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Book Reviews

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100) and then compare subsequent years with this base. This would be somewhat analogous to the notion of a Standard of Living Index. Since a completely accurate crime rate or etiology index does not exist, this ratio would still represent a crude rate, but one that could be continually improved as the accuracy of the two variables in-

crease. Focusing primarily on the rates of crime particularly when they are inherently inaccurate, tends to lead to a fervent concentration on repressive measures. Including the concepts of etiology and morbidity might lead to a refocusing on the problem with intensified attention to remedial measures.

BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by

Bernard Cohen

CRIME AND CULTURE: ESSAY IN HONOR OF THORSTEN SELLIN. Edited by *Marvin E. Wolfgang*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1968. Pp. vii, 462. \$11.95.

It is not easy to review a *Festschrift* published in honor of Thorsten Sellin and prepared by his disciple and eventual collaborator in many scholarly enterprises, Marvin Wolfgang, to mark 46 years of service in social and scientific research. Instead of summarizing the 21 chapters, whose subject matter is as diverse as the orientation and disciplines of its authors, I would like to make a brief commentary on the work of Sellin, which inspired all the scientists who contributed to this book.

Sellin's scientific life reflects the history of the problems that have been preoccupying criminologists since the end of the first World War: he started publishing works on these subjects in 1922, and probably, at this very moment, has manuscripts nearing completion in the office of his home in New Hampshire, where he has retired. Still participating actively in American scientific life as well as taking action for penal reform, his presence is felt at the international level, where he represents his country in scientific circles devoted to the study of crime, penology, or the reform of penal codes and procedures. Perhaps no career coincides more markedly than his with the growth and development of the scientific study of crime and its methods of treatment and prevention. As the contributions of the authors of this book show, his work is a scientific journal of the highest standing. It begins with the question of criminology's place among the sciences: is it actually a science? Sellin did not believe so twenty years ago. It was, rather, a meeting point between the human sciences and the social sciences: this was

the lesson he learned in Europe, particularly in Italy, from his study of the works of the pioneers of this "discipline." The contributions of Pinatel and Nagel¹ indicate, nevertheless, that definite progress was made. Criminology detached itself from the disciplines which fostered it, and a true professional "praxis" was established. The science of "social defense" was born.

If Sellin had doubts about a science of crime, it was due to a lack of any sensible theory which would explain the reasons for deviant and criminal behavior, or the reasons for obedience or disobedience on the part of some people to the socio-cultural and legal norms. He sought to clarify the relations between the social and legal norms, which increasingly rapid urbanization has placed in a state of tension—even conflict. The search for a general theory of social control is the major, and perhaps permanent, challenge of criminological theory. The contributions of Vold, Cressey, Shoham, Schafer, Szabo and Gibbens² show that even though speculative exploration has been increased and the consistency of the conceptual apparatus has slightly improved, we are far from having a firm basis for predicting criminal behavior or the effect of measures taken against criminals. We ascertain,

¹ Pinatel, *Thorsten Sellin and the Principal Trends in Modern Criminology*, in CRIME AND CULTURE 3-9 (1968); Nagel, *On Criminologists*, in CRIME AND CULTURE 11-30.

² Vold, *Social-Cultural Conflict and Criminality*, in CRIME AND CULTURE 33-41; Cressey, *Culture Conflict, Differential Association, and Normative Conflict*, in CRIME AND CULTURE 43-54; Shoham, *Culture Conflict, as a Frame of Reference for Research in Criminology and Social Deviation*, in CRIME AND CULTURE 55-82; Schafer, *Anomie, Culture Conflict, and Crime in Disorganized and Overorganized Societies*, in CRIME AND CULTURE 83-92; Szabo, *Psychocultural Basis of Contemporary Juvenile Inadaptation*, in CRIME AND CULTURE 93-109; Gibbens, *Problems of Clinical Criminology*, in CRIME AND CULTURE 111-30.

however, that without a theory of man's social behavior, there can be no theory of social control, just as there can be no theory on the origin of crime and the means for its prevention. The only way one can advance this theory is to turn it into an operational hypothesis which can be tested by scientific observation and experimentation. Thus we broach the question of criminal statistics, which represent this complex social phenomenon in its relation to the justice apparatus. Wilkins, Conrad, and Beattie³ recount the philosophical and practical difficulties encountered by those working in this area, whom some called "numerologists." Here, too, nothing has as yet been achieved, but numerous experiments are in progress from which light will finally dawn as it has in other branches of knowledge.

