

1945

## Book Reviews

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## BOOK REVIEWS

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NEW YORK MURDERS; By *Angelica Gibbs, Baynard Kendrick, Edward D. Radin, Kurt Steel, Lawrence Treat* and edited by Ted Collins. Duell, Sloan & Pearce, Inc., New York, N. Y. \$2.75. Pp. 214.

Here are seven true murder mysteries taken from the New York City police files dating from 1860 to date. The cases are analyzed by several authors who have all had prior experience in the murder mystery writing field. It is in the authors arguments and theories that this book produces its interest. If you are one of those who are anxious to give your theory on the solution of the Drake or the Estelle Carey cases or any other unsolved well publicized murders this is a book that will really intrigue you. While this book is not fiction it has all the suspense and interest of several good detective tales, and more. Here you find the authors arguing with the police over alleged blundering tactics on some scores and praising their high minded detective ability on the other. You note as the cases unfold that scientific crime detection methods of the present day would have aided materially in some of the older cases. At the end is a bibliography which is a good reading list of books dealing with New York Murders. There is also a calendar of New York murders giving a short synopsis of New York's most notorious murders from 1829 to date. The authors have tried to pick, not the most sensational, but the most baffling and interesting murders of the lot. They've succeeded.

JOHN I. HOWE

Chicago Police Department

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PSYCHOLOGY OF WOMEN; By *Helene Deutsch, M. D.* Grune & Stratton, New York 1944. Cloth, \$4.50. Pp. 386.

Few authors are as well able to discuss the psychology of women as Helene Deutsch. She was trained by Freud himself, in former years has practiced child psychology, outpatient psychoanalysis, and hospital practice with the mentally deranged. The present volume—which is called Volume I, implying that there is more to follow—deals with the chronological development of feminine sexuality and sexual development. The earlier chapters deal with the period in the female's life of prepuberty, early puberty, puberty and adolescence, the onset of menstruation, and the development of the sexual interest, the title of this chapter being "Eroticism: The Feminine Woman". The second half of the book deals with feminine passivity, masochism, the way that masculinity makes known to the active woman, homosexuality, and the influence of the environment. Most of the book is based on psychoanalytic psychiatry. Psychiatrically the author's interpretation of masculinity and homosexuality agree with the ideas of large groups of practicing psychiatrists. Some exceptions, of course, must be made. There are some concepts expressed which are not universally accepted which, if not the author's own, have been expressed by some competent researchers in the field of psychoanalysis. The book includes long case histories which make interesting reading and so far as the printed word can present a clear psychiatric picture, show the mechanism involved in the feminine reaction which the author is trying to explain. The book is easy reading for the psychiatrist and

psychologist, it is hard reading for the layman. For those who are somewhat trained along the scientific lines, such as social workers, psychologists, and mental hygienists the book must be found to be full of meat, and it should be very helpful in clinical work with women. This reviewer would advise against its purchase by lawyers, police officers, and others without a technical psychoanalytic background who just want to understand how a woman's mind works. Even the author cannot claim that she does, although she presents interesting and competent scientific criteria for the study of the problem.

LOWELL S. SELLING, M.D.

Recorder's Court, Detroit, Michigan

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LAWFUL ACTION OF STATE MILITARY FORCES. By *E. R. Beckwith, J. G. Holland, G. W. Bacon, and J. W. McGovern*. Foreword by Lt. Gen. Hugh A. Drum, U. S. Army. New York: Random House, 1944, XVIII and 216 pages, with bibliography and supplement. Cloth \$3.00, paper \$1.50.

A commander must know his duties, his rights, his limitations. Any military man assigned to command, or from corporal to general on detached duty with others serving under his command, is a commander. There are legal as well as military obligations resting on commanders. These are particularly delicate in cases of command of State Reserve Militia after the State National Guard has been federalized and called to duty outside the state or abroad.

Therefore not only those exercising supreme command of State Reserve Militia and their legal departments including Judges Advocate and Provosts Marshall and Adjutants General, as well as civil officials including Governors, Sheriffs, Mayors, Chiefs of Police, and Civil Judges of all kinds, but those of the regular and reserve Army and Navy who must cooperate with the States' Reserve Militias need to be or become informed of the law and rights of the States' Military Forces.

