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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

THE MASK OF SANITY. By *Hervey Cleckley*, M.D., The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1955, 596. \$9.50.

This second revision of Cleckley's earlier work on psychopathy is broader and more encompassing than either of the previous editions. The aim of the book cannot be better expressed than in the author's own words, "... to convey this concept: that of a biologic organism outwardly intact, showing excellent peripheral function, but centrally deficient or disabled in such a way that abilities, excellent at the only levels where we can formally test them, cannot be utilized consistently for sane purposes or prevented from regularly working toward self-destructive and other serious pathologic results."

The author presents quite clearly the concept and description of the psychopathic personality behaviorally. By the use of many case histories and numerous anecdotes the book has been made quite readable, and the psychopath seems to come to life for the reader. The psychopath's inability to profit from experience, to form close emotional relationships, to plan for the future, or to have any deep regard for social law and custom, are vividly placed before the reader and serve as the searing indictment, which Cleckley intends, of our antiquated legalistic system and its ineptness at handling such individuals as are described. The idea is pounded home that the legal system must come to recognize degrees of illness in considering competency; and to base competency not only upon "examination", but upon ability to function adequately in society.

The author presents many theoretical and historical incidents backgrounding the development of reasons "for" the psychopath, but seems himself to take no particular stand. Although certainly it is not always unwise to take no stand, the reader is entitled to more than a series of anecdotes and case history descriptions. The material is interestingly presented and is quite literary in form, content,

and most certainly has merit. But it is disappointing to find an eight page chapter entitled, "What is Wrong With These Patients? (A Basic Hypothesis)", and then not to find an hypothesis, nor anything resembling it throughout the remaining 588 pages. To make such statements as "The real psychopath resents punishment" and not to know what the author's conception of the development of such resentment is, and how it differs from psychopath to the ordinary citizen, seems hardly fair to the reader.

The book is well documented from a variety of sources and presents examples to demonstrate points from the fields of arts and letters in such manner as to make fascinating reading, and an excellent source of unusual references.

A. STANLEY WEBSTER
Knoxville, Tenn.

CRIMINOLOGY. By *Ruth Shonle Cavan*. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1955. Second Edition. Pp. XIV + 718. \$6.00.

In this volume, the term crime is employed in a general manner referring primarily to violation of criminal laws. Thus, the basic frame of reference of the first edition is maintained. Criminal behavior is thought of as being related to the opportunity for the satisfaction of needs in a social environment. Furthermore, the social environment may supply criminal models of behavior to follow.

The theoretical approach of the author is presented in the first chapter. Herein, an effort is made to distinguish between "crime" as a legal and public concept and the term "criminal"—which is reserved for human beings. This distinction is clearly followed throughout the entire volume.

Welcome additional materials are the discussions of the postwar situations regarding systematized prison systems and methods of rehabilitation. There are also interesting new chapters on "Treatment of Offenders in the Armed Forces" and "European Adult Of-

fenders and Prisons". These should serve well in helping the professional penologist, correctional worker, researcher, student, and others in the field to gain further insight into rehabilitative possibilities.

Two appendices offer stimulating considerations. Appendix A contains an historical survey of theories of criminality, while Appendix B includes definitions of crime as used by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. All of these changes, in addition to being well documented, make of the present volume a most illuminating contribution.

It is to be desired, according to this reviewer's bias, that any future revisions will present further material on the family. The author does well in pointing up the strengths and limiting aspects of the family as regards the problem of juvenile delinquency. Dr. Cavan also makes a point of stressing the importance of community agencies in cooperation with the family as playing vital roles in the prevention of delinquency and crime. No doubt, if and when another edition appears, there will be room for much elaboration concerning data on this topic.

Be that as it may, the present edition should make for stimulating inquiry and scientific advancement in the field of criminology.

ARTHUR LERNER

Los Angeles, California

FEDERAL PRISONS 1954. *Bureau of Prisons*, United States Department of Justice. Printed at United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, 1955. Pp. V + 105.

