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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

TWENTIETH CENTURY SOCIOLOGY. By Georges Gurvitch and Wilbert E. Moore. New York: The Philosophical Library, 1945. P. 754. \$6.00.

This book is a symposium by twenty-nine authors. It consists of sixteen chapters organized by topics, such as sociology of groups or sociology of religion, and nine chapters organized by nations, such as German sociology or Latin-American sociology. These chapters range from annotated bibliographies to generalized appraisals, with most of the chapters combining description and appraisal. This symposium, like others of the type, contains some new information, but consists principally of re-statements by the authors of their own previous publications. If any justification can be found for such symposia, it is that they have a specialized audience which lies between the professional sociologists and the general public.

The chapter in this book which will have the greatest interest for readers of this *Journal* is the one on "Criminology" by Professor Jerome Hall, a distinguished professor of criminal law. This chapter gives practically no space to a description of the findings and developments in criminology but consists entirely of a severe philosophical criticism of criminology. This chapter should certainly be published but it is not appropriate in a volume intended for a specialized audience.

No objection can be made to the basic proposition of this chapter, namely, that criminology needs an integrated theory. Various schools of criminology have developed theories; no one of these is adequate and they are somewhat in conflict with each other. If an integrated theory were developed, great improvements should result not only in criminology but also in criminal law, whose state is certainly as sorry as that of sociology. The objection to this chapter is not on the author's desire for an integrated theory but in the specific theory which he advocates and in the arguments by which his proposition is buttressed. He lumps together the several schools of criminology and criticizes them as a unit. This is the old procedure of constructing a straw man and then knocking it down. The schools of criminology have some significant points of agreement and some significant points of disagreement, and none of the specific criticisms of the author applies to all criminologists or to all major schools of criminology. With a few exceptions criminologists agree with Professor Hall, at least for present research, on the definition of the field of criminology; they agree with him, probably without exception, on the importance of "the sociology of law." With a few exceptions criminologists agree with Professor Hall on the importance of insight into subjective processes, although they differ markedly from each other in the methods by which they attempt to secure such insight. The schools differ appreciably in their appraisals of punishment, although all of them recognize, on the basis of factual studies, that the effects of punishment are often in conflict with the objectives of legislatures and courts.

The author's principal criticism of criminology is that it has gone "hog-wild positivistic." The principal tenet of positivism, according to the author, is that "only what can be verified by observation is true." Criminologists seldom make such epistemological generalizations. Instead they state their generalizations in terms of metho-

dology, namely, that ideas, hypotheses, and hunches should be verified by observation and cannot carry much weight until they are so verified. Moreover, they do not customarily limit "observation" to things which can be photographed. If this be positivism, it is inconceivable that any person interested in developing a sound body of knowledge regarding the field of criminology can fail to be a positivist. This was, in fact, the method used by Professor Hall when he made his famous interpretation of the development of the law of theft. Finally, the author accuses criminologists of inconsistency when they insist, on the one hand, on refraining from subjective evaluations and, on the other hand, express disapproval of the policy of punishment. This criticism has a superficial justification but it is not important; the important point is that criminologists have analyzed the effects of punishment in factual terms and have reached a conclusion that punishment fails in many respects to realize the common objective of reducing crime; such a conclusion is quite consistent with scientific methodology.

EDWIN H. SUTHERLAND

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MARRIAGE AND FAMILY COUNSELLING. By Sidney E. Goldstein. McGraw Hill, New York, 1945, xvi. 457 pp., \$3.50. Foreword by Ernest W. Burgess.

In his "Manual for Ministers, Doctors, Lawyers, Teachers and Social Workers and Others Engaged in Counselling Service," Rabbi Goldstein has an excellent thesis: Prepare young folk for marriage and provide a source of counselling for the married. Dr. Goldstein has unique experience as minister and teacher and his volume is ably done. This reviewer reads into it an unanswered question: How to bring those who need counselling to counselling? This is true in public as in private services.

The family role is changing from autocratic to democratic concepts. The bulwark of the social order is the family, despite extra-curricular activities of the school and church. But against the solidity of the family, Rabbi Goldstein finds the disruptive forces of change. These are the emancipation of women from their traditional role as homemakers, increasing economic opportunities for women, reluctance of women to accept age-old views that they must bear whatever burdens are imposed on them. Because these changes break with the accepted role of the past, the symptoms are bound to be seen in exaggerated forms, until a more acceptable position is worked out.

Marriage is essentially an interaction of personalities. Those involved are not only the husband and wife but decidedly also the children. Children wish to be included as participating determinants in family policy. Such views do not run to permitting children, in their childish concepts, to set the policy for the adults but to make policy a joint and mutual matter.

Great emphasis is also placed on the continuous adjustments required in a family. Adjustments to a family before the children come, when the children are small, when they are in school, when they go to work, and when they . . . as their parents before them for countless generations . . . leave home to establish themselves in marriage. The business of marriage "does not end with the ceremony" but requires intelligent effort from the time of "going steady" until the end of life.

The implications of these selected items for delinquency are many. Sound families breed sound children, or tend to do so. Inadequacies of marriage are more often than not reflected in behavior of the children. Unusual inadequacies may be overcome by unusual children without outward and visible consequences. Love, affection, response and recognition are demanded by every human being.

