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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

CRIMINOLOGY: A CULTURAL INTERPRETATION. By *Donald R. Taft*. Revised edition, MacMillan Company, New York, 1950. Pp. 704. \$5.50.

This edition of this very readable, well-organized, stimulating textbook provides a reliable and comprehensive survey of criminological history, theory, practise, and research. It brings the earlier 1942 edition quite up to date. The book is divided into five parts; and as the title indicates, the author's emphasis is socio-cultural, including the "The Explanation of Crime" (Part II), "The Treatment of the Adult Criminal" (Part III), and the "The Treatment of the Juvenile Delinquent and Crime Prevention" (Part IV). In each instance, Professor Taft emphasizes the direct and indirect operation of socio-cultural factors, processes, and relationships, referring frequently to the contributions of the late Professor Sutherland and other criminologists, as well as making many valuable contributions of his own.

The approach is consistently scientific and deterministic, with emphasis both on crime and its treatment as products. The author is appropriately realistic and well-balanced in his analyses, explicitly recognizing the limitations on and the handicaps to the understanding and application of criminological science to be found in the social structure, traditions, behavior patterns and power relationships of our individualistic, materialistic, competitive, complex, dynamic, and somewhat conflicted and disorganized American society. Both in his introductory and historical chapters (Part I), and in his detailed analysis of crime causation, Professor Taft understandably minimizes the use of the word *cause*, since this implies an oversimplified, static approach to a complex, dynamic phenomenon, that has to be carefully and holistically differentiated in its various interrelations. Perhaps the concept of *causal complex* could avoid the objections to the use of the word *cause* in social science analysis.

The author is primarily interested in a dynamic, cultural explanation of crime, and not directly in the individual criminal. Minimum attention is therefore given to the psycho-dynamics of crime, to the psycho-analytic approach generally, and to individual case studies, though Professor Taft gives ample references to, and some quotations from, the pertinent literature for those desiring supplementation. Perhaps the increasing integration of sociology, anthropology, and psychology in the study of personality and culture will effectively influence criminologists to study the problems of crime and the criminal from the same integrated approach, rather than from the viewpoint of the primary operation of either psychological or sociological factors, depending on the criminologist's other professional affiliations.

A little more than half the book is devoted to treatment and prevention. The conventional range of topics and problems under these headings is effectively covered, considering the space limitations imposed by the requirements of a readable text. There is detailed emphasis on the federal prison system, with the author recognizing the pedagogical problems raised by his consequent minimization of state and foreign material. In addition to the usual separate treatment of juvenile delinquency, integrated with crime prevention, there are also separate chapters on alcohol, on drug addiction, and on sex delinquency. Here, the "Kinsey Report" and related studies are judiciously used. Also interesting is the author's study of the social relationships, behavior patterns and social processes in, and the structure and organization of, the prison as a social community. The discussion of correc-

tional case work, and of group process in therapy, applies both psychiatric and sociological insights, both in explanation and in evaluation.

The volume justifiably pays considerable attention to the social significance of white collar criminality and also frequently refers to other forms of social exploitation not necessarily classified as criminal. Extending this approach, Professor Taft devotes the last chapter of his book (Part V—Wider Implications of Criminology), to drawing a fertile analogy between war and crime, comparing both as aggression and as products of "the criminal nation." The reviewer hopes that this viewpoint will stimulate criminologists to analyze more systematically the different conditions under which different kinds of societies find it necessary to create and selectively apply the social concept of crime, in dealing with certain undesirable situations created by and peculiar to, and distinctively treated by each society.

This volume well deserves its status as a standard and popular textbook.
The City College of New York IRVING A. LANZER

SOCIETY AND ITS CRIMINALS. By *Paul Reiwald*. New York, International Universities Press, 1950. Pp. 315. \$4.50.

Seldom has this reviewer closed a volume with such genuine regret—for both pleasure and profit have been derived from reading Paul Reiwald's great book—and I shall not wait for my concluding sentence to recommend SOCIETY AND ITS CRIMINALS most heartily to both lay and professional students of crime and its peripheral phenomena.

Though a lawyer and criminologist, Reiwald has given "Society and Its Criminals" a psychoanalytic orientation but there is no plethora of analytic jargon; and though he has written rather obviously to the professional, the book is intelligible, valuable, and pleasant reading not only for the academic criminologist but for the police, probation and prison officer, the college student in a variety of social science courses, and the alert, intelligent citizen anxious about crime and delinquency in his community.

