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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

COVERING THE COURTS. By CURTIS D. MAC DOUGALL, Prentice Hall, N. Y. 1946 pp. 711, \$7.00

In this book Dr. MacDougall, Professor of Journalism in Northwestern University, has given to newspaper men an essential handbook, and to the public a one-volume encyclopedia of law, which will be useful to all who are interested in our laws, their history, and their application. Here are to be found not only the names of writs and actions, but copies of the forms actually employed in the courts of several large cities.

In the collection of material the author had the assistance not only of judges, attorneys and public officials with their official point of view, but of newspaper men, who have been reporting the proceedings of courts in Chicago and of other cities for many years, and whose point of view often is quite different from that ingrained in the official mind. This synthesis has resulted in chapters concerning the various phases of the administration of civil and criminal justice in cities, which are accurate and to the point. The text is factual, terse and free from ambiguity. The language is smooth and with a rapid flow, which not only gains the interest of the reader, but holds it as well. Many books have been written about the law. Few have been as interesting as this one. Such expressions as, "The bailiff is the court's x x *bouncer*," are gems too glittering to be limited to the eyes of readers, whose interests are solely professional, yet such a functionary does give disturbers the "bum's rush," just as effectively as bouncers in night clubs. Unfortunately, prosecutors in seeking reelection do brag about their success in sending "people to x x the *hot chair*," as the writer says they do. It might be observed, however, for use in the second edition, which this book richly merits, that it may be a *chair* in the East, but to Chicago prosecutors, it's the "hot *seat*."

The learned author generally employs the role of commentator and encyclopedist, but at times becomes a not too harsh critic. Most attorneys who have had practical experience in the Police Courts and in the Criminal Courts will agree that there is cause sometimes to criticize the law as it is written, and its administration. The author demonstrates competence to draft corrective legislation. It is to be feared, however, that in the main the law and its administration will remain for a long time about as it is now, and that changes will come but slowly, for the law, unlike journalism, inclines more to the static than to the dynamic. However, Professor McDougall never becomes cynical. His spirit is that of an optimist, who believes that our judicial system is better than it used to be.

Chicago

Grenville Beardsley, Attorney

HANDBOOK OF CORRECTIONAL PSYCHOLOGY. By R. M. LINDER and R. V. SELIGER, New York: Philosophical Library, 1947, Pp. 691. \$10.00.

The phrase "correctional psychology" in the title of this compendium is somewhat misleading. It is really correctional psychiatry with a fair dose of correctional medicine thrown in. The 46 authors have contributed 47 articles ranging from "Psychometric Procedures in Penal

and Correctional Institutions" to "Intramural Practice of Eye, Ear, Nose, and Throat." The treatment and exposition varies from the unaffected simplicity of Appel's "Essentials in Helping People" to the wordy pretention of Eliasberg's "Repentance and Remorse in Rehabilitation."

Despite the breadth of topics covered, many gaps appear. Malingering is treated as an important topic, but no mention is made of the theoretical and practical contributions by military psychiatry to its understanding and management. There are several articles devoted to the psychopath, but the article on psychometrics makes no mention of the special findings in this field. Some of the articles are brief examples of special pleading minus any bibliographical reference, while others are attempts to survey and integrate the available literature and are reinforced with adequate bibliography. There is little continuity and frequent overlap. The impression that the editors have not done a careful, intensive, editorial job is reinforced by the general format of the book. No index has been provided; tabular material has not been pleasingly integrated with text; and some changes seem to have been added as hasty afterthoughts. The listing of contributors is separated from the listing of titles, and the particular contribution of any author can be identified only by a laborious search through the body of the text.

This, then, is no handbook in the classical sense. It is not a convenient, authoritative reference volume for workers in the field. Nevertheless, many of the articles are excellent and will well repay the reader's attention. It is unfortunate that both editors and publisher did not match the sincere endeavor of the contributors.

Northwestern University

William A. Hunt

PERSONAL COUNSEL, A SUPPLEMENT TO MORALS. By ROBERT FRANK. Informative Books, New York, 1946, 306 pp., \$3.50.

When it is separated from some evidence of lecturing, this volume is excellent and is highly recommended for both professional and lay reading.

As "Dr. R.," the author presents the correspondence of a young female reader of his columns. The reader seeks personal advice in her relationships with the men she has met. Dr. R.'s letters are longer or shorter, reflecting either general information desired or comments upon events.

The replies are skilfully handled, even when taking the correspondent to task for not following the suggestions given. At some points, it is obvious that the replies have been stretched to the semblance of lectures.

The problems do not ordinarily fall within the usual events of one person's life, as this reviewer has seen from the letters of his own readers in a similar newspaper column. Yet, the attempt is made to weave them together coherently into a related whole.

The author shows tremendous skill as well as grace in his handling of sex instruction and questions and the general problem of how his correspondent may deal with the three men she knows more than casually. "Dr. R." carries the volume through from the process of selection of one of these men as a husband through to the early days of marriage.

