case material the events preceding and occurring during the Detroit race riots of June, 1943. To discuss objectively and without personal bias a subject and series of events so filled with prejudices and group emotions as a race riot is an extremely difficult task, but, while the authors have allowed their personal viewpoints to enter into the reporting of Detroit riots to some extent, their analysis of the causes and solutions of race riots appear to be without bias.

The account of the Detroit riots is vivid but does not appear exaggerated although a more accurate fact collection would have improved the details of the report. Close reading seems to indicate an anti-southern attitude on the part of the authors and a contempt for the police and police action, which in the period under discussion should be subject to criticism. Particularly objectionable to this reviewer are the statements regarding participation of naval personnel in the early phases of the riot, which statements are not substantiated either by his own on-the-scene observations or by interviews with others who were there. As a whole, however, the general pattern of events is well depicted even if there are some inaccuracies and prejudices in the details.

The analysis of the causes of the riots and their prevention leaves little room for criticism except at one point. The authors apparently have fallen into a typical northern mode of thought in their numerous references to the influence of the southern attitude toward the Negro as a contributing factor in the Detroit riots. Random sampling of public opinion by the reviewer at the time of and since the riots discloses that the prejudices attributed solely to the newly migrated Southerners were, and still are, in the minds of many native born Northerners. Until this fact is more universally recognized and steps taken to correct it, programs in northern cities for preventing similar riots will not be wholly successful.

As a whole *Race Riot* is a thought provoking book which should be widely read and discussed. Racial problems cannot be eliminated by wishful thinking but instead represent a post-war social problem of large proportions. This volume presents the problem clearly and offers suggestions for its alleviation which should be given thoughtful consideration.

ORDWAY HILTON, LIEUT., USNR*

Navy Shore Patrol, Detroit, Mich.

* The opinions or assertions in this review are the personal ones of the writer and are not to be construed as official or necessarily reflecting the views of the Navy Department or the naval service at large.

A SURGEON'S WORLD, by *Max Thorek*. J. B. Lippencott Co. (Philadelphia, Pa., 1943). Pp. 410. \$3.75.

A Surgeon's World is an autobiography intended by the author, a Chicago surgeon, to "hold a message for the public, and especially for the younger surgeons of America whose welfare is so strongly in my heart."

The reviewer must leave to a medical authority the question whether or not the book is a contribution to medical literature. As far as "the public" is concerned, if the reviewer's reaction is typical, the book does contain a "message." Purely as entertainment, it is one of the most fascinating documents I have come across in a long time. This seems to have been

the reaction of most reviewers, either those from the medical or from other fields. This book probably also has some implications for criminologists, particularly for those interested in the life history technique and its contribution to research or social treatment.

Of course, Dr. Thorek was not writing his autobiography to be used as a sociological document. Therefore, there are gaps in the record which, if one were to apply John Dollard's "Seven Criteria of a Good Life History," would need to be completed. This autobiography to the reviewer was especially interesting as a vivid description of a Jewish immigrant who fled persecution in Austria only to find himself in the midst of the worst section of Chicago's slums without money or friends. The "rich uncle" from whom he had expected guidance and financial assistance when he arrived in Chicago turned out to be without financial resources or prestige.

Dr. Thorek's narration of how he struggles against odds to secure his medical education, how he came back to the slums to "practice medicine," and how he finally became a recognized surgeon and president of a well-known hospital throws interesting light on what it means for a member of a minority group to "come of age" in Chicago.

JESSE A. JACOBS

Chicago
March 30, 1944

THE GATEWAY TO CITIZENSHIP, by *Carl B. Wyatt*. The U. S. Department of Justice. Washington, D. C., 1943. Pp. 153.

This attractive little book is intended to assist all persons who are responsible for arranging programs for the formal induction of citizens as a part of the naturalization process. It has been prepared by Mr. Hyatt, a member of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, in cooperation with the Committees on American Citizenship of the American Bar Association and the Federal Bar Association.

Considerable space is given to suggestions for the mechanics of the court ceremony. The idea is that it should be as impressive as possible. Make the inductee feel that he is participating in a great event.

Nearly 100 pages include quotations from Justices, Presidents of the United States and distinguished foreign born citizens. These are appropriate sources of program material. There is a chapter by Justin Miller, Associate Justice of the U. S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia with which every maker of programs should be familiar.

The reviewer eagerly hopes that there may yet be available something unique in the way of a text book for foreign born who are seeking citizenship. a book that will set out in dramatic fashion and concretely what even humble individuals do for our system and our government and what functions government performs for the least of us personally.

As a matter of fact, every citizen and citizen in the making needs something of that kind.

ROBERT H. GAULT

Evanston, Ill.

TALL MEN HAVE THEIR PROBLEMS TOO, by *Francis Behn Riggs*, 21 Coolidge Hill Road, Cambridge, Mass., 1943. Privately published. Planographed; bound in paper. \$1.00.

This is a readable little book, somewhat anthropological and somewhat paternalistic. As a rule "tall" boys are well handled by coaches and poorly handled by teachers and parents. Exceptionally tall men, being self-con-

scious and feeling that they are generally watched, rarely are delinquent unless they have bitterness from cruelly inflicted inferiority complexes.

Like all persons easily distinguished or identifiable, they seem to realize that only commonplace and insignificant persons may give offense, with any hope of impunity.

H. S. HULBERT

Chicago, Ill.

LAW AND LEARNING THEORY: A STUDY IN LEGAL CONTROL, by *Underhill Moore and Charles C. Callahan*. The Yale Law Journal Co., Inc., New Haven, 1943. Pp. 136. \$1.00.

The authors of this little book have made one thing stand out distinctly: they are not masters of the art of expressing themselves in clear and simple English prose. The reviewer's attention has been distracted by the literary style or lack of it. It moves like lead. Within the first 14 lines is a sentence that contains 71 words! A page later is another of 94 words. At this point the reviewer was so far withdrawn from the subject matter that he began more seriously the routine of counting words!!! He found sentences that contain 80 and 87 and 88 and 98 and 107 words. There may be more of the sort. For the most part these sentences are extraordinarily involved.

Writers—be good sports. We are busy. Don't drive us away from what you want to say.

In a foreword to this book the Director of the Yale Institute of Human Relations, Dr. Mark A. May, says that through co-operation with the police the authors studied parking behavior under three conditions: parking unrestricted; restricted or prohibited but "no tagging"; restricted and enforced by "tagging."

The authors attempted "to interpret their findings in terms of a naturalistic theory of human behavior based primarily on learning theory. How well they have succeeded . . . remains to be determined." They have demonstrated that "changes in the frequency and duration of parking behavior can be predicted by the use of their empirical formulas." It yet remains to be found whether the "formulas can be derived deductively from any set of basic postulates." They have made a start in that direction by describing parking behavior associated with legal restrictions, in terms of the Yale concepts of behavior theory.

ROBERT H. GAULT.

Evanston, Ill.