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## Book Reviews

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## BOOK REVIEWS

CRIME IN AMERICA. By *Senator Estes Kefauver*. Doubleday and Co., 1951. Pages 333. \$3.50.

CRIME IN AMERICA is an unusual book; easy to read, but difficult to review adequately. It neither has literary "style," as such nor professes to have it.

It is not a story. Rather, it is a frank view of a sordid phase of contemporary history, presented simply, graphically, without flamboyance or exaggeration; a summary of the high spots of the author's experiences and observations as Chairman of the Senate Crime Investigating Committee during the twelve-month period from May of 1950 to May of 1951. We are taken swiftly to all parts of the country—big town Chicago and small town La Salle, Illinois—New York City and rural upstate, Ohio and Michigan, New Orleans and Los Angeles—no major section of the country was omitted. And the "wrong" political leaders of the Senator's own party are denounced with more rather than less forcefulness than those of the opposite party.

The book recognizes its (in part) anti-climactic character, since so many of its readers or potential readers were, through the medium of telecasting, front row spectators at parts of the drama as it unfolded. Every temptation existed, on that account, for Senator Kefauver to attempt to dramatize and over-generalize, as have other recent (though far less authoritative) works dealing with phases of the national crime picture. Surely those suspicious souls who even yet believe that the action of the committee was primarily controlled by political considerations must have anticipated that, if only for purposes of circulation, the work would be "dressed up" with flights of fancy for adornment of the cold recorded facts.

To one who knows Senator Kefauver, it is very doubtful that he ever so much as considered writing in such a manner as to secure the largest circulation for his book, unheard of as such an approach by an author may seem.

One not acquainted with the author might be excused for peering ahead into the volume from time to time to find the expected familiar political touch in some of the author's revelations. It can't be found.

The author evinces concern lest he act or write as a partisan politician. He is sure that he conducted his hearings impartially and fairly; and despite the controversial questions involved in televising the hearings (answered effectively by the author in the last chapter) even the most prejudiced political adversary would hesitate to accuse him of bias, political or otherwise, in his work as Committee Chairman. His writing mirrors his actions in scrupulous efforts toward fairness. A most unusual feature of a book of this character is the unstinting praise and credit given, not only to his committee members and staff, but to organizations and individuals throughout the country whom he found helpful to him in his work.

While through the work runs strongly the bright thread of the personal ideals and standards of political and civic morality of the author, it bids fair, in years to come, to have genuine historical value. Future investigators in the law enforcement field will have an adequate summary of the subject as it was in 1951, readily available without going through the countless reams of official transcript.

The work's value as a contribution to public service lies chiefly in this: that to those countless millions of Americans who were wont to assume that a certain amount of corruption in our cities existed, but at heart really doubted it; to those skeptics who have insisted upon proof of an alliance

between crime and politics and, not finding it, have suggested that criticism not specific is criticism not merited; to those, particularly, who have thought Crime Commissions and similar civic bodies a bit amateurish and unrealistic when they speak of crime syndicates, organized crime, and their sinister relationships with politics; to those local political leaders who have blustered a general defense to every criticism of local law enforcement—to these and countless others there has been given official top-national-level authority that things have been as bad as supposed, and much worse. And to what is probably the great majority of our citizenry, which felt that conditions, however bad, were not very much different than in father's time, the revelations of the committee and its chairman must be shocking. City by city, operation by operation, crook by crook, in a scant 300 pages, the organized and interconnected nature and scope of racketeering and law violation of all types, frequently thriving under political nurture, is exposed to the light of day, where all can see who will.

The vast TV audience coverage is a juicy morsel for those in political life whose eye is on a higher rung in the ladder. A Chairman with his eye primarily on political advancement would be expected to urge perpetuation of his committee, especially since no inconsiderable public demand existed for such a procedure. But, true to the author's character and manner of conducting the investigation he concludes that a permanent senate committee would not be in the public interest; even though public demand resulted in the continuance of the committee's life, he insisted that another should take the limelight as chairman. And instead of pontificating on the need for more governmental intervention in the field, as any "regular" politician should be expected to do, one of Kefauver's strongest recommendations, threading throughout the volume, is that the citizens themselves, through local bodies such as Crime Commissions, must assume the responsibility for raising standards of law observance at the local level.

