

1950

## Book Reviews

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## BOOK REVIEWS

HANDBOOK OF CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION. United States Bureau of Prisons, 1949. Pp. 317.

In the Foreword to this remarkable monograph, Attorney General Tom Clark states that in 1946 Congress appropriated "a small sum of money" for the establishment of an Advance Planning Unit in the U. S. Bureau of Prisons "to develop a reservoir of blueprints and details for the construction of penal and correctional institutions" to be readily available for a nationwide public works program in case severe economic conditions beset this country. James V. Bennett, Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, in his Introduction, points out that probably no institutional construction "has been as devoid of intelligent planning and direction as has the construction of penal and correctional institutions." To furnish states and communities with reliable information, based upon years of tested experience and analyses of countless plans, for the improvement of their present institutions or the construction of new ones, the Federal Bureau drew upon the wisdom of wardens, industries experts, doctors, and technicians. The result is the present volume prepared by Robert D. Barnes, head of the Construction Division of the Bureau of Prisons, Robert A. Weppner, of the Bureau's Advance Planning Unit, and Dr. Harry Elmer Barnes, foremost prison historian in this country. To say that the combined efforts of those who conceived, planned, and wrote this volume have resulted in one of the most important, authoritative, magnificently organized, and excellently written treatises on correctional institutions would be a genuine understatement. Equally high praise should be given to the inmate printers in the print shop at Leavenworth Penitentiary for a truly beautiful job of blueprint, perspective and picture reproduction.

There are seventeen chapters, beginning with a realistic and enlightened discussion on the Interdependence of Institutional Planning and Rehabilitative Program, through Basic Problems, Origin of Prisons, Correctional Philosophy, Super-Security, Twentieth Century Penitentiaries, Medium- and Minimum-Security, Reformatories, Juvenile Institutions, Juvenile Detention Homes, Jail Planning, Institutional Design, Construction and Equipment, Cooking and Feeding, Medical Service, Buildings and Equipment for a Sound System of Correctional Industry, and Mechanical Services and Utilities. To attempt to give a thoroughgoing critical evaluation of this veritable source-book of sound and up-to-tomorrow facts, figures, and philosophy would require the entire space allowance of this Journal. In my judgment, this work is easily the most important single publication in penology in this century in this or any other country.

If the errors of the past so vividly pointed out are avoided in the future, we should expect not only a more efficient system for handling offenders from the standpoint of security, but also a marked improvement in rehabilitative programs and a tremendous saving of the taxpayers' money now invested in bastilles that, in effect, are not even good rat-traps.

The authors favor telephone-pole design for prison layouts, fewer costly walls, complete modernization of industrial, recreational, educational, medical, social case work, and custodial services. Throughout the work one may note the relationship of design to good prison-keeping and rehabilitation. Even in the revolutionary super-security institution, with controlled ventilation, glass roof, and automatic controls, the emphasis seems to be that a thoroughgoing classification of institutions as well as of inmates, administered by informed and intelligent personnel, will bring uncalculated savings in purse and persons.

Emphasis also is placed upon reasonable population for all types of institutions, with no sprawling buildings hundreds of yards apart. The authors favor 1,200 for maximum security as the optimum, reformatory (enclosed) 500, and reformatory (open, campus-like) 250. Discussing the campus-like type reformatory, the authors place approximately 40 youths in each dormitory. While prison population of 1,200 in an enclosed institution may still be too high for successful rehabilitation and 600 for medium-security institutions may be optimum, in my judgment 40 boys in dormitories is congregated and mass housing. It is true, as the authors emphasize, that economy of operations must be considered. Inside cells are favored for close-custody institutions, as are extensive use of various types of camps, honor rooms for going-out prisoners, day rooms for each cell unit, and physicians trained in psychiatry for prison hospitals. One gets the impression that central dining, except in women's reformatories (cottage type), is preferred over house dining-rooms in male open reformatories. In the discussion of Norfolk State Penel Colony (close custody) with house dining-rooms, food being carted from the central kitchen through tunnels, the authors appear to favor mass feeding. From the standpoint of custody and economy, much may be said for that point of view, but it seems to the reviewer there is a normalizing influence even in eight-person tables, table cloths, flowers, and other dining amenities which outweigh mechanical marching en masse to a central dining-hall, especially for younger inmates. After all, more and more husbands are doing cooking, and jobs as cooks are still available to young men released from reformatories. Boys and young men with an interest in and an aptitude for the culinary arts should be encouraged and trained in such institutions as well as in maximum-security kitchens. And they should be trained in small kitchens such as those which provide for a single 25-inmate cottage. Power-houses and administration buildings should be located outside the enclosure.