Reiwald emphasizes the emotional attitudes of society basic to the defenses it has raised against the criminal. He ranges over a wide and controversial area with logic and precision. He is convincing even when one is in disagreement—and perhaps his value as a mental cathartic cleansing the mind of the reader of unsound preconceptions and strengthening the surviving views by forcing the reader to define and defend them should not be underestimated for there is still too great a subjective element in our criminological thinking; the folkways, mores, racial, national, religious, and other environmental conditionings color too many of our researches and analyses.

Reiwald makes nine principal points—but he makes them so subtly yet so strongly that the reader must at times beware lest he permit himself to believe that his pre-Reiwald and post-Reiwald views are the same. Among his major theses are:

(1) The criminal (even the cheat and the swindler) acts emotionally and does not understand himself—but society (the judge, prosecutor, jury and general public) react emotionally also and understand neither the criminal nor themselves;

(2) Criminal psychology must begin with the psychology of the society which inflicts the punishment for social and asocial (criminal) persons are mutually interdependent;

(3) The Youth Authority, juvenile court, indeterminate sentence, and the preventative orientation of 20th century administration of justice have

resulted in an eclipse of the Judge—but as a father-leader image it is desirable that the office of judge be retained albeit with greatly restricted powers;

(4) The criminal-society relationship is not really a question of defence and protection (for if it were the criminal would have long since ceased to exist) but rather a fixated societal attitude conditioned by very basic psychic needs of a law-abiding if somewhat neurotically aggressive citizenry;

(5) The number of real (professional) criminals is not large in Europe—and only slightly larger in America with the difference resulting perhaps from the Nietzschean hero-worship of the criminal by an American public defiantly resistant to the forces which are choking its pioneer-oriented individuality;

(6) Punishment (especially imprisonment) does not deter but furthers and retains crime. The relationship of modern punishments to god-devil concepts, human sacrifices, and social self-preservation (pp. 213-220) is intriguingly developed;

(7) Repression of crime is a latently dangerous substitute for the elimination of crime;

(8) Recurrent "police scandals" make it not always quite clear whether the police work *with* the criminals or *for* society;

(9) Criminal justice and criminal law present an amazing contrast between the high intellectual performance, the strength of the moral claim, and an undeveloped, primitively aggressive emotional attitude. Its future, avers Reiwald quoting Forel, "lies in its abrogation, that is, in the removal of all right to punish."

As a sometime writer of detective fiction, this reviewer found the discussion of the psychology of the crime novel and the detective and criminal of fiction fascinating and valuable reading. Reiwald's comments on the similarity of criminal to detective and on the compulsions (order, formality, cleanliness, sadism, etc.) of criminologists and police officers should occasion many an examination of conscience among our professional confreres.

The student of crime not overly familiar with European criminological and analytic literature will find Reiwald's annotations of great value—and he will note that the author shows not only a familiarity but an enthusiastic appreciation of the contributions of such Americans as Lindner, Sutherland, Healey, Osborne, et al. T. E. James, an English lawyer, translated and edited the manuscript and he has done a workmanlike job which the publishers have presented in a well indexed, well printed, attractive volume.

Paul Reiwald's *SOCIETY AND ITS CRIMINALS* takes its place among the small number (certainly not more than fifty) of really important contributions to the literature of criminology.

New York University

DONAL E. J. MACNAMARA

THE CHALLENGE OF DELINQUENCY. By *Negley K. Teeters and John Otto Reinemann.* Prentice-Hall, Inc., New York, 1950. Pp. xi, 819. \$7.35.

The authors of this encyclopedic text are currently teaching sociology (Teeters, Temple University) and directing probation (Reinemann, Municipal Court of Philadelphia) and together present a fine blend of the theoretical, practical and moral aspects of juvenile delinquency in this country, with a few quick glances at England. This is a textbook primarily for college students but the authors believe that community organizations and official

units such as police and probation departments may find it useful. This reviewer agrees with the authors that the extensive and elaborate analysis of causation and treatment and prevention programs will be of valuable assistance to those interested in learning the facts and formulating sound policies. While much of the information in this volume is hardly new, and while the book as a whole is too detailed, students who digest even one-half the material assembled should have a fairly comprehensive and reliable understanding of the most recent information in the field of delinquency and prevention.

There are seventeen chapters divided into three parts: Part I, "Scope of the Problem of Delinquency," Part II, "Control and Treatment of Juvenile Delinquency," and Part III, "Community Responsibility." Thirty-two pages of case histories are presented in an Appendix. In addition, there are 43 pages of bibliography and a 35-page Index.

This reviewer, while awesomely respectful of such industry and compiling skill as this book represents, nevertheless is of the opinion that huge treatises such as this one are more likely to discourage the average undergraduate than to inspire a soul-stirring enthusiasm to learn about delinquency.