What does it mean in a nine-year old who plays truant? Whose mother sees, as the only solution, sending that child to camp or to an institution? Whose mother must work all day to support a family whose father is irresponsible and failing in his duties? Yes, this mother as many mothers wants help for her child. But she continues the psychological rejection of her child by wishing and attempting to send him away. What is in store when the camp session is over? Basically this is a problem of returning this family to the normality of love and affection, of emotional satisfactions. This family requires a return to usual living. This child requires instruction in the satisfactions of with the usual routines of daily living.

The reviewer is not a little disturbed by the breadth of the application of this manual. Of course each of the professions mentioned is and will be concerned with counselling. But to many of them, counselling is *incidental* to religious leadership, to teaching, to the practice of medicine, law, etc. The treatment and understanding of human beings requires extensive study. There can be no 90-day short course diploma all revealing in its techniques. There is an art, among persons of long experience in counselling, of knowing when the problem is beyond the competence of trained counsellors. There is an art in not undertaking initially a situation which can best be handled by a psychiatrist or a physician or a psychologist. This art extends to cases undertaken for study which reveal deep problems best dealt with by other specialties. Of course there is the unusual minister, lawyer, physician or other professional person who has trained himself, who has long experience, who . . . in short has prepared himself for counselling.

In every community, ministers, lawyers, physicians, teachers are the first line of contact between personality difficulties and the community. They, if their eyes have been properly set, can see the beginnings of difficulty. They can use this enviable position to be of community service by seeing that help is available. And that help must be professionally qualified and honest.

Rabbi Goldstein emphasizes a point which this review has echoed. There is insufficient knowledge in the community about existing professional counselling services. The average citizen, accustomed to seek professional help on a private fee basis, does not know where to go for assistance. Moreover, he or she is a bit ashamed to admit that, as a parent, he does not instinctively know all the answers to the problems of marriage and raising of families. A major step is still required: publicity of such a volume that the individual in the community knows the desirability of "seeing his counsellor twice a year." In that way, incipient behavior difficulties, of the young and of the married, can be dealt with when the pattern is not yet deeply established. More, this reviewer always prefers to counsel people genuinely interested in knowing proper methods and concepts before difficulty arises. In other words, he prefers, with

others in the community, to do educational work. He sees education and preparation for marriage as more fruitful than remedial efforts.

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LINCOLN GROUP PAPERS: Twelve addresses delivered before the Lincoln Group of Chicago on varied aspects of Abraham Lincoln's life. Published by J. Henri Ripstra, Founder of The Lincoln Group of Chicago, 1945. Pp. 231. \$5.00.

This Limited Edition of 500 copies published by the Torch Press, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, will not only appeal to collectors of Lincolniana; its beautiful design, format, and typography will appeal to all readers.

The twelve contributors to this volume are recognized students of Lincoln lore. Dr. M. L. Houser of Peoria, presents a study on Lincoln and Religion; Mrs. Fern Nance Pond, Petersburg, reveals new facts about intellectual New Salem in Lincoln's Day; Muriel Drell tells about Lincoln's defeat for the Senatorship and how his hope was deferred; Harry J. Lytle, Davenport, Iowa, who is known for his Lincoln bibliography, takes us behind the scenes of the Lincoln-Douglas Debates; the late Beverly W. Howe, Chicago, tells the fascinating story of Lincoln and Everett at Gettysburg — Everett's two hour speech of the Day now forgotten, and Lincoln's Gettysburg Address lasting but two minutes still the schoolboy's prayer and a recognized masterpiece of English eloquence; Marshall Solberg, Chicago, speaks about "*The International Aspects of Lincoln's Life*"; Harry E. Pratt, Muncie, Indiana, goes into the question of Lincoln's finances and discloses that Lincoln's estate was \$85,000.00; the late Horace Saunders contributes a laudatory paper about Billy Herndon; Clint Clay Tilton, Danville, Illinois, whose tale of the Baltimore Plot to murder Lincoln is well known, gives the background of Ward Hill Lamon in the city of the "Lost Speech"; Ernest E. East, discusses Lincoln and Ingersoll; Ralph G. Lindstrom, Los Angeles, presents Lincoln as a guide for today's leaders; and the last paper of the twelve is an excellent confession by that eminent author and lecturer, Reverend Edgar De Witt Jones, Detroit, Michigan, "*What I Have Learned from Abraham Lincoln.*"

A topic on "Lincoln, Counsel for the Defence," was not included. Lincoln appeared in several criminal cases and his contemporaries said that he was a better cross-examiner than Douglas. During the debates with the Little Giant, a forlorn mother, Hannah Armstrong, prevailed upon him to represent her son "Duff" in the famous moonlight murder case. A witness for the State testified that he saw the defendant strike the deceased on the fatal night. Although the witness was about one hundred and fifty feet from the scene he said it was a moonlight night. Lincoln thereupon introduced an almanac in evidence indicating that the moon was low and its light was dim on the fatal night. Although a defendant could not testify in his own behalf in Illinois at the time, "Duff" was acquitted.

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