

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

of a visceral and genital nature predominated, while acute mania was not of the jovial, expansive type common to Europeans, but was characterized by violent anger and hatred.

The second group of 19 cases showed no evidence of psychosis, and was especially instructive in revealing the peculiar temperament of the Algerian. The authors considered that the prevalence of homicide was due to the following constitutional and social factors: Among the former may be mentioned a very low average level of intelligence; an extreme credulity and suggestibility, as shown by belief in demons, etc.; perseverance and obstinacy, rancour and the desire for revenge—examples of reprisals after 5, 10 or even 20 years are quoted; poverty of the affective life and failure of development of the moral sentiment. An Algerian has little respect for human life and family ties are weak, fratricide and parricide occurring frequently.

In evidence of the emotional indifference, the case is reported of a man who, following some slight altercation, kills his father, and then continues his work as if nothing unusual had taken place.

Regarding social factors, it is observed that behaviour is fixed by ancestral custom and that there has been no evolution. Religion plays a very important rôle in the life of the Moslem, and a number of homicidal acts committed in a state of mystic exaltation are reported. The Algerian has the instinct of possession strongly developed, being very attached to his meagre property; numerous disputes occur on this score, not infrequently ending in crime. It is marital jealousy, however, that accounts for the majority of homicidal acts. The wife is his property; he has bought her; she satisfies his sexual needs, and is besides his chief domestic animal. It is enough if she is in conversation with another for him to kill at sight.

STANLEY M. COLEMAN.

*The Use of Transference in Dealing with Delinquents.* (*Amer. Journ. Orthopsychiat.*, vol. iii, 1, p. 14, January, 1933.) Biddle, S.

In the psycho-therapeutic work with neurotic children, true transference with its elements of fantasy and of unreality rarely develops. On the other hand, a strong libidinous tie between child and physician is an essential. August Aichorn, on whose work this paper is based, is very insistent upon the point.

In the treatment of delinquency three principal difficulties are encountered. Firstly is the delinquent's strong tendency to seek refuge in lying and concealment; secondly, and more difficult to overcome, is the narcissistic make-up so commonly found in delinquents; and thirdly, the tendency in certain cases to form ties emotionally toned with hatred to any person in charge of them.

Aichorn's experiment with a group of incorrigible boys at Oberhollabrunn is quoted at some length. Every conceivable method of punishment having previously failed, Aichorn undertook a policy of gentleness and absolute non-interference except to prevent the children injuring one another. The first effect of this was to increase the disorder; corporate life broke down utterly, fights were incessant, and the furniture and windows were smashed. After three months the type of misconduct changed and became more histrionic than real; and this in turn was followed by a period of emotional instability, during which the widest variations in conduct were encountered. Finally the children were welded into a homogeneous unit, reacting normally to their teachers and to each other. C. J. C. EARL.

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