

In the treatment of the criminal, as in the treatment of the psychotic, re-education of character has to be carried out at several mental levels, and the individual approach must be supplemented by general measures. It is pointed out that the view of the sociologist is macroscopical, while the view of the analytical psychologist is microscopical.

The application of the methods of psychology to the problem of delinquency will result in more effective and more economical control of crime, but the author stresses the fact that there exists a certain amount of intractable material among delinquents.

*Psychology of Crime. III: The Element of Persecution. Christie, T.*

The author looks at the psychological aspect of the young delinquent from a new angle, and shows an association between delinquency and insanity. He postulates that the idea of persecution is based on a sense of injustice which results from a feeling of inferiority. He shows that there are three degrees of this persecutory trend, namely a minimum, a medium and a maximum degree. The last-named is the certified paranoid case of mental hospital practice. Two interesting cases are described showing how criminal careers were established on this basis of persecutory ideas.

*Psychology of Crime. IV. Rickman, John.*

In this paper three points in criminal psychology are emphasized: (a) the inability of the criminal to give a reasonable explanation of his act, (b) the compulsive element in crime, (c) the fact that criminals do not appear to be as aggressive as the public think. The first two points are shared with the neurotic.

It is stated that crimes are attempts at relief from conflict. The basis of the conflict is said to be the "Œdipus situation". Sadistic fantasies and bad homes are the lot of many neurotic and unhappy persons, but the central feature in the criminal's life is a split in his mind in the field of instinctual discharge. The criminal fails to integrate the aggressive impulse into the structure of his mental life, the break from the normal occurs early in life, and this early failure in integration is the specific causal factor in crime. It is aggravated by a lack of parental love, which hinders the criminal from realizing that love is a bond in personal and social life. Criminals have an emotional difficulty in applying themselves to everyday work. Work requires a pliancy in respect to activity and passivity; this pliancy the criminal lacks and he cannot work harmoniously with others. Psychopathological theories concerning the specific ætiological factor in criminality fall into two groups—those which class it with the neuroses, and those which class it with the character traits. The criminal has been thought of as wicked and not as ill, especially in the early days, when neurotic symptoms were not understood. The most valuable contribution made by psychopathologists to the study of crime is in the clarification of ætiological factors; when these are confused, the work of the lawyer, the eugenicist and the sociologist is painful, uncertain and wasteful.

*Psychology of Crime. V. Glover, Edward.*

This author stresses the relative importance of psychological and sociological factors in the treatment of crime. That a difference of opinion exists is obvious from a comparison of the psychological presentation by Rickman with the sociological presentation by Field. The difference would be even more obvious if the sociological factor were limited to the environmental influence exerted on a child from birth to the age of five. Even among psychologists there is a striking divergence of opinion as to the genetic significance of environmental factors, and an even greater difference of opinion as to the therapeutic importance of environmental handling during the first five years.

He points out that the main obstacle to progress in criminology is not so much the ignorance and inertia of the public, as the emotional barriers in the minds of

those most concerned in the advancement of the science. The science of psychology is not itself immune from moral and emotional bias. There are few psychologists who would claim to be able to rear a child to the age of five with any certainty of success. The crucial test of capacity to control an individual through environmental influence has not yet been passed by anyone, psychologist or layman. This consideration has a bearing on criminology in two ways: it reminds us that there is scope for experiment in familial education and sociology of the first five years, and that however successful this experiment may be, there are deep factors of a primitive order which require a specialized form of manipulation. The medical section of the Association for Scientific Treatment of Delinquency and Crime should focus attention on the divergent views and tendencies of individual psychology.

F. H. HEALEY.

*Concerning the Dynamics of Crime.* (*Psychol. Clin.*, vol. xxi, Sept.-Nov., 1932.)  
Johnson, A. E.

The criminal and the neurotic show the same deviation from the normal in the developmental process. In both there is a failure of the integrative forces in the personality. The difference between the criminal and the neurotic lies in their differing ability to bear stress. The criminal does not bear stress well; he is constitutionally incapable of sustained effort or strain; he must do something at once to get relief. Criminals are only unhappy when they are driven back on their neuroticism by obstruction to action. The commission of a crime and surrender represent two efforts to escape from unbearable tension. A complete change of attitude in our view of crime is necessary. The problem cannot be solved by emotion of any kind. The objective, impersonal attitude of the scientist must be adopted. Free-will and responsibility are obsolete conceptions. We must concentrate on developing ways of integrating personality.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Psychiatry and the Criminal.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. xii, Nov., 1932.)  
Leavitt, F. H.

The author traces the gradual development of "law" and considers the various objects of "punishment". The present situation in the United States is most serious; murder in the great cities is from ten to twenty times more frequent than in European cities of similar size. Methods of prevention suggested are greater care of youth in the city centres, for these latter are the main breeding-grounds of the "criminal". Child guidance clinics are favoured, for criminality is often the outcome of untreated personality difficulties. It is essential that all persons accused of felonies should be fully examined before trial, so that the judge may have some knowledge of the person with whom he is dealing as well as of the particular anti-social act which that person has committed. A psychiatric clinic should be attached to every juvenile court. Probation officers should be better paid, should have training in psychology, and should be given fewer cases to supervise. About 20% of offenders show a pronounced degree of mental inferiority. The clash of racial cultures is a large factor in the production of crime.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Criminal Impulse in the Algerian Native* [*Impulsivité criminelle chez l'indigène algérien*]. (*Ann. M.d. Psych.*, Dec., 1932.) Porot, A., and Arrii, D.-C.

A psycho-dynamic study of 40 cases of sudden impulsive crime among the natives of Algeria. Homicide was found to be particularly prevalent, nine-tenths of the crimes being murders or attempts at murder. The case-material falls into two groups. In the first group, 21 cases, the crime proved to be a pathological episode in the course of some psychotic state. These, alcoholic hallucinosis, toxic confusional states, delusional conditions, acute psychomotor crises and twilight or fugue states with or without epilepsy, differed little from the psychoses met with in Europeans. It was noted, however, that in the paraphrenias, delusions