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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

GROUP WORK IN THE INSTITUTION. By *Gisela Konopka*. New York: Whiteside, Inc., and William Morrow and Company, 1954, xxi + 304 pp., \$4.50.

Fritz Redl who wrote the Foreword says that this is "the first real, experience-based textbook on institutions for the group worker's training. He might as well have said "for the worker's training." For what books on institutions, except compendia, designed for any worker, whether case, group or recreation worker, psychiatrist or psychologist, are available? Redl also confirms Mrs. Konopka's challenge (the subtitle is "A Modern Challenge") by pleading for the performance of social work in institutions instead of the continued "awakening" to the need for this type of social work. According to this reviewer's experience Redl is over-optimistic; and so is the author. America as a whole has not even "awakened" to the need for rehabilitation in institutions of all kinds,—to wit the often cited source in this book, Albert Deutsch's *Our Rejected Children*,—let alone adequate action in this area.

Of course, Redl is right in praising this book; in fact, no praise could be too lavish. It is not only a "first" in the field and therefore tremendously important; it is likely to remain the only work of its kind for some time to come servicing the therapeutic personnel in our institutions (and of these only a few are trained!). It also blazes a trail (a) by bringing a variety of institutional settings before the reader for practical consideration; (b) by demonstrating a definite methodology backed by a frame of reference; (c) by covering most, if not all, aspects of institutional life in a nutshell; (d) by interspersing short case illustrations in order to underline certain points made; and (e) by being concise, brief, and altogether readable.

Needless to say that all these virtues have another side and this by no fault of the author's. When Mrs. Konopka attempts to define the

methodology of social group work in a few pages (whereas other authors have written fat books on it), the definition has to be summary and sketchy. Thus it misleads all those readers who are not professional group workers (my guess is that the majority of them are not). Then there are six chapters, uneven in length, about various settings, such as children's institutions, institutions for unmarried mothers, for handicapped children, for juvenile delinquents, for the aged, and the prisons. Each of these chapters ordinarily would require a book by itself in order to cover adequately the aspects proper to each. Under the circumstances, however, Mrs. Konopka has done an admirable job, in covering so much territory in so limited space! Also, probably, she showed a good sense of proportion in keeping the case illustrations short and few, although undoubtedly many readers would like more. This concise spaciousness and the style should make the book a headliner among the professionals concerned, although interested lay persons should profit pleasantly from it.

One serious reservation that can be raised against the author (one that has been urged by this and other reviewers for many years) is her dilution of the concepts of group work and group therapy. Only last year, Saul Scheidlinger in "Social Casework" clarified these concepts; significantly the author does not list him in her bibliography. For instance, the work done in prisons and quoted by the author, the work of men like Robert H. Gault, McCorkle, or Bixby, or the work of group therapists, such as Slavson, is hardly ever group work, since that work usually involves cases with behavior problems, mostly serious. The author is well aware that group work proper does not include the aspects of authority on the part of the worker (p. 259-260)—the reader may wish a fuller discussion of this all too important topic of authority!—and why the worker should

exercise it. This reviewer can find no fault with Mrs. Konopka's thinking; it is sound and shared by most practitioners. But why does she call it group work or even "clinical group work" instead of by its proper name "group psychotherapy?" This dilution of definition, whether she deals with discussion groups with unmarried mothers (where it is usually group work) or with prisoners (where it is mostly group therapy), will only contribute to further confusion and discord in the professional ranks.

While this reviewer takes issue with Mrs. Konopka on these points (and a few other, minor, ones), the fact remains that the book is long "overdue" (the author's word) on the scene of professional literature. Some of the larger chapters, such as "Social Group Work in Children's Institutions," "Social Group Work in Institutions for Delinquent Children," and "Social Group Work in Prisons" may stand out for years as real contributions. Although there is a bibliography of six pages, most of it deals with general aspects and most of the items are articles rather than books, with the possible exception of Redl and Suzanne Schulze. Among the authors of major articles on correctional work, we find Gault, McCorkle, and Milner.

It is to be hoped that the book will find a wide audience, which should include lay persons only, if only that they may find out how much needs to be done—and not merely what is being done.

