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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

VIOLENCE BEHIND BARS. By *Vernon Fox*. New York: Vantage Press, Inc., 1956, pp., 317, \$3.75.

This book is a report on what has been called the most dangerous riot in prison history—the riot in the Michigan State Prison at Jackson in 1952. The author, then Assistant Deputy Warden in charge of individual treatment, was the central figure throughout. He was more responsible than anyone else for ending the riot, for saving the lives of hostage guards, and for averting incalculable bloodshed. His example of cool-headedness and of physical and moral courage is difficult to match, if, indeed, it can be equaled. When others were quivering and running away, he stood his ground and won the respect of the rioters—an extraordinary example of applied psychology in the management of angry men.

This reviewer knows of no other source which provides a picture as clear as the one Professor Fox has given us of the politically oriented “investigation,” like that which a state government will inevitably institute to “fix the blame” for a prison riot. A serious disturbance in the “big house” inflames the public (voters). To placate them—find a goat. For this purpose it is necessary to point to a particular individual after a “thorough official investigation.” Fox knows all about that.

The reader must be alert to follow all the varieties of loaded phrase, the contradictions and the shadings of misrepresentation which abound in an investigation like the one held in Michigan during the month or so after the riot. Politicians describe theirs as an honorable occupation! Perhaps it is true—when they are not engaged in an “investigation” like this one, where, as they seem to see it, “the true situation is of passing importance” (p. 299–300).

Why prison riots? This question is impossible to answer if we adopt a strict definition of “cause.” Generally speaking, a background of frustration and deadening routine is probably always present. Pent-up energy, then, like a charge of powder in a hair-trigger rifle may be

set off by the slightest stimulus, perhaps a chance remark by an unwary guard. Food may be good; medical care of high grade; parole boards may be respected; and yet rioters may rage (p. 36). The moral is not far off.

It is in the last chapter of the book—one might say in the last three pages—that the author focuses the reader’s attention upon his penal philosophy. He offers fifteen hypotheses with reference to causes of riots. These indicate a breadth of view and thoughtfulness which Dr. Fox has derived from long and responsible association with prison management.

Finally, in the last paragraph: “While it is desirable to have a peaceful prison, it is more important to have an effective one. Effectiveness is predicated on strength and understanding. . . . It takes a tolerant orientation . . . to understand and use the dynamics of human behavior. . . . Treatment and custody should compatibly intertwine—but custody can’t come first.”

ROBERT H. GAULT

Evanston, Illinois

JUVENILE OFFENDERS BEFORE THE COURTS.

By *Max Grünhut*. London: Oxford University Press, 1956, Pp. 143. \$3.40.

The author has done a commendable job in surveying juvenile delinquency and treatment practices of the courts in 134 police districts in England and Wales. According to this volume, the post-war period of readjustment brought with it a substantial increase in the number of juvenile delinquents. The problem was further accentuated by the various forms of crimes and figures for juvenile offenders in different parts of Great Britain. Incidentally, these variations were reflected in the separate reactions of the magistrates concerned. The author presents statistical evidence and other data to point up the effect of various forms of corrective treatment on similar and different groups of juvenile offenders.

At present, the tide seems to be turning. Dr.

Grünhut endeavors in the last chapter to draw conclusions from post-war experiences and recent tendencies in light of evidence from other countries. The value of this book lies primarily in the nature of the knowledge it

contains. It is such that it can be most effectively applied in preventive and remedial phenomena in the area of juvenile delinquency.

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

Compiled by Kurt Schwerin†

LA GIUSTIZIA PENALE. Rome 61st year, no. 7, July, 1956.

N. Bronovi, *Sullo sviluppo degli studi criminologici in America del Nord* (The development of criminological studies in North America) (Sec. I, col. 243-51.)

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF CRIMINAL POLICY. United Nations, N. Y. No. 9, January, 1956.

Pt. I: *The treatment of juvenile delinquents in Australia and New Zealand* (p. 1-19).—*La délinquance juvénile envisagée comme problème du travail* (Juvenile delinquency as a labor problem), by the International Labor Organization (p. 25-53).—*The educational aspects of juvenile delinquency*, by UNESCO (p. 55-61).—*Problemas de desorganización social relacionados con la industrialización y la urbanización en los países de rápido desarrollo económica*, por UNESCO (The process of industrialization, urbanization and social disorganization) (p. 64-73).—*The detection of the "pre-delinquent" juvenile*, by the World Health Organization (p. 74-79).—Each article is followed by a summary in two other languages, English,

French, or Spanish respectively. Pt. II: *United Nations activities in the field of the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders* (p. 84-96).—Pt. III: Notes, communications, meetings.—Pt. IV: Bibliography.

KRIMINALISTIK. Hamburg. Tenth year, nos. 4-6, April-June, 1956.

Roland Grassberger, *Gibt es eine verbrecherische veranlagung?* (Is there a criminal predisposition?) (no. 4, p. 113-16; no. 5, p. 153-58).—H. Becker, *Ein neues gerät für kriminaltechnische untersuchungen (Infrarot-Bildwandler)* (A new instrument for criminological investigations) (no. 4, p. 128-29).—M. Frei, *Mikrospuren bei der abklärung von unfällen* (Microtraces in the investigation of accidents) (no. 6, p. 211-14).

TIJDSCHRIFT VOOR STRAFRECHT. Leiden. Vol. 65, no. 1/2, 1956.

G. Langemeier, *Het medisch beroepsgeheim* (The medical professional secret: The legal aspect) (p. 1-13).—J. Brutel de la Rivière, *Over het beroepsgeheim van de medicus* (The professional secret of the physician) (p. 14-28).—J. E. Jonkers, *Juridische aspecten van de fysiopsychologische bewijsvoering* (Legal aspects of the physio-psychological proof) (p. 29-44).—B. Stokvis, *Medische aspecten van de fysiopsychologische bewijsvoering* (Medical aspects of the physio-psychological proof) (p. 45-58).

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