

1945

Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

MIND MEDICINE AND MAN. By *Gregory Zilboorg, M.D.*, with a foreword by Arthur Ruggles, M.D., New York, Harcourt Brace, 1943. Pp. 844. \$3.50.

This book contains a clear and brilliantly written introduction into psychoanalysis. As the number of readable and authoritative publications illuminating the work of Freud is still not too big, the book should be recommended for this feature.

The chapter on crime and judgment (52 pp.) is based on the experiences of the author as an expert in criminal cases. He is obviously more interested in what psychoanalysis will do in the future in introducing a more modern spirit into the law than he is in describing what psychoanalysis has already done for the administration of criminal law in its various stages, from the first information to the trial and the period in which the convicted serves his term. It is understandable from the viewpoint of the author, that those reforms which have already been achieved appear somewhat minimized.

Zilboorg is not satisfied with the Briggs Law of Massachusetts because, as he rightly points out, the report of the Department of Mental Hygiene is not admissible as evidence of the mental condition of the accused. The final decision is still left to the jury, a group of laymen, which has full authority to overrule the findings of psychiatrists.

The classification clinics under the supervision of psychiatrists in certain prison systems and the open prisons in the country are mentioned.

While Zilboorg, basing his discussion on the history of psychiatry, shows how the chasm between psychiatry and jurisprudence has developed and has become fairly unbearable with our widening psychiatric knowledge, it might have been advisable to have a jurist discuss what he expects of psychiatry and how he thinks the administration of the law could adjust itself to modern psychiatric views.

W. ELIASBERG.

New York City.

CANADIAN PENAL INSTITUTIONS. By *C. W. Topping.* Boston: Bruce Humphries, Inc., 1944. Pp. xviii + 146. \$3.00.

This book is honest throughout. The "revision" is not merely sales talk. The publisher says that it is a "Revised Edition" and the author clinches the point by segregating the recent material (1928-43). The reader is able to secure a very clear picture not only of the development of the Canadian penal and reformatory systems, but also of the author's point of view during the period following the first edition (1929).

The book, however, is more than description. The first part—94 pp.—is the author's evaluation of what he found in the course of a research project extending over a decade. The book is very small—146 pp.—consequently, what we have is a series of summaries of his findings, largely unsubstantiated by tabular materials. Scarcity of paper and/or cost of publication we may assume account for the fact that "it was not possible to publish in this small volume one-tenth of the material gathered . . . nor to support in detail all statements made. . . ." That is understandable but it does not necessarily make more acceptable or useful a facile blending of description and evaluation such as the following:

"Canadian jails are located chiefly east of the Province of Saskatchewan.

They are found to be clean and few inmates escape from them. They have attached to them, however, neither schools nor libraries; neither full time medical officers nor chaplains. The result is that they become schools for crime. . . ."

It is probable that one must be somewhat careful not to form hasty conclusions when he reads:

"Great care was exercised in devising a method of research that would guarantee scientific accuracy both in the observing and in the recording of the facts." This care included: "memberships in national societies" and "a subscription was sent in to the official journal."

Further, the author made a sincere attempt to cross check (his) observations. . . ."

In any event, the results make interesting and—in the main—profitable reading. The second part of the book is a very valuable compilation of available facts and figures and has as one of its main purposes the furthering of penological research in Canada. And yet, why conduct further research if, as the author states, "The changes advocated by . . . and his friends and by various Canadian Committees . . . appear to be inevitable." To accelerate the inevitable? Probably. Be that as it may, there is no doubt but that it will be successful in so doing. It is a challenging presentation.

The Report of the Royal Commission on the Penal System of Canada is analyzed in some detail as the most significant Canadian document in its field. The author is thoroughly in accord with the recommendation for the setting up of a Dominion penal and reformatory system. One of the significant changes in the past fifteen years has been the rapid development of Social Work into a well-established and growing profession. It is the author's hope that social workers will play an increasingly prominent role in the penological and reformatory picture, notably in connection with a School for Penal Officers.

The major emphasis in the book is placed upon the establishment of this school using the British system as a model. "If this school is to serve discharged veterans, who wish to enter the Penitentiary Service, it must be set up before the end of the war." The reader may infer that he is eager to avoid a personnel situation characterized by selection on a non-merit basis. He goes so far as to suggest curricula for such a school, all in the hope that this will stimulate much needed discussion. We, in this country, would do well to join in. It might accelerate the tempo of our own change in a desired direction.