This volume might easily be the general theme of the Annual Congress of Correction for 1951, with expert panels assigned to analyze and discuss each chapter separately.

After such high praise, I hesitate to point out a single error, but through some oversight William Penn's "Great Law" appears on page 20 as having been submitted in 1862 (1682). In my judgment, the work ends too abruptly with a four-line description and location of Drinking Fountains. A summary statement concisely epitomizing the general purpose, and an over-all view of the value of experience, experiment, and planning in the field of contemporary and future correctional construction, would have copper-riveted the validity of the contents of this most significant analysis and appraisal of American correctional aims and means of achievement. There is a fine Index.

University of Pennsylvania J. P. SHALLOO

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PROBLEMS OF CHILD DELINQUENCY. By *Maud A. Merrell*. Houghton-Mifflin, Boston, 1947. Pp. 403. \$3.85.

This is a refreshing, interesting, and worthwhile analysis of the problem of juvenile delinquency by a well-known psychologist. While its focus is on a particular study of delinquents referred to the juvenile court of a rural county in California, the author includes pertinent references to virtually all the best research done in the field. The method of presentation itself is provocative, since the book includes not only the expected statistical tables and their interpretations, but a discussion of psychological techniques, and an effective use of examples based on case studies. The over-all result is to catch the reader's interest early and to hold it throughout.

The main concern is with the study of 300 "unselected run-of-the-mill cases" referred to a single court during the period April, 1933 to June, 1935. A control group of non-delinquent school children from the same communities matched for sex, age, and locality was selected for study and comparison with the delinquent group. In addition a follow-up study was made five years later, and the findings are presented with particular attention to a "matched" group of 80 delinquent boys and 80 non-delinquent boys.

The findings of the study are not especially novel: The delinquents came from broken homes more often than the non-delinquents; they had less satisfying family relationships; their homes were more disadvantaged; and they used leisure time less wisely. Nevertheless, the interpretations of the data presented are at a high level as far as making adequate qualifications are concerned, and the reader is at no point tempted to uncritically accept the tabular data.

This book would be improved vastly by the early appearance of a few pages or a chapter on methods. The reader interested in the method followed is forced to pick it up in occasional sentences and paragraphs. This reviewer is still wondering why a study was made which took great pains to keep the delinquent and non-delinquent groups matched as to age, sex, and locality without matching them as to nationality, especially because more families in the delinquent group had foreign-born parents and more members of the Spanish and Mexican stocks. If our studies of cultural factors mean anything, they indicate that to allow the nationality factor to vary opens the door to all kinds of "differences." Perhaps it was impossible within the limits of the study to control the nationality factor. Apparently the locality factor was not controlled to the degree that "matching" suggests, because many more economically-disadvantaged families appear among the delinquent group as compared to the non-delinquent controls.

Despite this criticism, the author has made a significant contribution. This is one of the best books of its kind.

University of Chicago

FRANK T. FLYNN

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KRIMINOLOGIE. By *Franz Exner*. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1949. Pp. 330. D-Mark 16.80.

Professor Franz Exner, the eminent professor of criminal law, who died in the fall of 1947, left a textbook of criminology. A third enlarged and improved edition has been published now by a faithful and competent pupil, Dr. Fritz Schwaab.

