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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

PROGRESS IN DRUG ABUSE. Edited by *Paul H. Blackly*. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, 1972. \$15.50.

This is a series of papers and a report of some of the discussions of the Third Annual Western Institute of Drug Problems held at Portland, Oregon in August, 1970.

The participants in the Conference, and authors of the papers, included medical and legal experts in the drug abuse field, mostly from the West Coast. The purpose of the Conference series is to provide a common forum for discussion of problems and ideas among professionals working in drug abuse programs. In addition, the Institute hopes to achieve other benefits through public education that might accrue from its reports.

There are two components of the drug problem which are characterized by wide disagreements. In the first place, there exists a long-standing dispute over the issue of drug control legislation, in which some people advocate a strongly punitive approach which promises to eradicate the problem by legally prohibiting the traffic and use of dangerous drugs. Opposing these views are the advocates of non-punitive approaches, people who point out that the punitive approach creates more problems than it solves. The other component of the issue pertains to the nature of programs designed to treat, rehabilitate or prevent drug abuse. Wide variations in positions are evident in this area too, with much more confidence expressed in attacking the efficacy of some programs than in advocating other ones. The wide disparity of views is indicative of two characteristics which typify the nation's drug problem: (1) there exists widespread recognition of it as a significant social problem; and (2) there exists widespread dissatisfaction with any measures or programs which have ever been put into effect.

The proceedings of the Western Institute's Conference will disappoint anyone familiar with the field who hopes to find something new or hopeful. It will be highly informative to the newcomer to the field in the summary presented of the current "state of the art." There are probably few fields in which professionals work which are more rich in

opportunity for new ideas, imagination, objective points of view and creative planning than the field of drug abuse. In spite of the enthusiastic promotions touted by various viewpoints, there has been a notable lack of really careful and creative thinking. What are sometimes called "bold, new approaches" look more shocking than bold and seem new only if one doesn't study history. New attention might properly be directed, for instance, toward the world of advertising, aided and abetted by the medical world, which have combined their influences to make ours a drug-oriented culture. The same influential institutions might be equally effective in reversing the process, and glimmers of the possibilities of doing so are now visible in the growing interest in "acupuncture." This ancient Asiatic ritual has all the skin-puncturing appeal of the heroin user's needle, but without the chemical hazards. A new and rugged Asiatic stoicism toward discomfort might be given enough new social status to attract the neurotic search for new meanings in life now being met with chemical analgesics. In order to enlist the aid of the advertising world to achieve these ends, new types of mass produced products would have to be introduced to capitalize on the new trend.

To return to the book at hand, the prospective reader will be interested in knowing about the range of topics presented. Three articles deal with the legal aspect of enforcement of drug laws, one by a lawyer, one by a judge and one by a director of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics. Representatives from three foreign countries present data on technical aspects of drug problems in Canada, England and India. Most of the remaining articles are presented by physicians, chiefly psychiatrists, and deal with treatment problems. The various viewpoints on the conflicting issues cited above are fairly presented. The individual articles tend to be concise statements of findings or positions, thus serving admirably as a collection of contemporary information on drug abuse.

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URBAN JUSTICE: LAW AND ORDER IN AMERICAN CITIES. By *Herbert Jacob*. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1973, Pp. 145. \$3.50.

One of the more troubling aspects of *Urban Justice* is its brevity. Having drawn the reader in, Professor Jacob, a professor of political science at Northwestern University, frequently fails to develop his material in sufficient depth. Despite this, the approach to what is essentially a long essay is logical, disciplined and well researched. His insights into the criminal justice process are keen, and it is a book certainly worth reading.

The book consists of eight chapters: City Politics and Justice; Crime and the Police; The Urban Bar and Civil Litigation; Official Court Personnel; The Structure of Urban Courts; The Disposition of Criminal Cases; The Disposition of Civil Cases; and a concluding chapter. While each chapter offers an overview of a particular aspect of the justice system, frequently drawing comparisons between urban, as well as between urban and rural settings, the author is somewhat remiss in failing to adequately portray many of the system's deficiencies. For example, the author pays little attention to the problems of corruption and mismanagement in the justice system. His treatise does explore the politics of nomination and selection for positions within the system, and his interpretations of its functional workings are well documented. Unfortunately, there is not enough depth here, and the book suffers for it.

In and of itself *Urban Justice* represents an excellent basic source for an introductory course in government or criminal justice, but it will also be of some value to the reader interested in systems. Professor Jacob is particularly adroit when writing about the courts and their symbiotic relationship with various strata of society, and the differential practices between cities. Included are several tables which add to the presentation. He notes:

The latent objective of the justice-administering agencies in coping with common crimes is to maintain the ascendancy of dominant social norms. The justice agents contribute to the maintenance of order by sustaining the legitimacy of legal norms and applying them with rituals that mask their political functions.

This is a highly readable book which makes a

contribution to the literature on the administration of justice.

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ZUR METAMORPHOSE DES RECHTSBRECHERS. GRUNDLAGEN EINER BEHANDLUNGSLEHRE (The Metamorphosis and Therapy of Delinquents). By *S. W. Engel*. Ferdinand Enke Verlag, Stuttgart: 1973, Pp. 414. DM 79.00.

This is an important book. To my knowledge, there is no comparable publication in the English language. Dr. Engel, who is attached to the Criminological Institute of the University and the Prison of Heidelberg, has treated by psychotherapy offenders inside and outside prison. In this volume, he describes in detail fifty cases, and gives concrete details of his method of approach. He is not a psychoanalyst, but uses the approach most appropriate to the personality of the patient, his chances in life and the immediate situation. He uses simple line drawings to illustrate the structure of the disturbance, its causes, effects, and the therapeutic approaches employed to combat them. Another interesting feature is his "Criminogram" which shows, in a simplified form, at a glance, the development of each offender.

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International Journal of Offender Therapy

DRIVERS AFTER SENTENCE. By *T. C. Willett*. London: Heinemann, 1973. Pp. x, 182. £3.25.

What effect does punishment have on the lawbreaker when it is not perceived as severe, when there is no social stigma attached and when the violation and subsequent punishment induces no guilt? The answer for one category of criminals, the driving offender, is "not much." That is the key finding of *Drivers After Sentence*, reporting a study of 181 driving offenders in England between 1965 and 1969. Professor Willett makes an important and useful contribution by systematically describing this special class of criminal. Whether the findings can be extended to American driving offenders is a matter for research.

The work is methodologically sound, well reported, and indicates several areas for further research. Important, too, are the social policy implications of the study which cites the need

both for more constructive methods of handling violators and for prevention strategies. Willett concludes that the currently ritualistic legal treatment of violative drivers is fruitless and says "the effects and the effectiveness of the legal process are wholly disproportionate to the time, money and energy expended on it."

The post-sentence attitudes of the offenders towards their misdeeds reflected their unchanged driving behavior after sentence. This was illustrated by a 43 per cent reconviction rate of recidivists. Violating drivers saw their sentence only as an irritant which made no real difference in their driving behavior. They simply did not view their offenses as in the same class as 'real' crimes. Interesting too, are Willett's description of

their demographic and psychological characteristics. These offenders were predominantly young, male, single or divorced and in poorer health (often alcohol related) than the control group. In both occupation, employment stability and driving characteristics, driver offenders more closely resemble other offenders than they do non-offending drivers. Consequently, Willett thinks nothing less than resocialization will have any lasting effect on driving offenders and offers some suggestions on how this can be done. Since this is an area much ignored by criminologists, this beginning study is an important contribution.

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