Despite well-grounded strictures against monumental definitive works which organize and integrate the tremendous literature in this field, one must concede that anyone who *wants* to know about researches carried on, techniques and methods developed, programs formulated, and the community's role in the problem of juvenile delinquency will find most of what he seeks within the 819 pages of this book. There are fifty illustrations.

University of Pennsylvania

J. P. SHALLOO

CLEVENGER-GILBERT CRIMINAL LAW AND PRACTICE OF NEW YORK. By J. R. Clevenger (editor). Matthew Bender & Co., New York, 1950. 33rd edition. \$25.00.

This standard reference work on the penal law, code of criminal procedure, correction law, and the various acts governing the organization and functioning of the criminal courts, children's court, and domestic relations court, once again reaches that high level of completeness, accuracy, and helpfulness which has made it in the past a standby of prosecutors, judges, police officers, and lawyers specializing in criminal cases.

Mr. Clevenger building upon the work of previous editors and annotators has added all the 1950 amendments, annotated and indexed the cases, and rearranged much of the material making it clearer and more readily located. Of particular value is Appendix B which illustrates the proper method of drawing up the forms so necessary in the administration of criminal justice and so confusing to the out-of-state lawyer or to the practitioner not specializing in criminal law.

New York University

DONAL E. J. MACNAMARA

SEARCHLIGHT ON DELINQUENCY. By K. R. Eissler, Ed. International Universities Press, 1949. Pp. 456. \$10.00.

This book is dedicated as a tribute to August Aichhorn, the author of "Wayward Youth," and as a dedication is worthwhile. To appreciate the tribute one should be familiar with Aichhorn's work. He was primarily a teacher who gained a great deal of experience with youth and its problems. After psychoanalysis he was better able to understand some of his experiences

which he relates in his book on youth. This, however, is a far cry to substituting psychoanalysis as a cure for all the problems of delinquency.

To the experienced person dealing with delinquency in any of its parts, there can be little doubt of the complexity of the problem and of the value of utilizing any aid in diagnosis and therapy. These special aids include all psychiatric sects, clinical psychologists, sociologists, educators, criminologists, etc. But to point to psychoanalysis as the only tool would be just as wrong as ancient punitive methods as the only method of therapy.

The contents include General Problems; Clinical Problems; Technic and Therapy; Etiology and Development; Social Psychology; and Surveys in 456 pages. To adequately cover these groups would be expecting too much and actually the articles follow the headings to very little extent.

The contributors have written short articles and at times quote brief unfinished case histories. Then an explanation of the dynamics is usually given of the particular behavior problems which leaves one with the feeling that having a theory of behavior, solves that delinquent problem. Long term follow-up material is a rarity with case material. One even gains the impression that all types of offenders from the mild adolescent problem to even the criminal homicidal can be explained and when analyzed a cure results.

If the book attempted to give the problems encountered in psychoanalytic, psychiatric therapy of delinquency it would accomplish a great deal more than it actually does. Actually, experiences of various psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, etc., are related briefly.

As a tribute to the great pioneer, Aichhorn, the book has a purpose. It is not recommended as a documented aid or research tool in the study of delinquency.
Chicago

ALEX J. ARIEFF, M.D.

PROBLEMS OF HUMAN ADJUSTMENT. By *Lynde C. Steckle*. Harper Brothers, 1949. Pp. X and 351. \$3.00.

The author's background, which includes a decade as staff psychologist with a well known firm of consultants on personnel in business will lead intending readers to expect a refreshing non-academic discussion of "Problems of Human Adjustment."

Unfortunately, one of the first characteristics of the book that a reader will observe is a lack of clear cut concepts. The author identifies man's animal nature with emotional life but he seems to place a very low estimate of value upon emotional life, notwithstanding. Emotion is represented as opposing the process of learning, but every thoughtful undergraduate will find exceptions aplenty. The important part that emotional life plays in relation to human development and rehabilitation goes all but unrecognized. Advice on leading an efficient life is offered lavishly but the author himself doubts the utility of giving advice.

Northwestern University

ROBERT H. GAULT

INTRODUCTION TO THE SZONDI TEST. By *Susan K. Deri*. New York: Grune & Stratton, 1949. Pp. 338. \$5.00.

Within comparatively recent years, the so-called projective technics have come more and more to constitute no inconsiderable part of the clinical psychologist's armamentarium. Instruments like the Rorschach Test, the Thematic Apperception Test, and the Jung Word-Association Test have proved their worth over and over again in assisting the psychologist to arrive at more accurate assessments of personality traits or symptoms, or to

make more scientific pronouncements with regard to matters associated with psychodiagnosis or psychoprognois.