The genesis and the manifestations of crime can be approached in many ways. We may even welcome every new and original attempt at gathering facts and drawing conclusions. The emphasis put on the traits and characteristics of human personality will not find the ready approval of many American students who trace crime back to the forces of environment solely and deny the existence of rigid and fixed handicaps imposed by an unjust nature—their own personal adversaries, of course, excepted, which they regard with a jaundiced and superlombrosian eye. But they, too, although not adhering to Exner's interpretations, will accept the host of new facts he and his school have collected as something highly valuable and suggestive.

Exner makes the distinction between collective and individual milieu which, to my opinion, can be defended with good reasons. Parts of the collective environment are: the great political, social and economic changes to which nations may be submitted, geography, climate and season, the cultural "climate," religion, superstition, propaganda, mores and the technological changes

affecting behavior. The machine has produced and reduced crime and so have certain modern institutions which have become indispensable like insurance.

Intelligence, character, the life of drives and instincts and their morbid deviations are treated with masterly strokes. A summary of the most recent European studies of crime, 342 books and papers, in all, is added. The well-balanced, well-informed and really scholarly book will make Franz Exner's name remembered through many years. Some of his data will enter every rounded textbook of criminology, so his figures on the delinquency of males, 50 years and over during the war (p. 100), and the most important figures of delinquent females by age and marital status (p. 248) which contradict the official doctrine.

Kansas City

HANS VON HENTIG

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PSYCHODIAGNOSIS. By *Paul Rosenzweig*, with *Kate L. Hogan*. Grune & Stratton, 1949. Pp. 380. \$5.00.

As a primer the purpose of which is to acquaint the reader or student with the essential fundamentals of psychologic testing, Rosenzweig's book merits commendation no less than attention. Together with Kate L. Hogan, Rosenzweig has produced a volume which is marked not only by fine technical accuracy but also by a most ingratiating clarity of exposition. It is the reviewer's opinion that the present volume definitely fills a gap in the existing literature on methods in modern clinical psychology, because he recalls no book giving the uninitiated reader a more adequate understanding of such methods.

The frontispiece very appropriately includes portraits of Francis Galton, Alfred Binet, Sigmund Freud, and Hermann Rorschach, for it is largely, if by no means exclusively, from the contributions of these four scientists that the basic idea of all psychologic testing has been derived. It would be a mistake, however, to leave out of consideration the debt which we owe to C. G. Jung, in this connection, for his permanently valuable studies in word-association, to say nothing of the Jung Word-Association Test that is currently employed.

Within the compass of approximately four hundred pages, the authors set forth the inherent features of all widely used intelligence and personality tests. Among the subjects they deal with are the following: *Tests of General Intelligence; Measures of Intellectual Deviation; Vocational Aptitude and Interest Tests; Personality Inventories; and Projective Methods*. From time to time, the authors introduce illustrative protocols which not only interest the reader but aid him greatly in his efforts to comprehend more fully the results obtained by such intelligence and personality tests. What the reviewer ought to add here, perhaps, is that this book, despite its somewhat technical character, is from beginning to end a *readable* book. One is fascinated even while one is instructed. And this is as it ought to be; for it would be difficult indeed to deny that the study of mental and emotional processes is one of the most engrossing things on earth.

The final chapter, entitled *Uxoricide on an Unconscious Basis*, will be quick to engage the attention of those interested in the criminologic aspects of psychologic testing. Here the authors do much towards pointing up the tremendously important part that unconscious factors so often play in the perpetration of crimes. Certainly this proves to be one of the most rewarding chapters in the entire volume. When the psychologic testing had been completed in this case of uxoricide, it transpired that the crime had been committed essentially as a defense against possible "castration" by the wife. One cannot help speculating upon the good which might result if in other cases involving crim-

inal actions some extensive psychodynamic investigation could be made of the subjects' mental and emotional processes. It is easy enough to see how much valuable or even vital material might come to light in this way.

Considering how admirably Rosenzweig's book serves the purpose for which it obviously has been designed, the reviewer can recommend this volume without qualification.