The chapter on Nevada is not as complete as might be desired; the committee did not spend the time there which it might have done had syndicated gambling been its only subject of interest. Hence there is less than might seem warranted on the practical operations of legalized gambling—less, that is, if one is to judge from the number of interested but uninformed citizens who are convinced that licensed gambling, with the state securing the vast revenues expected to flow from it, should be adopted as the cure for all racketeering. Many who have spent time in the field of local law-enforcement and allied problems find ourselves, at times, a bit disillusioned as to the public's attitude toward genuinely honest law-enforcement. Too often we find that Mr. Average American believes ardently in law enforcement for everyone but himself. Too many of our good citizens apply only the strictest technical definition to the word "graft." Too many, allegedly fearing reprisal in the form of harm to business or actual physical violence, hold their peace when their and the public interest requires the voice to be raised. To those of us who hold jaded views on the past attitudes of the public toward integrity and honesty in places high and low, *Crime in America* holds out a promise, or if not a promise, at least a hope, that great numbers of our fellow-citizens in and out of political life who haven't "known," or haven't dared, will realize that organized crime is not a convenient whipping-boy, a mere shadow in the alley, but a cancerous growth in our vitals, its malignance multiplying its cells daily, and that it is already very late for surgery. Many believe that Communism is a more presently and urgently dangerous disease, but of this ailment most of our public is at least well aware. If it is not yet known fully

how to "cure" Communism, at least our citizens are on their guard. And if sufficient numbers read *Crime in America*, we may be comforted in the knowledge that a much greater awareness of the malignancy of organized crime and what it is, means a greater likelihood of our being able to resist and ultimately defeat it.

If one doubts a sustaining interest may be found, let him read the Committee's five major conclusions, clearly and unequivocally stated, in the first eighteen pages of the book. If the reader can persuade himself that he need not read further, he must question his right to call himself a true citizen.

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AUSTIN WYMAN

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SEX OFFENSES, THE PROBLEM, CAUSES AND PREVENTION. By *Manfred S. Guttmacher, M.D.* W. W. Norton & Company, Inc. First Edition, 1951. Pp. 159. \$2.50.

Books on sex and more so on sex offenses are fraught with all sorts of difficulties. There is as much prudishness as lurid sensationalism; there are publishers' interests that force authors to write so that the book will cater to immaturity, obsessions, public panic, fears, curiosity, and many other emotions that should better be kept out of a book on sex.

M. Guttmacher's book originated from the "Jacob Gimbel Lectures on Sex Psychology" given at the University of California. Previous lecturers were Dr. Margaret Mead, Prof. John Whitehorn and Dr. Gregory Zilboorg. Stanford University may be congratulated on this series which has already contributed so much to our positive knowledge about sex problems.

The book at hand steers clear of the riffs just mentioned; it is the most sober survey of the facts, the theories, the convictions as to treatment and prevention which is at present available. It is written in a clear and highly readable style.

The author is one of the few psychiatrists who have not overlooked the sociological criticism of the psychiatric thesis in criminology. He has read Edwin Sutherland "The Diffusion of Sexual Psychopath Laws" (*AM. J. OF SOCIOLOGY*, Vol. LVI, No. 2, Sept. 1950, P. 142 ff.) He is on the other hand also familiar with the contributions of the psychoanalysts without adhering to the laymen's idea that there is a *gradus ad parnassum* in sex crimes that in other words exhibitionism and homosexuality are the lower rungs on a ladder that will lead up to rape and sex murder. It is quite clear from his own material and from that of most competent authors that this is not the case, in fact the exhibitionist has statistically a much smaller chance to become a rapist than, say, a burglar has.

The author's own material, a series of 172 sex offenders referred to the Psychiatric Clinic of the Criminal Court of Baltimore is as the author is frank to admit not a representative sample or crosssection.