Students of Penology will do well to add this compact book to their libraries. It provides the opportunity to secure a wealth of information at the cost of only two hours reading.

WILLIAM F. BYRON.

Northwestern University.

POPULATION PROBLEMS. By *Paul H. Landis*. New York: The American Book Co., 1943. Pp. xii — 500. \$3.75.

If no spot on earth is more than sixty hours distant by plane from any other spot, it follows that we human beings are at least that close to one another. Each year science brings us closer. It can't tell us what degree of propinquity we may expect in 2044 A. D. But we do not need to know this in order to realize as never before that human beings in all parts of the world have become aware of their human counterparts. Many of the contacts have been casual, many close, of a quality arising from a cooperative struggle against common enemies.

These contacts have produced and will continue to produce many "Population Problems" which will challenge our knowledge and planning for years to come.

Under these circumstances we are grateful for another book which will introduce new readers to these problems and "old readers" to a somewhat new point of view concerning them.

In some ways it is unfortunate that the author chose to define "Population Problems" so narrowly:

"Population phenomena are identified with problems when they are considered to have some particular undesirable social meaning."

He does not consider the following to be a "Population Problem":

"It is equally difficult to anticipate effects of a declining population on national or international welfare;"

thereby limiting both the scope and value of the book. At this moment in the world's history nothing could seem much more important than for us to give the fullest possible consideration to such—shall we call them "questions?" Following the definition cited above he writes:

"Among most groups in the Chinese population there is probably no awareness of social problems arising from excessive birth rates. In Japan, on the contrary, there is considerable awareness of difficulties arising from an excessive birth rate and from an attempt to gain control over births."

What is the relation of Japan's "awareness" to her imperialistic policy and the present war? What will happen to the world when 450 million Chinese and the 390 million inhabitants of India learn that they have "Population Problems?" Should we not here and now give the fullest possible consideration to such questions and should not books in the field introduce readers to them and stimulate the greatest possible amount of interest in them? We are in desperate need of a population policy for the world as well as for each country.

The focus of this book is essentially national, i.e., it concerns itself with the U. S. A. The first part—only 46 pages—is devoted to "Population Facts and Population Theories." Six pages are given over to the consideration of "The World Population Perspective" and "The Future of World Population Growth."

Part two: "Cultural Forces in Vital Processes" is almost half of the book. Most of the emphasis is placed upon various aspects of differential fertility. The discussion of social and biological selectivity is stimulating. It provides the author with an excellent opportunity to relate these data to culture patterns.

In part three: "Sex, Age, and Ethnic Composition" the author has less opportunity to make use of the cultural emphasis. He aligns himself with those who "explain differences in racial achievement by socio-cultural factors rather than by resorting to unestablished doctrines of differences in hereditary capacity." Almost a page is consumed in the discussion of "Racial Composition and World Affairs of Tomorrow."

Part four: "Sociocultural Factors in the Distribution of Population" is a statistical and cultural presentation of the distribution of population by functional roles. The most interesting chapter is that dealing with "regionalism."

Part five: "Problems of Migration" is a rather brief discussion of both international and internal migration with special attention to the selective aspects of the latter.

The last chapter in the book: "A Population Policy for the United States" is unfortunately only 17 pages in length. Many earlier and less

important chapters—in the opinion of the reviewer—were much longer. Incidentally, a section heading duplicates the title of the chapter.

Throughout the book there is evidence that the book is written for undergraduate students who will not be too critical. For example, on p. 412:

"In numerous subtle ways that have not even been conceived, population problems in the United States, both in their biosocial and in their socio-cultural aspects, are imbued with influences of the nation's immigration history."

Also, the author does not seem to believe they demand thoroughness even when he is considering some of the most important phases of the book. For example, in discussing "Cultural Compulsives in the National Ethos" he is optimistic that this country will develop a population policy. "These compulsives and others that have not been mentioned seem to point to a time in the not distant future when a population policy for the nation will emerge." One may question whether an author should ask his readers to agree with his conclusions when he conceals some of his facts.