New York

NATHANIEL THORNTON

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PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH TO JUVENILE DELINQUENCY. By *Kate Friedlander*. International Universities Press, 1947. Pp. 296. \$5.50.

The author performs a quite useful service by combining in one moderately sized volume insights into the control of juvenile delinquency derived from the field of psychiatry, social work and law enforcement. As the title would indicate, the psychiatric formulations are based upon the psychoanalytical theory and technique of treatment. She has drawn upon and extended the observations of Healy, Alexander and Aichhorn. After outlining the psychoanalytical theory of the structure of the normal and abnormal personality, the author takes up in detail the formation of the "delinquent character." From the point of view of classification, one of Doctor Friedlander's chief contributions in this book is the abolition of the concept of the "normal" delinquent. On the basis of her experience, the author has come to the conclusion that delinquency is always the expressed behavior pattern of a sick person. This point of view is clarified by the use of the concept of a "primary delinquent character structure."

By the intelligent and forceful use of considerable case material, Doctor Friedlander shows how the primary delinquent character structure is brought about during the first five years of life. The chief factor in the causation of this character structure, according to the author, is a fatal inconsistency on the mother's part in the building up of habit patterns during the early development of the child. It is the failure to give the child consistent clues, consistent frustrations and gratification, that results in so many disappointments for the child that the effort to come to terms with reality is given up more or less. This results in the child clinging to the "pleasure principle" rather than the "reality principle" of mental functioning. Such a child, therefore, learns from reality only with the greatest difficulty and encounters all sorts of troubles in the effort to control instinctual impulses, especially the sexual impulse.

It is the author's thesis that the formation of the primary delinquent character structure need not necessarily result in manifest delinquent behavior. What happens after this character structure is laid down in the first five years of life depends upon the sort of socializing influence to which the child is exposed during the intermediate years in school, in the community, and, of course, in the family. In this area, the author stressed the importance of social and cultural factors as opposed to the importance of purely psychological factors during the earliest period. The point is emphasized that the experiences of the child in adolescence are those that most frequently determine whether a primary delinquent character structure will be brought under control with the subsequent adequate adjustment of the individual or will break through with the development of overt delinquency.

In discussing treatment, the author emphasizes the importance of an adequate diagnosis based upon a complete study of the individual involved. Type of treatment recommended by the author varies with the age of the child. It is important to screen out those individuals whose delinquency stems from either

a psychotic or neurotic reaction. In these cases, what is called for is purely psychiatric treatment. Where the delinquent behavior is due to the breaking through of the primary delinquent character structure rather than a neurosis or a psychosis, psychiatric treatment alone is ineffective. The situation calls for a combination of environmental manipulation plus various degrees of psychotherapy. The amount and type of environmental manipulation depends upon the intensity of the delinquent character structure and the particular needs of the individual. It can range from institutionalization to foster home placement or merely supervision of the home by a social service worker or probation officer.

This book is recommended to all who are interested in obtaining a more complete understanding of the problem of juvenile delinquency, both from the point of view of the dynamics of the juvenile offender, and of the criteria for community action based upon enlightened public opinion.

Michael Reese Hospital, Chicago

JOHN P. SPIEGEL, M.D.

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THERAPY THROUGH INTERVIEW. By *Stanley G. Law*. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1948. Pp. 305. \$4.50.

The alleged purpose of this book, according to the author, is to assist general practitioners in their desire to learn more about methods of interviewing such of their patients as obviously are suffering more from psychic conflicts or affective disorders than from actual organic dysfunctions. With so commendable an aim in mind, the author has sought to present his material in the simplest fashion and with minimal scientific jargon or nomenclature.

To the extent to which the purpose is realized the book should be useful to those who interview delinquents and criminals.