Los Angeles

HANS A. ILLING

MOTIVATION AND MORALE IN INDUSTRY. By *Morris S. Viteles*, W. W. Norton & Co., 1953, Pp. 510. \$9.50

If motivation were considered as an osmotic membrane, so to speak, between personality and the situations, studies on motivation could be tackled from this or the other side of the membrane. The starting point might be the personality or the situation. In this book, the attempt has been made to assemble the available material and build a theory of motivation by considering first, the three persisting needs in industry: to increase production, to promote

employee satisfaction and adjustment at work and to curtail industrial strife. The material was gathered mainly from present day American and British experimental studies and attitude surveys. Older studies that are by now classics and have left their imprint on motivational practice and theory, have not been considered in this book, especially not those done on the European continent. Almost virtually omitted are the psychoanalytic viewpoints. "The most apparent contribution of psychoanalytic theory is in the form of terminology which has been widely adopted by psychologists concerned . . . with motivational theory." Viteles relegates this to the footnote basement. Likewise, modern experimental psychological theory of motivation, as derived from comparative psychology, is practically omitted. The book then, is based on an imposing array of literature and it will be consulted as such by those who want a guide to the innumerable papers in this field published every year.

The author's own attitude is a conservative one, he does not deviate from what is at present the established philosophy of the business man who is college trained and has tried to enlighten himself by a certain measure of psychological insight.

For the criminalist this book is recommended as a guide to motivational studies. Looking over the fence is particularly helpful in the field of criminology.

New York City

W. G. ELIASBERG

THE TRAFFIC IN NARCOTICS. By *Harry J. Anslinger* and *William F. Tompkins*. Funk & Wagnalls Company, New York, 1953. Pp. 354. \$4.50.

Although the authors modestly address this book to the general public in an attempt "to present the facts," it is obvious to this reviewer that every practitioner working with addicts in one capacity or another will welcome the book as a comprehensive text on the manifold aspects of narcotics.

It is an accepted thesis among the psychological disciplines that narcotic addiction is one of many more severe symptoms of underlying

neuroses. Another one, for instance, is alcoholism. In other words, narcotic addiction is the symptom of a mental illness, not the illness itself. This very important point is recognized but very vaguely by the authors; the space allotted to the cause and cure of addicts on the basis of their emotional illness is skimpy. One would have wished a more illuminating dissertation to this end.

On the other hand, the volume is filled with useful information. There is a history of the drugs from ancient times to the present. There is an accurate description of the chemical ingredients of each drug with comments as to their medical usefulness and their "social" harmfulness. There is a description of the various trade channels through which the drugs are handled commercially and gangland's perpetual wars in the black market for the much desired "snow." Crime and law enforcement take a prominent place in this book. Of great value are two appendices: one, a glossary of terms used by professional chemists as well as by "professional" consumers; the other, a reprint of the Uniform Narcotic Drug Act, passed by Congress in 1932.

While it seems to this reviewer that the chapter on "The Individual: Methods of Treatment" is perhaps the weakest (because it falls short of comprehensiveness and fails to establish the major cause of addiction), the following chapter on "Sociological Implications" seems to be one of the best. It would take too long to elaborate on this. At all events, this chapter—like most of the others—is full of useful statistics, tables, excerpts from court records, and the like.

While a bibliography is missing, the reader will not miss it too much, in view of the book's over-all nature as a work of reference. Some of the book's aspects may quickly become obsolete, or so we hope, as better laws and surer methods of prevention will decrease addiction in this country. However, the basic material which pertains to the composition of narcotic drugs and to progress in international cooperation will become standard reference for all persons dealing with the drug addict: the law en-

forcement or parole or health officer, the judge, the psychiatrist and the social worker.

Los Angeles

HANS A. ILLING

TREATMENT OF MENTAL DISORDER. By *Leo Alexander, M.D.* W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London, 1953. \$10.00

This book should be a must for anyone interested in mental disorders and their treatment. This is the best book we have at present available. While we have a number of studies on the techniques of psychoanalysis, hypnosis, guidance, nondirective methods, shock therapy, there is no book extant the author of which has personal experience in all of these methods and is willing and able to evaluate them without prejudice. At the same time Alexander is possessed of a wide knowledge of the literature and is able to gauge his own experience on statistics. There is no use mentioning single points in which exception might be taken. No two competent authors will agree in every detail, but the enterprise as such is praiseworthy, and we may congratulate ourselves on the possession of a book, the need of which has been felt by every worker in the field.

New York

W. ELIASBERG

PROGRESS IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY. VOLUME I (Section 1). Edited by *Daniel Brower and Lawrence E. Aft.* New York: Grune & Stratton, Inc., 1952. 323 pp.

This volume constitutes a sound and well-balanced contribution to the body of existing knowledge in the growing field of clinical psychology. Each chapter has been written by a psychologist who is admittedly an expert in his or her own specialty, and among the topics dealt with are the Rorschach, Szondi, and Thematic Apperception Tests; psychoanalytic theory and practice; group psychotherapy; etc.

The book has the special merit of not being marred or virtually vitiated by rigid systems of thought or by dogmatic statements. Each contributor seems, indeed, to have a healthy awareness of the fact that clinical psychology is a comparatively new discipline still in the process of development and expansion.