The selected references at the end of each chapter are more—far more—challenging than the "Questions for Review and Discussion." As in most textbooks the latter are fairly elementary. One is impressed by the absence of names such as Jennings and Stangeland and by the fact that the Childrens' Bureau publications are neither used nor referred to. The literature in the field of social work is not mentioned even where problems such as "Child Labor" are discussed. However, in the main the selected references are excellent.

If for no other reason than having read and seen the material in FORTUNE magazine on the distribution of population and resources throughout the world, one would expect a 1943 textbook to at least mention the problem of resources. They are not even included in the Index. This, by any test, seems to be a serious omission. Furthermore, the reviewer at least would have expected to find in a current text a rather full consideration of the role of war not only in population problems in general, but also in population problems of the immediate future. It is not there.

However, an author has a right to his own scale of values. When the publisher tells him he can't include everything in one book, he must be the one to pick and choose. What he has picked and chosen will be a very helpful introduction to those searching for a sound presentation of many population problems.

WILLIAM F. BYRON.

Northwestern University.

REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE: THE HYPNOANALYSIS OF A CRIMINAL PSYCHOPATH. By Robert M. Lindner, Ph.D. Introduction by Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck. 310 pp. New York: Grune & Stratton. \$4.00.

This book may develop to be as epochal in its field as Darwin's *Origin of the Species*, and Breuer and Freud's *Studien über Hysterie* were revolutionary in theirs.

This account is a behavior expert's report on an actual, though not typical, case encountered by him in the Lewisburg Penitentiary, a Federal institution. Dr. Lindner's *Rebel*—Harold is his pseudonym—was an uncompromising non-conformist, a persistent criminal. He had plundered and almost killed during a brief and exciting career of crime which brought him finally to that institution. There he was exposed to all of the largely futile trappings of a conventional custodial hierarchy, a fact

which imparts timeliness to the book. For, in a large majority of cases, when punishment is made to fit the crime the offender is not reformed. This suggests that—as in combatting physical disease—a condition precedent to the success of any program designed to reduce criminality among known offenders is the earliest possible investigation of causation and the amelioration of those factors which represent the antisocial constellation. What makes the offender offend—external forces, internal conflicts, or a combination of both?

Harold's criminal history began, under the not very sympathetic nose of a vigilant constabulary, at the age of 12. From juvenile delinquency to adolescent and adult crime—the transition was for him eventful and seemingly inevitable. Previous examiners into Harold's background were muddled in accord on the diagnosis of "psychopathic personality," complicated by social difficulties arising from a condition of near-blindness said to have resulted from measles. The stream of thinking in respect of psychopathic personalities is still muddled; the category is a catch-all employed to describe a miscellany of compulsive misbehavior that is not otherwise explicable or preventable by any ordinary means. Apparently inscrutable, these personalities baffle most penologists and therapists. Harold was, in Dr. Lindner's colorful language: "a rebel without a cause, an agitator without a slogan, a revolutionary without a program." The difficult task Lindner undertook involved clearing out the confused web of emotional anomalies that disabled Harold to get at the basic structure of his thinking processes.

The prisoner (patient) voluntarily visited Dr. Lindner's office in the Penitentiary daily during the analysis. To overcome resistances which psychopaths frequently manifest, he was placed into a hypnotic trance—sometimes a deep hypnotic sleep—during which he was instructed to choose a starting point and to talk without regard to topic or continuity. Each session consumed an hour; in Harold's case there were 46 such hours. At the outset Harold maintained a sneering sullenness; this later yielded to a tractable and cooperative attitude. His conscious and sub-conscious spewed forth considerable factual material and laid bare the stuff of which his emotional life was made; he thus purged his system of much that had theretofore remained repressed. His consent to publish the material—a verbatim transcription of the hypnoanalysis—was of course first obtained.

As the patient's tragic life unfolded one is constantly impressed by the nostalgic hallmarks of family disintegration and personality deterioration which marked his launching upon a career of crime. His was a saga of frustration and of painful insecurity. From infancy Harold was unloved by a tyrannical father, sheltered by a harassed (and, by Harold, beloved) mother, handicapped by his defective vision. Moreover, he had been unable satisfactorily to resolve the conflict between his homosexual and heterosexual tendencies. The fantasies which impelled Harold's depredations were mercifully uncovered so that he was enabled to discern his unconscious motivations and the compensations he sought for what he had been deprived in an unhappy childhood. The actual genesis of his near-blindness was disclosed and his eyesight became measurably improved!

