

## Book Reviews

**Society and the Criminal.** By Sir Norwood East, M.D., F.R.C.P. H.M. Stationery Office, 1949. 10s.

This book, which is in the main part a series of papers read in recent years before various societies and published individually in their journals, covers a wide range of subjects of concern and interest to all those who work in the field of criminology. As the author states, they represent some of the stepping stones over which he has travelled towards a better understanding of crime and criminals. Their being brought together in their present form has given judges, magistrates, members of the prison service, probation officers and others, including psychiatrists and psychologists, a volume of major importance and one which will repay careful study. Throughout all the chapters, the author shows his customary caution in basing his conclusions only on strictly valid premises. His approach is mainly psychiatric, and all that he has to say is linked closely with the practical problems which are met in practice.

He discusses topics such as addiction; responsibility and culpability; crime, senescence and senility; sexual offenders; psychopathic personalities; punishment; prostitution; alcoholism; and the reactions of society to the criminal, in the light of some forty years of work in these fields, and his views must command respect.

He believes that psychiatric assistance in the treatment of psychopathic personalities and psychoneurotics who have committed crime is likely to be most impressive if precise views are held concerning the clinical limitations of the groups under consideration. Otherwise the psychiatrist may fail to convince those who have to deal with the offender as a social unit. It is to be hoped that this counsel will be taken to heart by those who are at times too sanguine in their clinical reports to the courts.

In his final chapter, "The End is Forbidden", Sir Norwood East discusses in philosophical mood matters such as medicine, natural science, exact science, law and religion, leaving the reader with a full sense of the author's erudition and wisdom.

J.D.W.P.

**Mass Observation Report on Juvenile Delinquency.** By H. D. Wilcook. The Falcon Press. 7s. 6d.

This book claims to be a thorough examination of the whole problem of juvenile delinquency and is a product of research by mass observation.

*Mass Observation* sets out to ascertain the facts as accurately as possible, but this book does not suffer from objectivity. The attitude to specialists in psychological medicine is conflicting. The author quotes an attack on these medical men from

an article in the *Sunday Express*, but makes no comment on whether the opinions expressed in it are those of an impartial and scientific observer, or merely those of a "pot-boiler" writer.

The book certainly achieves its main object which, according to the author, is to introduce juvenile delinquents to those who have not met any. This he does dramatically and forcefully. He highlights the evidence from prison chaplains and psychiatrists, and states that the problem is a highly complex one and is a task for the best kind of combined operations.

A.T.

**Epilepsy and Convulsive Disorders in Children.** By Edward N. Bridge, M.D. McGraw Hill Book Co. 1949. 670 pp. \$8.50.

This capacious volume belongs to a class of American book difficult for a British reader to appreciate at first sight. It is addressed to a more miscellaneous public than we think is advisable, with the result that much of the matter appears repetitive, and much is too technical for the layman. But with the proviso that it should really have been twins, Dr. Bridge's work can be welcomed as a most comprehensive, solidly scientific and timely contribution to the study of epilepsy in children.

The author is a pediatrician of distinction who had charge of the Johns Hopkins Clinic for epileptic children for sixteen years, and he presents the results of the intensive study of nearly a thousand cases. The clinic was on the grand transatlantic scale and included a full-time social worker to keep in touch with home and school conditions, an observation ward for clinical research, and laboratories with technical staff. "The problem of diagnosis is not one of searching for a single cause but of evaluating the relative importance of (a) heredity, (b) structural defects in the brain, (c) physiological disturbances, (d) personality maladjustments and (e) environmental strains in producing the symptoms of recurrent seizures." This rather scattered approach does not, however, prevent sound investigation into the pathological aspects of epilepsy, the chapters on effects of cerebral birth injury, on dietary treatment, on physiological influences and on the electro-encephalograph, being particularly full and illuminating. There appears to be less confidence in drug treatment for children and more in diets than would be shown by many specialists in this country.