Examples of empirical research already show the kind of material with which the scientific structure of criminology will one day be built. The monographs of Ferracuti, Andenaes, and Christiansen⁴ demonstrate how an experiment, properly conducted, can serve to describe phenomena, knowledge of which will become the raw material of science.

The first lesson in modesty comes from historical studies. One of the most serious errors of a certain logical positivism, so influential in the structural-functional school of contemporary sociology, is that it extrapolates conceptual simplifications that are justifiable only as methodological recipes into the field of social or administrative intervention. Indeed, strength through knowledge, Comte's positivist religion, constitutes an error in judgment which many researchers could guard against if they devoted themselves to historical study as Sellin has and Drapkin and Radzinowicz⁵ did in this volume. It will be seen in these historical studies, as well as in the contributions of Mannheim, Cornil, Ancel, Van Bemmelen and Eriksson⁶ on contemporary criminal policy, that the socio-cultural reality presents a unique combination of factors and indices that can all be analyzed in a laboratory context. Their social significance, however, can only be isolated after the fact, when all the psychological and socio-political interactions have had their effect.

To sum up, this volume, like the work of Sellin to which it pays homage, is an historic document for our discipline. It is a reflection of the progress as well as the enormous difficulties encountered by the criminology of today. Criminology must be both a laboratory science, to go thoroughly into the theory of human behavior, and a practical science, to guide those who would combat, prevent, or treat delinquency. It is as yet imperfect, but it is also a testimony to the human spirit seeking to ameliorate the human condition. It is comforting to think that the life of Sellin, inspiring a whole generation of researchers and men of action, is in itself an illustration of the victory of reason and science over the irrational impulses which so easily influence the mind where crime and punishment are concerned.

We are grateful to Marvin E. Wolfgang for having edited this book in homage to his teacher and his friend. His own contribution, both to our discipline and to social action, is the best example of the great value as inspiration and model, of the work of Thorsten Sellin.

DENIS SZABO
University of Montreal

³ Wilkins, *Values v. Variates—An Essay on the Relevance of Measurement to Morals and Value Judgments*, in *CRIME AND CULTURE* 133-55; Conrad, *The Unfinished Business of Criminal Statistics*, in *CRIME AND CULTURE* 157-67; Beattie, *A State Bureau of Criminal Statistics*, in *CRIME AND CULTURE* 169-86.

⁴ Ferracuti, *European Migration and Crime*, in *CRIME AND CULTURE* 189-219; Andenaes, *Negligent Homicide in Some European Countries—A Comparative Study*, in *CRIME AND CULTURE* 221-44; Christiansen, *Recidivism among Collaborators—A Follow-Up Study of 2,946 Danish Men Convicted of Collaboration with the Germans During World War II*, in *CRIME AND CULTURE* 245-83.

⁵ Radzinowicz, *Impressment into the Army and the Navy—A Rough and Ready Instrument of Preventive Police and Criminal Justice*, in *CRIME AND CULTURE* 287-313; Drapkin, *Manuel Montesinos y Molina—An Almost Forgotten Precursor of Penal Reform in Spain*, in *CRIME AND CULTURE* 315-46.

⁶ Mannheim, *Sentencing Re-visited*, in *CRIME AND CULTURE* 349-74; Ancel, *Some Thoughts on the Problem of Deterrence*, in *CRIME AND CULTURE* 375-85; Cornil, *Trends in Penal Methods—With Special Reference to Prison Labor*, in *CRIME AND CULTURE* 387-404; Van Bemmelen, *New Ways of Punishment*, in *CRIME AND CULTURE* 405-15; Eriksson, *The Swedish Furlough System for Prisons*, in *CRIME AND CULTURE* 417-27.