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## Book Reviews

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## BOOK REVIEWS

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STUDIES IN SCIENTIFIC HYPNOSIS. By *Jerome M. Schneck*, M.D., *Nervous and Mental Disease Monographs*, New York, 1954. Pp. 333, \$6.50.

The interest in hypnosis has been recently popularized by the best-selling book "The Search for Bridey Murphy" by Morey Bernstein.

In scientific circles there has always been a great reluctance, if not an emotional resistance, towards hypnotic techniques. Freud's exclusion of hypnosis from psycho-analytic procedures contributed to the criticism of psychiatrists, who dared to apply and advocate hypno-analysis and other hypnotic methods. In his "Studies in Scientific Hypnosis" Jerome M. Schneck, M. D., who has a distinguished scientific and clinical record, reviews his subject in a most enlightening way. He lists among used hypnotic techniques the following: "Free association in hypnosis, including visual imagery (he calls it 'scene visualization'), hypnotically induced dreams, hypnotically re-enforced guiding suggestions, age regression and revivification as well as hypnotically produced visual and auditory hallucinations, etc." He also offers an excellent up-to-date review of literature on hypnoanalysis.

In his chapter on "Critical Evaluation of Hypnosis", Dr. Schneck discusses the applicability of hypnotherapy. "Hypnosis", he states, "may be employed for its relaxing effect with added reassuring comments in order to allay anxiety. Direct symptom removal may be attempted without a guarded approach. Psychological functioning of patients may be studied to varying degrees and lengths. Hypnotherapy may be aimed at uprooting important buried memories and integrating the past and present, understanding the significance and role of symptoms, illustrating patterns of behaviour and psychological defenses; it may be supportive and it may attempt to reconstruct, but it is always limited by contemporary knowledge of psychodynamics in general".

For the criminologist a report on "A Military Offense Induced by Hypnosis" is of special interest.

It has been argued repeatedly whether hypnosis can be used for criminal purposes, by ordering a person under hypnosis to carry out specific acts of a criminal nature. The case described by Dr. Schneck is not conclusive in this respect. A military person was hypnotized and told to return to the psychiatrist's office at a certain time. The psychiatrist was unaware that the hour indicated to the hypnotized man conflicted with the latter's military duties. The man did carry out the post-hypnotic order and displayed a great amount of anxiety when he, for reasons unknown to him, felt compelled to leave his military assignment. In this case neither the hypnotizing psychiatrist nor the hypnotized person knew that the hypnotic suggestion would constitute an evasion of duty.

This reviewer has little doubt that it is possible to make a good hypnotic subject violate moral and/or legal rules under certain circumstances. This is contrary to the prevalent opinion, that a person cannot be effectively influenced under hypnosis to commit a crime, if he is not personality-wise "predisposed" to the commitment of such an offense. It requires a careful conditioning of the subject and a series of specific suggestions, destined to make the immoral or illegal act morally acceptable by presenting it as permissible under the hypnotized person's code of ethics. This can, for instance, be done by causing visual or auditory hallucinations, or delusions which would make the hypnotized person believe that he is acting in self defense, etc.

For the research worker in the field of human behavior hypnotic techniques present an especially fascinating challenge.

In this reviewer's experience and opinion, this tool of experimental research holds a tremendous promise. It affords an opportunity to observe essential psychodynamics almost as in a test tube situation. In the correctional field

there is almost no limit to what could be achieved treatment-wise as well as preventively if we were in the position to observe the defense mechanisms of rationalization, displacement, projection, etc., in regard to post-hypnotically induced acts and then use this knowledge in each specific case for counteracting the patient's crimogenic impulses.

Dr. Schneck's book is excellent and important reading for students as well as practitioners in the field of rehabilitation of offenders.

MARCEL FRYM, J. D.

Hacker Foundation, Beverly Hills, Calif.

SCHULD-LUEGE-SEXUALITAET. By *Ernst Seelig*.

Stuttgart, Germany: Ferdinand Enke Verlag, 1955, pp. vi + 231, DM 29, 80.

A testimonial to the author on his 60th birthday, this volume contains a number of papers, some of them first published elsewhere which discuss what the author feels are the problems playing the major role in every criminal proceeding. Although the author is a jurist and as such a criminologist, he delves into psychological phenomena, which are not treated in the law books. His footnotes are copious and his learning profound. However, reservations may be in order when the author speaks of a *kriminogene Disposition* (criminal disposition), meaning an increased suggestibility on the part of innately weak individuals. He speaks, in this connection, of a decrease of *Schuld* and an increase of dangerousness. While these reservations are not necessarily shared by this reviewer, it should be stressed that his chapter on *Persoenlichkeit und Verantwortung*, (personality and responsibility), honestly attempts to cope with the basic problems of "good" and "bad" in juridical idiom and, therefore, will stimulate most readers. Another chapter on *Die psychodiagnostische Ausdrucksregistrierung und ihre Verwendung in der Kriminologie*, (the psychodiagnostic registration of expression and its use in criminology), discusses the distinction of Jaspers' physiological phenomena and movements of expression and its three methodical points of view: (1) There are no general connections between certain experiences of an individual and his physiological changes; (2)

Any distinctions or differences are based on the psycho-somatic dispositions of the individual, and (3) it is not sufficient to be limited to just one type movements, which describe an individual's expressions (*Ausdrucksbewegung*).