This book is for them all as well as for those who would be well informed generally and students of military law particularly.

This book is well subdivided, into six distinct parts, ten chapters, and 1052 numbered topics with cross references. The bibliography and the supplement give citations and annotations; therefore the book is very readable. The authors are polished writers. It is an excellent book on a timely and perhaps important topic.

HAROLD S. HULBERT, M.D.

Chicago

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THE PSYCHOLOGY OF CHARACTER, by *Rudolph Allers*. (Trans. by E. B. Strauss.) Sheed & Ward, New York, 1943. Pp. 383. \$3.00.

This translation of Allers' book appeared first in 1931. Its reissue at this time is presumably due both to the fact that the author is now teaching at the Catholic University in Washington, and to a continued interest on the part of many in the problems discussed.

In his introduction to the first English edition, Strauss writes: "If one wished to label Allers, one would describe him as a Catholic Adlerian. He has managed to effect a, to my mind, satisfying synthesis between Catholic thought and all that is most valuable in individual psychology" (P. vii).

As a non-Catholic, the reviewer feels unqualified to evaluate the book from this point of view. Whether or not it succeeds in its frank purpose to "overcome Catholic indifference and hostility to modern applied psychology" (P. ix) is for that audience alone to judge.

Allers' point of view is empirical rather than experimental, rational, philosophic, and religious, rather than scientific, as illustrated by the following statement: "We have seen how problems arising out of purely practical psychology and character immediately open up universal problems insoluble except in terms of metaphysics" (P. 375).

Although the book's didactic intention and its preoccupation with metaphysical problems somewhat limits its general significance, students of psychotherapy will find parallels between Allers' argument and up-to-date theory in psychiatry and psychology. The book includes frequent references to behavior viewed as expressions of the whole man, an approach which has since become increasingly familiar in the writings of H. A. Murray, G. W. Allport, and other advocates of a holistic science of personality. The author's interpretation of character as that which a man does, dependent upon his value hierarchy, fulfills the requirements of a modern operational definition. Guidance, conceived not as exhortation and the exercise of authority, but as a mirror held up to enable a man to see himself as he really is, sounds the keynote of effective therapy as we understand it today.

Strauss himself withholds full approval from Allers' neglect of constitutional temperamental factors, but comments that this stress upon reactive elements in character formation is a fault in the right direction. Even thus forewarned, however, it is somewhat startling to come upon a discussion of general paralysis (P. 19) which concludes with the statement that "recovery can be so complete . . . that it is impossible for the most careful clinical examination, with all the most refined psychological and psychiatric tests, to detect any defect. From this we may conclude that the person himself, the possessor of character, the mainspring of all action and behavior, *cannot be affected by destructive cerebral lesions.*" (Author's italics.)

If scientific psychology is to be made functional for all, it demands translation into many idioms, from many points of view. Principles of applied psychology especially require integration with religious teachings. Unfortunately, synthesis often fails simply because it forces the dropping out of important elements which resist the dominating rationale. For better mutual understanding we need a well-documented treatise in which differences as well as correspondences are illuminated in an interpretive discussion which clearly separates fact from ideology and evidence from argument. Allers has not produced such a book, but he has, perhaps, opened the way for it.

HELEN SARGENT.

Northwestern University  
Evanston, Illinois

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ANNUAL, 1943, REPORT OF THE REHABILITATION CENTER OF THE SIXTH SERVICE COMMAND, at Fort Sheridan, Illinois; Lt. Col. Eldon M. Stenjem, Inf., Commandant. Mimeographed and paper bound, 50 pages. Office of the Commanding General, Headquarters, ASF, 20 N. Wacker Dr., Chicago 6, Illinois.

Col. Stenjem and staff, line and staff officers and men each deserve great credit for their work and for this report. This reviewer has met

some of them, Major Randall second in command, Major Wagley, MC the psychiatrist, and Sgt. Victor Evjen and others: they add up to a brilliant staff. Their thinking was sound: their methods practical.

Within sixty to ninety days following admission to the center the history was completed and submitted to the Commandant for study, by army regulation within six months after.