Harold's criminal pattern was a logical sequence to events that are equally as thrilling as any piece of dramaturgy yet concocted. The insight that Harold obtained into the causes for his behavior is as satisfying a terminal to the reader's curiosity as can be found in any chronicle of unrequited love.

Dr. Lindner is a commissioned officer in the U. S. Public Health Service Reserve. In a trenchantly phrased indictment of the retributive doctrine, Dr. Lindner betrays that he is himself rebellious against "the whole hollow structure of rehabilitation that is based upon expediency, untested hypotheses," that is the core of current penal and correctional systems. The significance of his contribution transcends any pet pathway to the result we seek; rather, it resides in the fact that the gap between the external and internal lives of offenders may be bridged.

Some skeptical penologists, criminologists and sociologists may be heard to scoff; a large segment of the laity will be heard to deride. But, in this reviewer's opinion, if by this or similar means Harold could have been made to emerge as a reasonably well socially adjusted creature, so can others more normally endowed with rehabilitative potentialities! Thus, this enormously intriguing book offers an altogether realistic antidote for the widespread attitude that is so poignantly exemplified in the classic phrases which the judge in Samuel Butler's *Erewhon* mouthed when he sentenced a youth to life imprisonment for the crime of contracting tuberculosis: "You may say that it is your misfortune to be criminal; I answer that it is your crime to be unfortunate." The ancient shibboleths surrounding the supposed hopelessness of certain types of criminal offenders are here condemned; and, as the Gluecks say in their excellent Introduction, this will be "sobering medicine" for many.

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JAILS: CARE AND TREATMENT OF MISDEMEANANT PRISONERS IN THE UNITED STATES. By *Louis N. Robinson*. Philadelphia: The John C. Winston Company, 1944. Pp. VI x 296. \$3.00.

This study of the first step in the process of incarceration began in 1935 when, as Chairman of the Pennsylvania Board of Parole, the author was asked by President Roosevelt to become Chairman of the Federal Prison Industry Reorganization Administration. The book is a comprehensive survey of a little explored field of local government; namely, the jails, workhouses, and houses of correction throughout the United States. The thesis of the book may be stated in the author's own words: "The walls of the jail keep men and women in, and keep science and common sense out. Changes for the better are taking place, but progress is painfully and unnecessarily slow."

One of the reasons for retarded progress and deplorable condition of the jail is that it is a well entrenched political institution. Some of the difficulties in improvement are due: to the indifference of influential citizens, who, having few or no children in jail, are not as interested in them as in public schools; to inadequate administration by politically appointed sheriffs unqualified for the warden's task; to a poor jail economy anchored in the ancient fee system.

Because of the above-mentioned difficulties jails have lagged behind the march of civilization, so that there is now some question as to their place in the scheme of government. Considerable confusion exists as to the function of a jail. Jails are used as places of detention before trial, as places of imprisonment after trial, as places of safekeeping for witnesses, for alcoholics, for insane people, as places of lodging for vagrants and transients, and as havens of rest for those who cannot pay fines as if the state were to say, "You cannot pay the money you owe me, so come to

my house and board it out." Sometimes jails are used as workhouses and reformatories, with little or no work, educational or correctional program. The question is whether or not the function to which a jail is put cannot be better supplied by other methods of treatment.

The author believes that there are better methods than those of the jail. People can be kept out of jail by the use of the summons instead of the arrest, by greater use of the bail set within the individual's means, by fines on the installment plan and within ability to pay, by greater use of probation, by workhouses and houses of correction, by prison farms and road camps, and by special institutions for detention and for care of alcoholics. These alternatives are discussed at length, with much supporting information and interesting statistics. There are many individual efforts toward improvement, and lumped together they would loom large, but when measured against the vast territory to be covered, the results are not very impressive. In a highly decentralized democratic government, the cultural level of each unit has to rise to a certain height before it changes and before reforms will be made. The Federal Government can accelerate this change by giving grants-in-aid to political units which measure up to an approved standard.

The book is well written in an easy style, illustrated by a minimum of well selected tables.

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