There are still, as in other cities, a number of chance factors beyond the control of the psychiatrist, that will decide whether or not the offender is sent for psychiatric examination.

The author is also frank to admit that his material for lack of time was not, from the psychiatric angle, thoroughly enough examined.

The experience of the author is, however, fully sufficient for him to join those who warn against panic legislation, so-called sex psychopath laws. The difficulties in establishing the concept of the sexual psychopath are much greater than legislators and the public assume. Psychiatry, as was pointed out already, is in no position to predict the sex crime career of a "beginner."

I want to quote a paragraph which should be read by all legislators:

I have great faith in the democratic process. If it is the considered will of the majority that large numbers of sex offenders, most of whom admittedly have a high social nuisance value, be indefinitely deprived of their liberty and supported at the expense of the state, I readily yield to that judgment. But let us not deceive ourselves into believing that by this device we shall materially decrease the incidence of serious sex crime. My guess is that if we could incarcerate all minor sex offenders—and we should need huge stockades indeed in which to keep them—the rapes in this country would be reduced by 5 to 15 per cent. In our social planning we must soberly decide whether this gain is worth the price we shall have to pay.

Sum total: A worthwhile book, at present the best available, almost the only one worth reading.

New York

W. ELIASBERG

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TRIAL OF JESSIE M'LACHLAN. Edited by *William Roughead*. 301 pages and appendices. 3d edition; London and Edinburgh, William Hodge and Company, Limited, 1950. \$3.50.

Utilizing Parliamentary papers, contemporary newspaper accounts, and the original trial records, William Roughead has recreated a criminal puzzle that, almost ninety years ago, convulsed a country and even occasioned embittered debates in the cloisters of the House of Commons.

The newspapers of 1862-63 daily posed the provocative question of how did a servant girl meet her death in the house of a middle class Glasgow family. Was she silenced by a senile reprobate, James Fleming, to avert the threatened exposure of his depraved misdeeds, or did she fall prey to the treachery of a supposedly devoted friend, Jessie M'Lachlan? Though the former was the popular opinion of the day, an unmerciful trial judge and a harsh jury unanimously took the latter, needing only fifteen minutes to consider three days of testimony and to convict Mrs. M'Lachlan on the circumstantial evidence of a pawned silver plate, a bloody footprint, and a tin box containing dyed clothing. The special plea lodged by the defendant, that the murder for which she stood charged was, in truth, committed by the chief witness for the Crown, occasioned a reprieve, an extrajudicial commission of inquiry, a conditional pardon, and two lengthy Parliamentary debates—all unique in the criminal practice of Scotland. Mrs. M'Lachlan's elaborate statement, purporting to be that of an eyewitness to the actual murder, but read by counsel at her request only after a verdict of guilty had been returned, is called by the editor "probably the most remarkable document read in a Court of justice."

In including the *Trial of Jessie M'Lachlan* in its present reprinting, the *Notable British Trials Series* has chosen well. William Roughead, obviously a believer that Mrs. M'Lachlan's conviction was a gross miscarriage of justice, has been up to the discipline of organizing his evidence in a simple and straightforward introduction of eighty-one pages, leaving the emotional reaction to the reader himself. However, some of the trial testimony that follows, especially that which seems superfluous in clearing up the controversial clouds surrounding the question of the defendant's guilt, should either have been left out or more carefully edited and abridged.

The Ohio State University

HAROLD M. HELFMAN

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GROUP LIFE, THE NATURE AND TREATMENT OF ITS SPECIFIC CONFLICTS. By *Marshall C. Greco*. Philosophical Library, New York, 1950. Pp. 357. \$4.75.

The author of this interesting and highly instructive book substitutes an "historical group life emphasis for the genetic individualistic orientation" (p. 4). He considers neurotic behavior and neurotic symptoms as "a means for reconciling in the most effective manner the group elements that dominate the individual and which . . . are at the moment in conflict" (p. 5). He declares: "To cure a neurotic we must help him, not give mere insight" (p. 5). By helping, he means to create such resources for the individual as would make it possible for him to become a constructive member of society.