This brief contribution is a review of the work of the Federal Bureau of Prisons during the year which ended June 30, 1954. As such, it contains interesting statistics of Federal prisoners and Federal parole selection.

The Bureau of Prisons in the Department of Justice was first authorized by Congress in 1930. At that time, the Federal Government was operating two reformatories and three penitentiaries. The average prisoner population was 11,375. This report indicates that at present, the United States Government is

operating the largest prison system in the world. There are 26 institutions of various kinds. The average population today is 19,245. During 1930, the Federal courts committed to Federal institutions a total of 10,172 prisoners. At the time of this publication, 17,448 prisoners were committed.

It should be observed that behind all of the above figures and changes lie human emotions and feelings. The problem of administering such a vast nation-wide prison system is made more complex when one realizes the changes in types of offenses and sentences. In 1930, 55 percent of the long-termers committed by the Federal courts had sentences of less than 2 years. Also, 49 percent were liquor-law violators. This report reveals that during the year of its coverage, less than 9 percent were liquor offenders, and only 29 percent had sentences of under two years. The short sentence liquor-law violator appears to have been replaced by racketeers, bank robbers, drug peddlers, addicts, car thieves, income tax evaders, etc.

It is interesting to note that, "In terms of security and custodial supervision, we have had no group disturbances of any kind in any of our 26 institutions". Reduction in custodial personnel was compensated for in an intensified employee-training program and in the development and installation of new mechanical and electronic security devices. In short, much foresight and planning was required on the part of responsible authorities. However, it should be pointed up that the application of such foresight and planning are also limited by specified budgets.

The picture offered as regards Federal prisons is a real effort at objectivity in presentation of facts. The recommendations given appear to rest upon sound bases. All workers in the field should profit immensely from a reading of these valuable pages. Most of all, it is hoped that Congress will seriously consider the challenges inherent in the needs of the present Federal Prison System.

ARTHUR LERNER

Los Angeles, California

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT 1954-1955 OF THE GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. Published by the Association in Los Angeles, California through Meyer Elkin, Treasurer, 1752 No. Berendo Street, Los Angeles, Pp. 64, \$2.00.

The Group Psychotherapy Association of Southern California, founded by two psychologists, Louis Sparer and Arthur Lerner, and one social worker, Meyer Elkin, had originally as its aim to exchange ideas and experiences relating to group psychotherapy in correctional settings only; for the three founders were, and still are, members of correctional agencies or institutions. Since the foundation of the Association in Spring, 1953, however, the membership has grown to nearly seventy and on its flag is spelled in capital letters the word "Interdisciplinary." The Association holds three classes of membership: psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers, and all three disciplines work harmoniously and fruitfully together.

The present Second Annual Report contains the 14 papers presented during the Annual Meeting in Los Angeles on June 11, 1955. The authors are the psychoanalysts Max A. Sherman, Isadore Ziferstein, and Alex Blumstein; the psychiatrists Solon D. Samuels, Boris Zemsky, James O. Jackson; the internist, A. W. Pearson; the psychologists, George R. Bach, Charlotte Buhler, Belle Dubnoff, Arthur Lerner, Walther D. Joel, and Margaret L. Birge; and the psychiatric social worker, Hans A. Illing. The topics deal with psychosomatics (such as Identical Twins, mentally deficient children, or alcoholism), analytical concepts, psychopaths and psychotics in groups, group therapy in correctional settings (such as Dubnoff's "Acting out Behavior in a Group of Adolescent Girls," and Arthur Lerner's "Research and the Group Method in a City Jail Setting,") and theoretical presentations (such as Hans A. Illing's "Personal Correspondence with C. G. Jung Regarding Group Psychotherapy").

Readers who are interested in current theories and practices of group psychotherapy will find this brochure a live wire and a real bargain.

HANS A. ILLING

Los Angeles

TRUANTS FROM LIFE. THE REHABILITATION OF EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED CHILDREN. By Bruno Bettelheim. The Free Press, Glencoe, Illinois, 1955, Pp. xvi + 511, \$6.00.

