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are virtually never corrected by legislatures in which lawyers predominate. The jurors who will pass on the guilt or innocence of the defendant must be persons who have not read the newspapers, listened to the radio, looked at a television screen, possess no opinions or convictions of any kind and are devoid of curiosity. The ideal juror, says Dinneen, must be a “complete moron, an idiot, or a liar and hypocrite.”

Much has been written in the past regarding the code of honor that exists among criminals. If any code of ethics exists at all, says Dinneen, it is based solely on personal selfishness. The man who takes the rap calls the tune while his pals who owe him their liberty dance to it. The criminal refuses to talk for the very sensible reason that he is liberally paid to keep his mouth shut. He is often a cell-cooped blackmailer who demands and gets what he wants.

Dinneen is well versed in the subject of crime and criminals. Although the book purports to be a “documentary of the development of the criminal empire in America” the characters are fictitious.

Virgil W. Peterson
Chicago, Illinois


The authors have written a volume which is a dependable source of information. Diligent explorations into the field of the psychopathic personality are always to be welcomed as a step further in broadening the horizons in a most difficult area.

This book makes a serious attempt to compile and evaluate information about the psychopathic personality. An effort is made also to evaluate “milieu therapy” as practiced at New York’s Wiltwyck School for Boys and by such investigators as Aichhorn, Redl, and Bettleheim. Society is always interested in a kind of treatment which can modify the behavior of a psychopathic child prior to his becoming a social menace.

The authors stress neurological and environmental influences as causal factors in the development of psychopathic personality. Their concept of “psychopathy” may be challenged by some. Nevertheless, whatever controversy ensues as a result of reading this book should push this field of psychological knowledge forward in terms of both its theory and practice.

Arthur Lerner
Los Angeles, California

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

(Titles listed here are not thereby precluded from later review)


HAMLET'S MOUSE TRAP. By Arthur Wormhoudt, Philosophical Library, 1957, Pp. 221. $3.50.