To the sociologist and the criminologist, Greco's approach to anti-social behavior and his criticism of orthodox psychological concepts is indeed very appealing. The extremely well written and well informed review of different schools of thought in regard to the understanding of man and his behavior, as presented in Chapters II and VII, constitutes an excellent contribution for those workers in the field who want to acquire a theoretical background.

Paying tribute to the fundamental work of Sigmund Freud and to Karen Horney's Gestalt approach Greco stresses the "panorama of group forces" and submits that "From orthodox psychonalysis to the group life theory each step was the result of covering life in terms of a larger whole" (p. 79). He presents the concept of a "group cementing process" and stresses: "We cannot make man both an individual and part of a group . . . if the group life is at the root of our neuroses we must hold that the very essence of man, every phase of him, has a group rather than an individual significance." He feels that it is not knowledge to understand the etiology of a disorder, but only a knowledge of the group and its settings will provide the answer to the problem of why certain "self-defeating" tendencies persist and that only a study will point to the proper type of treatment.

The case histories presented in "Group Life" and especially the focusing on the cases of homosexuals are enlightening and well chosen. Greco considers homosexuality to a great degree a social skill, a means for adjusting to cementing one's social settings, and the homosexual excellent material for studying the relative stability of neuroticism and the relationship of this to social ties.

In investigating hostility, Greco refers to the Freudian instinct hypothesis and to Horney's concepts of aggression. Using as an object of study the hostile and destructive tendencies encountered in inmates of penal institutions, Greco defines the basic conflict of prison inmates as follows: "To adjust to one group (the officials) they must adjust to another (inmates) and very often the two groups make contradictory demands . . . In any institutional setting the adjustment to one official may mean frustrating another; adjusting to one inmate may mean frustrating another . . . the inmate realizes that anyone he antagonizes is a potential enemy and one who can help to determine whether or not he may satisfy some of his most fundamental needs . . . A prisoner's adjustment tendencies can become so acute that he is constantly displaying intense feelings of love and hate" (p. 190-1).

The only part of the book which seems debatable to this reviewer is the author's criticism of the "unconscious processes." Here the author is over-extending himself. Statements such as the following are not too convincing arguments: "If Freud failed to find in his subjects a conscious appreciation for their difficulties, then it must have been due to the nature of the material he considered has a casual significance" (p. 257).

Even if one agrees with the author's concern about the objective validity of the evaluation of repressed, unconscious material, one can hardly accept his rejection of the strong dynamic effect of repressed material. If there were

still doubts left in this respect, research work in the field of hypnoanalysis and hypnotherapy have made it impressively clear that to disregard or to minimize the determining effect of unconscious material is to close one's eyes to proven facts. Here the author succumbs partially to the very same one-sidedness which he justifiably criticizes in others.

The discussion of treatment techniques is again a very positive contribution and most sociologists and criminologists will welcome the suggestions for a broadened treatment program, including the "human engineering" of community resources, etc.

Finally, Chapter XVI, dealing with the "role of the psychologist in a church setting" is an excellent reference to the great possibilities of influencing human behavior through a type of ministerial work, which considers social as well as psychological factors. A list of publications of staff members, Research Center for Group Dynamics, compiled by Professor Ronald Lippitt of the University of Michigan, is a valuable addition to the bibliography.

This book is warmly recommended to those who are critical of the exaggerated claims of different orthodox schools of thought in the fields of psychology and psychiatry, and to all correctional workers.

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MARCEL FRYM

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DELINQUENCY CONTROL. By *Lowell Julliard Carr*. Revised edition. New York: Harper and Bros., 1950, xvi+591. \$4.50.

This revision of a book that was well received when it first appeared in 1940 not only brings statistics and bibliography up to date but adds new sections in conformity with changed theories, social conditions, and treatment trends. Much of the new material is in the nature of expansion of material briefly treated in the original edition. Of particular interest, however, is an entirely new chapter on "War and Juvenile Delinquency."