In a series of three volumes, the first, "Love Is Not Enough," having been a "best-seller," the present book constitutes the second volume and aims to present four case histories, those of Paul, Mary, John, and Harry, each comprising an average of one hundred pages. Readers who are familiar with *Love Is Not Enough* will remember that Bettelheim speaks there of his school, the Sonia Shanhman Orthogenic School of the University of Chicago, a residential treatment institution devoted to the rehabilitation of children with very severe emotional disturbances. The school aims, also, to study the causation and treatment of primary behavior orders of childhood, in training persons as specialists in the treatment of disturbed children or in child-care generally.

The purpose of the volume, according to the author, is twofold: Since many questions which readers have asked about Bettelheim's first volume could not be answered therein, this book answers enquiries about the children's lives after they leave the school, about their adjustment to the world outside and their eventual success in life; and other questions about the school's staff.

As to how the children make out inside and outside the institution, the author explains that the selection of the four case histories was made on the basis of the "ordinary" case, in which there were no unusual failures or successes. He states that children need to remain at the school for three or four years, or longer, before they can be considered "rehabilitated." Therefore, a great many case histories were omitted, e.g., histories of those who were not institutionalized over a period of three or more years. Most of the histories presented were written in 1952 and 1953, and brought up-to-date in the spring of 1954. The children represented in these histories are considered "a good cross section of the wide variety of disturbances with which we deal." All of the children treated are classified as schizophrenic. Among the children presented here, Harry was considered a delinquent, John was psychosomatic, Paul

showed an "institutional psychosis," and Mary was diagnosed as schizophrenic. That only one of the four was the history of a girl is explained by the fact that up to a few years ago there was, for technical reasons, a boy-girl ratio of three-and-a-half to one. This has since been "corrected" in 1952.

Even without the benefit of having read "Love Is Not Enough," most readers will treasure this book for all those reasons which make a book a success: professional jargon is at a minimum, so that readers who are not practitioners in any of the social science fields can easily and enjoyably follow the histories. The lucid and scintillating style so well remembered from "Love Is Not Enough" is found here again. Above all: for the practitioner, including the criminologist, especially one who works closely with the juvenile courts, these case histories come so close to perfection of detail in the background of the children that they could be considered classics in a field hitherto pretty barren. In this reviewer's opinion, psychologists and social workers will want this book as a most important tool, particularly if they specialize in child welfare or child psychology. Psychiatrists, however, (the author is a psychoanalyst) will find these analytically oriented histories a beginning lesson in a field which most of them have little opportunity to explore.

HANS A. ILLING

Los Angeles

CRIME IN CALIFORNIA. *State Bureau of Criminal Statistics, 1954* (California State Department of Justice, 1955). Pp. 108.

This little pamphlet represents the third annual report issued by the Bureau of Criminal Statistics in the California State Department of Justice. It covers felony crimes, adult felony arrests, adult felony prosecutions, and jail populations. To this extent, the 1954 Report is similar to previous reports issued by this Bureau for 1952 and 1953, and the data are so compared.

The main objectives of the series, within which this Report is one, are to keep in focus the trend of crime within the state, and to ex-

periment with different systems of uniform crime reporting to the end that a satisfactory example can be set by other states. The Bureau, recognizing the invalidity of criminal indexes usually employed by investigators, gathered its data on the assumption that all available facts relating to the incidence of offenses and the results of criminal law enforcement are essential for determining crime trends. Consequently, facts were compiled on the basis of the number of offenses reported, the number of persons arrested and booked on felony charges, the number charged in the courts of general trial jurisdiction, and the number convicted.

Felony crime rates are presented in the Report in tabular form and according to select areas of the state and type of felony. Trends are shown for the period 1953-54. More specifically, there are comparisons for the two years made according to rates of complaints, rates of police disposition, and rates of court disposition. The Bureau reports that major felony crimes decreased slightly during the period under study, and adult felony arrests, prosecutions, and convictions increased substantially.