Within six months after a prisoner is received and started in his rehabilitation training he appears before the Board of Psychiatry and Sociology for consideration of clemency and restoration to duty, and the Board has before it the recommendations of the Training Battalion Commander, the Chaplain, the medical examiner, the sociologist, the psychologist, and the psychiatrist. The probability of the trainee's success or failure in future military and civil life is predicted. If discharged to duty his subsequent company commanders report at regular intervals to this Center; thus predictions are checked. Twenty-seven per cent were restored to duty, and 63% of those restored to duty did make a favorable adjustment during their first six months back on military duty. The psychiatrist was correct in his predictions in 69% of the first 700 cases studied.

The prognostic predictions became more accurate as more cases were studied. The criteria established as having greatest weight in predicting the success or failure both in the army and civilian life were namely

- a. Emotional Instability
- b. Irresponsibility
- c. Alcoholism

The great majority of cases studied showing these traits of character well established failed at any adjustment following restoration. It is obvious that these were constitutional personality traits, and that the war or soldiering did not create them. The same traits would be omens of equal failure in civil life unless the man were both sheltered and indulged.

There are some conclusions which perhaps may be of general interest. The Army is as scientific as it can be in understand and handling its men including delinquents and offenders. Constitutional defects in personality traits presage failure in any environment, especially these three traits, Emotional Instability, Irresponsibility, and Alcoholism. Thorough basic training for every entering officer and man, even though he passes aptitude tests, will insure that they are each grounded in military life fundamentals; too many of these prisoners had too little basic training, but were too rapidly taken into the various forces, e.g. the Air Force, prematurely due to the hunger for men for these forces. Physical drilling until almost benumbed may make men hereafter conform, at least until they become refreshed, but limits reeducation and sharply limits the growth or re-growth of respect for self and the Army and its rules. Reeducation should include education in traits the soldier never received in his abbreviated basic training as well as educating him to see the folly and wastage of his ways.

In the U. S. Army, two opportunities are denied which other armies have had, viz., in France the serious offender was sent to the Foreign Legion in Africa where he was in front line fighting or in heavy labor construction work in alternate weeks, and in England an offender could in four hours be sent back to the front lines as a combat soldier. Hence in the

U. S. Army, and now especially, some such rehabilitation work must be done.

The Sixth Service Command is doing this unusual duty exceedingly well.

The War Department, believing the work could be carried on more advantageously, recently combined a number of the centers, thus curtailing the expense, as well as the man power, and producing a more adequate scientific staff. Consequently the Sixth Service Command was amalgamated with the Seventh Service Rehabilitation Center at Camp Phillips, near Salina, Kansas, April 1, 1942, thereby eliminating this type of work in the Sixth Service Command.

Chicago.

HAROLD S. HULBERT, M.D.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY ON CRIMINOLOGY AND ALLIED SUBJECTS;** Herman K. Spector, Compiler. Published in Mimeograph by the New York City Department of Correction, 1944, pp. 190.

This work is a great credit to the compiler who is Librarian for the Penitentiary of the City of New York and Chief Librarian for the New York City Department of Correction. Mr. Spector announces that the purpose of the work is to serve as a guide to "our own personhel." It is a revision of "Professional Literature" that the same compiler prepared in 1942.

The material is classified under several headings such as Criminal Anthropology, Criminology, Penology, Dealing with Delinquents, etc. For the most part the bibliography is annotated. The text is interspersed with apt quotations and several pages are given over to descriptions of the most familiar associations for the public welfare and their purposes. The book in itself is a good library for the purpose for which it is intended.

R. H. G.

**DICTIONARY OF SOCIOLOGY;** Henry Pratt Fairchild, Editor. Published by Philosophical Library, New York City, 1944, pp. 342.

The Editor, an Associate Editor, three Advisory Editors and 93 Contributing Editors cooperated in the preparation of this dictionary.

No science can have any more exactitude than the words and other symbols in which it is embodied. Most of the terms used in Sociology are to be found in a good general dictionary. But for scientific purposes it is inevitable that new words be invented and that a good many terms that are in more or less general use will acquire limited meanings. It is important that every science make a record of such meanings—and that is the reason for this dictionary.

R. H. G.