The basic point of view is that delinquent behavior (in fact, any behavior) is the result of a personality seeking fulfillment of needs in a given environmental situation. The delinquent is one whose inner needs have not been adequately met by his immediate environment, chiefly his family, and who therefore suffers from emotional disturbances. These disturbances tend to occur frequently in disadvantaged groups who typically live in disadvantaged (slum) areas, where the community pressures are toward deviant rather than conforming behavior. The origin of delinquent behavior, therefore, is found in some combination of personality maladjustment and community deviation pressures. The main emphasis, however, is not in developing the theory of delinquent behavior, but in urging wider acceptance of responsibility by the community for developing methods of prevention and control. In this emphasis the book differs from many other books on juvenile delinquency that stress diagnosis but not practical action.

Much of the present handling of delinquency, Dr. Carr states, is based on traditional folk or commonsense ideas rather than upon scientific findings. He reviews present agency methods of treating delinquents and in Parts IV and V both reviews current efforts and outlines practical steps that should be taken in social action and social organization to combat conditions furthering delinquency and to strengthen treatment methods. Many of the chapters in these sections might belong in a text on social organization or social work. Delinquency appears here as a problem of the entire community, to be met

by community action, rather than as a problem of limited social work or legal agencies. Action is discussed on the state as well as the local level, as a function of governmental as well as private welfare agencies, as a concern of all social institutions (church and school) as well as of specialized agencies. Less emphasis than is customary is placed on the family as the responsible group in preventing delinquency and more upon the community as a whole, probably in recognition of the fact that the family that produces delinquents is too weak to help itself.

The book is adequate in its systematic treatment for a text in college courses; its emphasis upon practical methods of social action, treatment, and community organization make it valuable also for social workers, civic leaders, and governmental officials. The style of writing is clear and vivid. Statistical tables and maps are few but significant and are provided with ample explanation. Occasional diagrams make graphic certain theoretical relationships. The book can be especially recommended for the person more interested in practical procedures than in theoretical discussions.

Rockford College

RUTH SHONLE CAVAN

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TERROR IN THE STREETS. By *Howard Whitman*. Pp. xii, 431. New York, The Dial Press, 1951. \$3.50.

Since World War II the dynamite hidden in sick, twisted minds has exploded into a sudden orgy of lustful, violent, and psychopathic crime. Howard Whitman has called it "crime against people," hoodlum crime, the hidden terror which has burst upon our streets. Its chief exponents are neither the old-time safecracker nor the professional bank robber nor the more modern machine-gun-toting gangster, but a neurotic terrorist who can lurk around the corner or even next door to you. Motivated by a sadistic worship of violence, this criminal may appear in any one of many guises—the rapist, the knifer, the strong-armed mugger, the sexual psychopath, the street thug, or the ruthless killer.

The pattern of hoodlum crime is a national one which does not differ basically from one section of the country to another. For almost two years Howard Whitman traveled through principal crime areas in the major American cities, checking the lurid records of police blotters, riding in patrol radio cars, talking intimately to teen-age punks, thieves, rapists, murderers, to their terrified victims and the embittered parents of victims, to baffled public officials and law enforcement officers. From this mosaic of evidence *Terror in the Streets* gives more than a dramatic recital of names, dates, and facts. The book suggests a positive program of action to counteract the plague of hoodlum violence and to make our cities safe.

First, Whitman demands that the American cities return the beat-patrolman back to the streets where he can actually be the neighborhood security officer and not just a Keystone cop riding around in a prowler car. Radio cruisers, he maintains, are helpful in the quick detection of crime, but are absolutely worthless in the prevention of crime. Protection of our citizenry is only possible when there is a policeman in sight patrolling the streets, a policeman who has been trained to be a combination social worker, law enforcer, counselor, friend, and protector of his neighborhood. *Terror in the Streets* hits hard at police bungles, slipshod enforcement operations, and the corrupting influences of politics which have laid our cities wide open to crime.

Whitman does not pause here. He believes that children should be given