One observes in this Report an exceedingly painstaking attempt to coordinate criminal reporting by various law-enforcing agencies to the end of realizing more valid and reliable criminal indexes. Although the data do not appear to be absolutely comparable at all points, sociologists will welcome this type of criminal reporting at least from two points of view. First, there is set the example of attempts at common definitions of terms at the various levels of agency reporting. Second, facts are so supplied by the report that it becomes possible for an investigator to approximate the extent to which offenders wither away as they move through the machinery of justice from complaint to court disposition.

On the whole, the Report gives law-enforcing agencies of California a clearer and a more accurate picture of the existing crime situation in that state than that given such agencies in many other states.

HENRY ALLEN BULLOCK

Texas Southern University

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF CHARACTER (2nd Edition).

By *A. A. Roback*. Sci-Art Publishers, 1954. XXX, pp. 747 with index, s. 42.

A. A. Roback rightly claims to have been the originator of the revived interest in such neglected psychological items as character and personality. When the first edition of this book appeared in 1925, under the title *Problems of Personality*, the Stimulus-Response-psychology swayed the field; there was no space in the laboratories or the textbooks for concepts and facts which offered so much resistance to the "exact" methods. Times and climates have changed since, largely under the influence of the historical and comparative surveys, as set forth in Roback's work. To the present-day reader, the survey of the psychoanalytic approach and the approaches of the "para-Freudian" will be of particular interest.

Unfortunately this review can not go into the merits of Roback's own concepts—his differentiation between inhibition and postponement—as set forth in Chapter 39, "Character and the Values," and Chapter 40, "Character in an Atomic Age." Suffice it to say that every one interested in the problems of character will find much material for thought in the circumspect analyses found in this book. Among the prospective readers there should also be the criminalists, since psychiatric abnormalities and sociological conditioning can not claim more explanatory value in the understanding of crime than what we have been accustomed, in the last few years, to calling character.

W. G. ELLASBERG

New York

ASSIGNMENT: PRISON RIOTS. By *Peg and Walter McGraw*. New York, Henry Holt & Company, 1954, pp. 270, \$3.95.

There are, perhaps, two kinds of assignments. One is to journalists, to "cover all the facts" and to cover or uncover "news." Although most journalists are sincere and hard-working, they are often unfamiliar with the background and causes of the "facts," in the area of criminology as in others.

The other kind of assignment is to the professional, who searches out the facts but, better

still, the truth. That the facts and the truth are not always identical, this book gives ample evidence.

No doubt the authors, journalists and creators of radio and television shows, have completed their "assignment" successfully, if the reader wants "facts," and if he also wants some mystery and scandal. All this and a lucid style should make this book a "hit" for the lay reader.

But the criminologist will have to reject the methods and the "results" of this performance as one of the worst failures to come to the desk of this reviewer in a long time.

To judge the ability of a professional practitioner and administrator one has to know his field. The McGraws went cold into their assignment. They say, "We had a whole week-end to relax and research everything there was to know about prisons, prisoners and prison riots." They comment that "it was a week-end full of surprises." And so the book appears to this reviewer!

The authors started off with the best intentions and, I think, correctly, by interviewing all sides to the "story" they were after so zealously. In the end, did they get the story? They interviewed prisoners, ex-prisoners, prison guards, wardens, prison officials, state officials, and even the governors of some states. The excerpts from these taped interviews are challenging. But, by any scientific standard, can the sampling of some 20 ex-convicts and their "unanimous" opinions about their former "alma mater" be considered valid? In interviewing all these individuals, each of them more or less connected with the correctional system of a state, they omitted one party, which looms and lurks behind the pages, but never really makes its appearance as the real protagonist: the public. The public includes Peg and Walter McGraw; the public is just as ignorant about prisons as the McGraws were and, still are in my opinion.

This basic element of the authors' ignorance about penology—surely no fault of theirs!—threads through the whole book and, at least on one occasion, oversteps the bounds of decency. That is when the authors attack the seasoned