Seelig's field of research encompasses the *universitas litterarum*, which includes the penal code and philosophy of jurisprudence as well as psychology, biology, and the natural sciences. The book should offer every reader something of interest and thus make the volume of selected writings available to everyone

HANS A. ILLING

Los Angeles

JUGEND-KRIMINOLOGIE (CRIMINOLOGY OF YOUTH), By *Wolf Middendorff*. A. Henn, Verlag, Ratingen. 1956, Pp. 344.

This "criminology of the youthful age groups," written by a judge of great experience, is a respectable and remarkable attempt to recover the start the United States and England have gained in the legal treatment and the psychological guidance of juvenile offenders. There is a good chapter on vandalism. The interrelations of war and juvenile delinquency as well as the post-war criminality should not be omitted. Whilst the divorce "orphan" can best be studied in the United States, Germany with her tremendous casualties would offer abundant material for the analysis of the war and post-war orphan.

This well-written book will interest all concerned with the research aspects of pre-delinquent and delinquent juveniles.

HANS VON HENTIG

Bonn

BETRUG UND URKUNDENFÄSCHUNG (FRAUD AND FORGERY) Round-table discussion, held and edited by the Bundes-Kriminalamt, Wiesbaden 1956, S. 236

At a five day's meeting the German "Scotland Yard"—its jurisdiction is much more limited, but may be extended—has been discussing all angles of the most modern, ever increasing types of crime, confidence game and forgery. All contributions are not on the same

level. Yet at least half of the papers read deserve high praise and are conducive to better insight in a complex and protean phenomenon. Excellent are the essays of Dr Zirpins on the personality of the fraud, of Eschenbach on the confidence man and his victim, and of Michalke dealing with the matrimonial swindler.

HANS VON HENTIG

Bonn

**CRIME AND THE PENAL SYSTEM: A Textbook of Criminology.** By *Howard Jones*. London: University Tutorial Press, Ltd., 1956. Pp. 269.

Criminology is "the science that studies the social phenomenon of crime, its causes, and the measures which society directs against it" (p. 1). At present, this claim to scientific status is based upon the proficiency of the criminologist in research methods rather than in theory. One can agree with Howard Jones, lecturer at the University College of Leicester, that neither a United States or British investigator has developed a logically coherent theory of crime causation. But this state of affairs is not because "the causes of crime are multiple . . . the process of causation, complex" (p. 261). It is rather that, to paraphrase MacIver, legal proscription is the only element common to the heterogeneous behaviors subsumed under the concept, crime. Although the author does briefly recognize the feasibility of studying homogeneous units of criminality, he fails to mention the excellent contributions of Cohen, Cressey, Lemert, and Lindesmith. Except for these omissions, the leading ideas on causation are examined in the first eight chapters of the book.

Punishment, penal systems, and the prevention of criminality are considered in the remaining twelve chapters. These sections are of particular interest to the reader who desires knowledge of current practices and trends in Britain. There is also included here a statement of the author's view on causation. On the basis of the work of Burt, Healy and Bronner, and Bowlby, he feels that "the prevention of emotional deprivation in early infancy is probably the most constructive single step

which could be taken to prevent serious criminality in later years" (p. 248).

Despite its brevity, "Crime and the Penal System" adequately covers the topics generally found in criminology textbooks.

EDWIN D. DRIVER

University of Massachusetts

**WE CALL THEM CRIMINALS.** By *Ralph S. Banay*. Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., 1957. Pp. XI and 291. \$3.95.

This book contains no bibliography, no index, no list of suggested readings and no footnotes. It is written for popular consumption in the best meaning of the word. This introductory remark should in no way be interpreted as disparaging. Quite to the contrary, the reviewer would wish to see Banay's book high on the best seller's list. There is an urgent need to give the population at large and the prospective jurors among them, a clearer idea of what criminals are and what they are not. The author, a psychiatrist, while avoiding controversies, offers a well balanced theoretical picture of the criminal and he leads us into empathic understanding with his "profile of a sex offender," the description of "the mad dogs," the "conversation with a mass murderer" and other highly dramatic but not exaggerated analyses of criminals. The book is skillfully written, well organized and should be used as a text wherever the interest of the public in crime is to be aroused. It would not further the salutary purpose of Banay's book, if this reviewer were to emphasize controversial problems in criminology.

W. G. ELIASBERG

New York

**BOY PROSTITUTION.** By *Jens Jersild*, translated from the Danish by Oscar Bojesen. Copenhagen: G. E. C. Gad, 1956. 104 pp.

The illegitimate commercialization of sexual relations by females has received much attention. Less publicized is the group of males who accept remuneration in money or goods for submitting to homosexual acts. By means of data based on observation, personal documents, and statistics, Jersild, the Chief of Morality Police