Perhaps for the first time in a book of this description, the psychological and social aspects of epilepsy receive adequate attention. Dr. Bridge follows Adolf Meyer in believing that very few cases in children are purely psychogenetic. He believes, however, the incidence of fits can be largely determined by environmental factors and



influenced by mental hygiene. Even more obvious and important, from the standpoint of preventive medicine, is the effect of unintelligent treatment in producing the so-called "epileptic personality". The advice offered to parents on the handling of children, and to doctors on the handling of parents, is so wise and comprehensive that one would like to see it condensed and issued in pamphlet form for the British public. The inferiority feelings, from which inevitably we British are beginning to suffer, will be relieved by noting that as regards the placing of epileptics in industry, and in the provision of residential accommodation, we seem to be well ahead.

It is to be hoped that dollar shortage will not prevent the circulation of this most valuable work among medical and sociological graduates and students in this country.

L. F.

**Christianity after Freud.** By B. G. Sanders. Geoffrey Bles, Ltd. 8s. 6d.

This book bases its argument on Moses and Monotheism. The author, in a very convincing and logically sound way, uses Freud's argument to prove the Christian case, but starting from theistic instead of the atheistic major premise.

The sections dealing with original sin, and the dispute as to whether it was due to sexuality or pride and aggression, are unusually interesting.

This book and *Freud and Christianity\**, by R. S. Lee, M.A., D.Phil., which also has been recently published, are straws in the wind, indicating increasing respect by the theologian and the mental health specialist for each other's background.

A.T.

**Contributions to Psycho-Analysis, 1921-45.** By Melanie Klein. With an introduction by Ernest Jones. London: The Hogarth Press. Pp. 416. 21s.

My personal debt to Melanie Klein is nearly as great as my debt to Freud, and I am indeed proud when I find myself listed as one of those who have applied her findings to their work. The publication of her papers (1921-45) in book form enables one to watch the growth of her ideas. All those who have been privileged to work with her will read this volume with pleasure, and there will be few who will not find from it that they have more to learn from her and that they can hope for deeper assimilation of the things which she has to teach us.

From these collected papers, one can see that there is no new principle introduced into psycho-analysis. The technique employed is as Freud gave it to us in all essentials. Moreover, there is no real difference in regard to the fundamental principles between the analysis of children and that of

adults, except that most children communicate through play whereas most adults prefer to communicate through speech. With both child and adult, an analytic situation is established by the analysis of the transference, and changes in the patient come about by interpretation of the material presented by the patient.

Naturally there are additions and corrections to Freud's own findings through the use of the technique. Indeed, it would be strange if with Mrs. Klein's vast clinical experience she had no new thing to contribute. For one thing, Freud's statement of the earlier stages of female sexuality has seemed to many to be untenable. Early vaginal erotism is assumed by Mrs. Klein, and the development of the Oedipus complex in the female child is restated according to clinical findings with which most analysts would now agree. The recognition that to the child the phenomena of psychic reality are concrete processes which take place inside the body comes into prominence through Mrs. Klein's work, although it has always been implied by the term "inner reality". Mrs. Klein's special contribution is that she has shown us how to trace the development of the inner world of the individual, this development being linked with instinctual experience. Also she has shown the various ways the defences against anxiety can be described in terms of the management of inner phenomena. She obviously puts the Oedipus complex in as central a position in the development of the normal child as Freud does, but she has developed the understanding of the pre-genital roots of the first triangular situation which eventually comes to be felt in terms of genital erotism. She finds that these pre-genital roots determine the quality of the child-father-mother relationship in ways not previously understood.

Lastly, the concept of the depressive position must be singled out for mention because of its fundamental importance. Without this concept the rich development in psycho-analysis of the last twenty years would not have been possible. This concept of the depressive position reaches the public more easily under a different name, such as the stage of concern, a stage at which in health a child begins to mind about the aggressive impulses and ideas and to feel concerned as to the results of loving and hating. Those who are not acquainted with Mrs. Klein's work should start with the very clear last chapter on "The Oedipus Complex in the Light of Early Anxieties". They should then study the two previous chapters, first "A Contribution to the Psychogenesis of Manic-Depressive States", and then "Mourning and its Relation to Manic-Depressive States". After that they can go to and fro through the other papers which they will understand better through having already become acquainted with the conclusions which have developed from the earlier observations and formulations.

D.W.W.

\* To be reviewed in our next issue.