

Winter 1927

Reviews and Criticisms

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/jclc>



Part of the [Criminal Law Commons](#), [Criminology Commons](#), and the [Criminology and Criminal Justice Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Reviews and Criticisms, 17 Am. Inst. Crim. L. & Criminology 640 (1926-1927)

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology by an authorized editor of Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons.

REVIEWS AND CRITICISMS

THORSTEN SELLIN [Ed.]

A TREATISE GIVING THE HISTORY, ORGANIZATION, AND ADMINISTRATION OF PAROLE. By *John Philip Bramer*, 99 pp. The Irving Press, New York City, 1926.

The best evidence that the Parole Law is scientific legislation, in advance of the time, is, that the man in the street seems to find so much difficulty in understanding it. Mr. Average Citizen continually confuses parole with probation; mistakes parole for clemency, and prates about "releasing prisoners before their time." As a matter of fact, when linked with the Indeterminate Sentence, which should always be the case, Parole is the only method by which men may be released at the proper psychological time, and when well administered, this is done.

Because of the persistent misunderstanding in the public mind, therefore, nothing could be more appropriate than an elementary text-book on parole, giving the A. B. C. of fact, definition and purpose. This is done by Mr. Bramer in a clear, concise and effective way.

The book has to do chiefly with the proper organization of Parole Boards, the status and duties of a state parole personnel, and in general the detailed technique to be followed in the administration of parole laws, as well as a good Bibliography and Index.

Chapters are included giving, with some inaccuracies, the dates when parole laws were instituted in the different states, as well as after care agencies, and brief definitions of both common and technical terms used in this connection.

The author apparently overlooked the vital relation between the parole principle and the Indeterminate Sentence, as the latter is scarcely mentioned. On the contrary one statement is made that a man should not be considered for parole until he has served one-half his sentence. This presumably refers to the author's own state, but would not apply to most other states.

However, the book is highly instructive, and should be secured not only by all Parole Officials and Parole Officers; but also by all social workers, all Judges, lawyers and citizens generally.

The Budget outlined and the Salaries proposed for a well organized Parole System may be considered rather idealistic and too high for some states, but the public should know that the time has come when far more should be expended for this sort of individualized and socialized treatment of delinquents.

In pointing to "The future of Parole," Mr. Bramer tersely says: "The data clearly indicates that the "mass treatment" of yesterday should change to the "needs of the individual" of today. In all work of rehabilitating delinquents, efficient organization and adequate ad-

ministration are fundamental. Singleness of purpose in the physical, mental and moral restoration of the individual is of paramount importance. Up-to-date methods of social work case treatment are imperative.

"Every state faces a tremendous opportunity in the field of social salvage and crime prevention through an efficient parole organization and administration. The results of such a system represent savings, not only in human beings, but in public monies."

Never was such counsel and such a book more needed than now, when the Parole Law itself is being challenged in many states, largely because of inaccurate data, incomplete systems of parole, and faulty administration. This little volume will add specific enlightenment to the discussion, and should make the friends of parole more secure in their advocacy of the parole principle.

Chicago, Illinois.

F. EMORY LYON.