The correspondent is an unusual person. She reveals an ability to

set down on paper a clear delimitation of her own troublesome areas. One of these asks for the pros and cons of the age-old question of sex relations before marriage, between engaged couples and sex relations on a trial basis. Again, as always, logic is downed by emotion. It recalls the ancient Hebraic proverb that if there is a question, the subject is *ipso facto*, forbidden. She would like Dr. R. to strengthen her desires, her wish to permit an emotional answer to her indecision. This support she does not get, just an open discussion of the pros and cons.

Dr. R. is helpful to his correspondent when he asks her to analyze, under his direction, the three individuals she considers as possible mates. With a few mis-steps, it appears that she has chosen well, or rather followed well the preliminary suggestions of her advisor.

The volume takes the reader through courtship and thoughts of courtship to the selection process, marriage and the early days of marriage. It stresses emphatically the early adjustments required in every marriage, adjustments to be made by every person who considers marriage seriously and who enters it with intent and a firm conviction to make it last.

While seeming to counsel his feminine reader, Dr. R. has added the male reaction to possible action of this girl. This gives a balance, a preview and is helpful to the young woman by showing her how the male may respond to her conduct.

Although it is a popular volume, Dr. R. presents a rounded-out picture of marriage and its problems: sex relations, personality situations, home-making in its several aspects, conduct with and toward prospective in-laws, use of the home allowance, a wife's pre-marriage debts . . . these and many other pertinent questions are discussed.

The volume is well written and its style effective. Almost with the viewpoint of a ladies' journal, the reader is left with the belief that this young woman has chosen well and that she will live happily forever after.

Counselling Service, Detroit

W. A. Goldberg, Ph.D.

PSYCHIATRIC INTERVIEWS WITH CHILDREN. By H. L. WITMER. (Ed.)

New York: The Commonwealth Fund, 1946. Pp. vii + 443. \$4.50.

The main body of this book on child guidance consists of 10 summaries of case records contributed by eight outstanding child psychiatrists. The range of adjustment problems presented is wide and the theoretical backgrounds and therapeutic practices of the contributors are varied. The summaries are extensive and clear, ranging in space allotted from 20 to 70 pages each. The result is a representative picture of current child psychiatry as practiced in American child guidance clinics.

As introduction to the case histories, the editor has contributed a pithy section on the nature of child guidance, the child guidance clinic patient, and the dynamics of therapy. Particularly helpful is the definition of the neurotic child not only in absolute terms but in relative terms through contrast with the behavior of the normal child. The editor also contributes a brief section of comment in conclusion in which she coordinates the case records in terms of the varying therapeutic aims and practices presented. These editorial sections are excellent.

The format of the book, while large, is definitely pleasing and lives up to the quality of the text. In her preface, Witmer expresses

the hope that the book will be of value to both students and practitioners of child psychiatry. It will! The editor, the contributors, and the Commonwealth Fund are to be congratulated for the service they have rendered.

Northwestern University

William A. Hunt.

TUTORING AS THERAPY. By GRACE ARTHUR. New York: Commonwealth Fund, 1946. Pp. ix + 125. \$1.50.

Dr. Arthur dedicates her book to the tutors who have helped solve school adjustment problems. She emphasizes the need for individual instruction for adjustment difficulties, and describes an early tutoring experiment whose pattern was basically the same as for current programs.

Criteria for good and poor tutors; their selection, training, and supervision; their mission and methods; and professional relationships and ethics are illustrated by case histories of children and tutors. To the discussion of these roles are added descriptions of the roles of others in the cooperative plan for successful tutoring: family, social worker, school teacher and principal, psychologist, physician, and neurologist or psychiatrist. The author suggests a community project whose cost "is insignificant as compared with the cost of dealing with delinquent behavior resulting when school maladjustment and failure to learn are ignored."

One chapter is given over specifically to tutoring as therapy for children with adjustment problems, but throughout the book runs the theme that tutoring helps the individual meet his adjustment problems adequately. This is timely in light of our present concern with increasing juvenile delinquency. Dr. Arthur's book is brief, readable, and significant in its emphasis on cooperation of all concerned with school adjustment problems. Its primary value, however, is to the tutor and school worker; the psychologist or psychiatrist will find in it little that is not already available.

Northwestern University

Ivan N. Mensh

MANUAL OF SUGGESTED STANDARDS FOR A STATE CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM.

By THE AMERICAN PRISON ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE ON MODEL STATE PLAN. 135 East 15th St., New York, 1946, pp. 94.

Chapter titles in this Manual are: Scope of the State Correctional System; Central Administration of the State Correctional System; Probation; Diversification of Institutions; Personnel; Classification; Medical Services; Employment; Library Services; Education; Religious Activities; Recreation; Discipline; Parole; Jails.

The Manual was prepared by a committee of which Sam. A. Lewisohn was chairman. The following named persons were associated with him: Stanley P. Ashe; Harry Elmer Barnes; Sanford Bates; Robert Baugham; James V. Bennett; Thomas B. Bergan; Willis H. Burke; Edward R. Cass; Charles L. Chute; Clinton T. Duffy; Garrett Heyns; Lewis E. Lawes; Austin H. MacCormick; Thorsten Sellin; J. Stanley Sheppard; Robert J. Wright.

This book is one of the most useful and timely among many publications of the Prison Association.

Northwestern University

Robert H. Gault