Now still another projective technic, of the same fundamental character, has come to be known and practised in this country. The reviewer refers to the Szondi Test, which constitutes the subject of the volume now under consideration. Deri, the author, was originally a pupil of Szondi, an Hungarian psychiatrist; and subsequently she became one of his coworkers. She is able, therefore, to present her subject-matter in unequivocally authoritative fashion; and it is, indeed, largely if not entirely through her efforts that the Szondi Test is as extensively known or as widely practised in America at present as it actually is. Those who, like the reviewer, are so fortunate as to be personally acquainted with Mrs. Deri, and who have felt the undeniable force of her own vibrant personality, can vouch for her high sincerity of purpose no less than for the keen but well-founded enthusiasm which she communicates to her listeners while instructing them in points of Szondi technic. It is a singularly felicitous circumstance for Szondi to have in this country so competent and so zealous an advocate.

Many remarks which might be made about other projective technics can be made with equal justice concerning the Szondi method. Generally speaking, such a test must be regarded as being merely an *adjuvant* in the hands of a clinical psychologist; and findings rendered possible by such a means ought to be treated with caution rather than blindly or slavishly followed. In other words, any single technic of this nature is most advantageously employed in conjunction with *other* projective methods. For a clinical psychologist to rely exclusively upon the Rorschach, the TAT, or the Szondi might be grossly injudicious from a methodological point of view, and might, in addition, engender very undesirable consequences.

The theoretic structure of Szondi methodology strikes one as being not only plausible but sound. Without (so far as one can tell) being an orthodox disciple of Sigmund Freud, Szondi nevertheless has arrived, in certain instances, at conclusions which tend to show that a number of the more basic Freudian doctrines are no less valid in practice than in theory. It is necessary, the reviewer feels, for us adequately to recognize these correlations in a time like this, when—at least in particular quarters—there obviously exist rather pronounced prejudices or antipathies against Sigmund Freud and his school of psychopathology. We should err, on the other hand, if we permitted ourselves to assume the existence of anything like an inevitable one-hundred-per-cent agreement between any one Szondi and any one Freudian concept of behavior or personality.

Fundamentally, Szondi's personality test rests upon the assumption that human beings have in common, whether in one direction or in another, certain "tensions" or "need-systems." In one human being, a particular drive or need may be comparatively slight or merely latent; whereas in another, the same drive or need may be exaggerated to the point of neurotic conflict or even psychotic reaction. In the administration of Szondi's test, we employ actual photographs of eight relatively distinct clinical types (i.e., homosexual, sadistic, epileptic, hysteric, catatonic, paranoid, depressive, and manic). The examinee is requested to indicate which pictures he likes, and which ones he dislikes. Each of the aforementioned eight factors is represented by a series of six photographs; and when there are more than three choices (either positive or negative) with regard to any one factor, we speak of *loaded* reactions. Such reactions manifest existing stress or tension in the corresponding personality zones.

In addition to the "loaded" reactions just described, there occur in some subjects "open" or "drained" reactions, as well as "ambivalent" ones. Responses of the former kind indicate that opportunities are found for discharges of tension or for "living out" the associated affects. Responses of the latter kind mean that the subject simultaneously likes and dislikes certain photographs, this implying subjectively experienced uncertainty or conflict in some area. In scoring the test, we rely upon the open or drained factors to give us a clue to the individual's *observable behavior*, and upon the loaded factors for some insight into the deeper motivational springs of his behavior.

It is evident, in view of the foregoing, that the Szondi aims at providing us with an acceptably reliable eight-dimensional portrait of the personality as an interdependent whole. The test is therefore a servicable tool in cases of neurosis, psychosis, and anti-social or criminal behavior. As the author herself writes on p. 91: "Because the Szondi test can be compared to an octagonal gauge which permits the psychologist to measure, through eight planes, the reactions of clinically symptomless, neurotic, psychotic, and anti-social subjects alike, it is probably the instrument most suited to make visible the deep psychodynamic mechanisms which form the basis of such common diagnostic labels as schizophrenia, mania, etc."

The reviewer, having formally studied Szondi technic for only six weeks, is himself scarcely in a position dogmatically to bear witness to its clinical value; but he does not hesitate to assert that he is aware of no reason why it ought not to be fully capable of proving itself an eminently useful adjunct to the equipment of any practising psychologist.

New York, N. Y.

NATHANIEL THORNTON

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE PERIODICALS AND ARTICLES OF INTEREST
IN THE FIELD OF CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY***

Compiled by

KURT SCHWERIN**

Cahiers de législation et de bibliographie juridique de l'Amérique Latine. Paris. 2nd year (1950), no. 6.

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* All periodicals listed are available in the Elbert H. Gary Library, Northwestern University School of Law, 357 East Chicago Ave., Chicago.

** Head, Foreign and International Law Sections, Elbert H. Gary Library, Northwestern University School of Law.

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