Certainly all of us ought to realize by this time that a very considerable percentage of patients who consult the general practitioner are victims of neurotic rather than somatic ailments, whatever the patients themselves may think about the matter. A book written more especially for the ordinary practising physician rather than for the skilled psychiatrist or clinical psychologist might, therefore, be an extremely useful tool. The reviewer cannot, however, bestow unqualified praise upon this volume. It is superficial and far too general in its approach to be of much tangible aid to the practitioner who seeks a broader, more specialized, or more scientific knowledge of current trends in psychotherapy.

"Therapy Through Interview" is arranged largely in the form of interviews similar to those which are of daily occurrence in any clinic or psychiatric hospital. A natural corollary of such an arrangement is that, for the most part, a conversational (and sometimes almost annoyingly flippant) style of expression predominates. The work fails, moreover, to convey any adequate conception of the underlying *psychodynamics* which we surely must take into account in any case where psychic or affective factors dominate the clinical picture. When we add to this the fact that the book seems also to be characterized by no well-defined conceptual orientation, we have to say that "Therapy Through Interview" can offer little beyond a certain interest that accrues from a perusal of the various interviews. There still remains, however, the possibility that a physician without psychiatric training might succeed in deriving a valuable point or two from reading Law's book.

New York, N. Y.

NATHANIEL THORNTON

NEW HORIZONS IN CRIMINOLOGY. By *Harry Elmer Barnes* and *Negley K. Tceters*—with revisions (4th printing). Prentice-Hall, Inc., New York, 1945. Pp. 1069. \$4.75.

The review of this book at this date may be of special interest in anticipation of the publication within the year of a thoroughly revised and up-to-date edition, as already planned by the publishers. The present printing incorporates but relatively minor changes in the original 1943 edition. The position of the authors as leading American criminologists is of course well known. The general excellence of the volume is a fitting indication of their contribution to the stimulation of fresh thinking and practical reform in American penal philosophy and administration.

In their own words, they conceived their work "as an exercise in applied scholarship, in informed crusading. . . ." (Preface, p. XIII). However, this is both the strength and the weakness of the book. As an exercise in exhortation, it appropriately emphasizes an uncompromising rationalist and well-documented analysis of our numerous penological cultural lags; and is militant in its insistence on thorough-going and radical changes for effective reform. However, for textbook purposes, many beginning students in criminology are likely to find it too advanced in its thinking, and too encyclopaedic in its historical scholarship. The volume is sociologically integrated. It rightly points up the institutional factors necessary for the understanding of crime, criminal justice, penal practice and crime control in the United States, and the significant implications of white-collar criminality and of organized racketeering in this connection. It is therefore disappointing to conclude that many of the reforms so forthrightly urged by the authors is out of keeping with sociological realism. This treatise might have been even more scientifically valuable, if the authors had also included explicit analysis of the socio-cultural and psychological obstacles to the kind of thorough-going reforms they find indicated by their rationalist approach.

Three-quarters of the book is devoted to an admirable history and analysis of the police, court, penal, reformatory, probation and parole systems in the United States, and to the related problems of the philosophy of punishment versus treatment, of the treatment of juvenile delinquents and of other special types, and of crime prevention. It is therefore unfortunate that considerations of space forced the authors to be somewhat summary in their analysis of the concept of crime and its social implications, of crime causation, and of criminal statistics. One might add that this weakness is characteristic of most other texts in criminology as well. This writer would therefore like to see the forthcoming revision of the book include a chapter on primitive "law," "crime," and social control, and differentiating these from law, crime, and social control in complex, differentiated, highly stratified, modern societies. The psychodynamics of criminality also merit much more detailed treatment, and if systematic etiological case studies were added, the revision would be made even more serviceable.

If these additions necessitated a corresponding reduction in some of the present historical material, this might also be pedagogically to the good. The penological sections could also be improved by a psycho-analysis of unconscious emotional drives in, and effects of punishment; by attention to interracial problems in prison; by some explicit treatment of the leading foreign correctional systems, in addition to the British; by a more special and systematic treatment of the nature of, contributions of, and limitations of the social case work and group process approaches to offenders; and of community organization and social action in crime prevention and treatment. This might possibly