

illustrate the continuum in personality disorder from normality through minor and common behaviour disorders to the most extreme and relatively uncommon psychopath.

Though the book has only some 130 pages, it is packed with detailed information and represents an immense amount of painstaking work. Yet, as is inevitable in a relatively new field of enquiry, fresh questions are constantly being raised, none of which are so far capable of being fully answered. On the final page the author states that so little is known about effective methods of treatment of the psychopath that one can only stress the need for more controlled studies.

This is a sufficiently important book, written by a worker of experience and authority, to merit a clearer style. Clumsy phrasing makes difficult reading, and there are a large number of misprints. It was painful to the reviewer to see in the bibliography that the late Sir David Henderson, who was the pioneer of psychopathic studies in the United Kingdom, is referred to as "Henderson, K."

FRANCIS PILKINGTON.

**The Delinquent Solution. A Study in Sub-cultural Theory.** By DAVID M. DOWNES. Routledge & Kegan Paul. 42s.

Juvenile delinquency is a major social problem in this country, in the United States and in many other modern industrialized countries throughout the world.

In the United States, the enactments of the late President Kennedy's regime gave great impetus to the study and control of delinquency. When the Delinquency Control Act of 1961 was passed, a nation-wide series of programmes got under way. One such programme in New York with the rather evangelical title of Mobilization for Youth began in 1963. After two years' study of the theoretical aspects of the problem, a team led by Cloward and Ohlin at the New York School of Social Work of Columbia University produced a plan of action to be applied to a certain sector of New York City. A theoretical perspective of the delinquency problem was formulated which represented an effort to extend and refine two great intellectual traditions, that of anomie as put forward by Durkheim and elaborated by Merton, and the theory of cultural transmission expounded by Shaw, McKay and Sutherland.

Albert Cohen in 1955 appears to have been the first to apply the term "sub-cultural" to certain forms of juvenile delinquency. This term was, however, first used some 22 years previously by E. O. Lewis to designate a class of mental defectives. This appeared

in his classic paper "Types of Mental Deficiency and their Social Significance", published in the *Journal of Mental Science* in 1933. Sub-cultures are "cultures within cultures" and evolve from systems acceptable to society as a whole, while retaining recognizable patterns of behaviour and procedure. Cohen was interested in the developmental aspects of the "gang" as a particular sub-cultural group. It may be that the very heterogeneity of American society in the past has lent itself to the formation of "gangs" by disenchanting young people. Much of delinquency can be plausibly understood as illegitimate ways of achieving success. The "fighting gang" seeks to achieve prestige ("rep") through violence. The criminal gang seeks to achieve money ("scores") through theft. The "consumption gangs" (drug and alcohol users) have retreated from the struggle and accepted defeat. In this country there has been in the past little evidence of equivalents to these specific gangs, but there are now signs of emergence of some of the patterns observed by Cohen and others.

The first half of Downes's book is concerned with a critical analysis of theoretical considerations by many authorities on sub-cultural theory. In particular the ideas of Cohen and of Cloward and Ohlin are thoroughly teased out. The arguments for and against and additions and modifications by other authors regarding the postulations of the main protagonists are analysed in turn. Downes skilfully weaves his way through a complex maze of theory, although at times in order to maintain a theme he reserves various topics for further development in later chapters. Thus he avoids too many tedious footnotes. At the same time he could well have "pruned" many of the overlapping ideas common to more than one author.

Downes chose to apply his own digest of these theories to a study of delinquent sub-cultures in Stepney and Poplar. He produced a formal survey of official statistical data that do not take the argument very far. In order to obtain a closer look he uses the technique of "informal observation" by "hanging around" in the area. This section, including summary and conclusions representing almost a third of the book is vividly described and produces a fascinating picture of some of the characters inhabiting these areas. His contacts are necessarily a highly selected sample and not a typical cross-section of the delinquent population. Nevertheless, the anecdotal data are interesting in taking the lid off.

Delinquency is a complex psycho-socio-economic phenomenon. This book emphasizes once more the sociological aspects of the problem. Paradoxically,

however, psychiatrists are becoming increasingly involved in the task of assessing and classifying juvenile delinquents and are likely to become even more involved if proposed changes in legislation become established. It is becoming increasingly rare for psychiatrists to find treatable psychiatric conditions complicating the delinquent process in patients referred by the Juvenile Courts. The question can be asked how much of delinquency calls for psychiatric intervention? The Courts have no quick method of screening, and inevitably the psychiatrist is becoming more and more involved in what is essentially a sociological problem. Dr. Downes's book is thus of value to all psychiatrists and serves as a guide towards a greater understanding of social pressures that may become stresses contributing to aberrant behaviour. Contributions by psychiatrists to this field of study are extremely rare and it is no surprise to find that Downes describes an eminent British consultant forensic psychiatrist, Dr. Peter Scott, as a clinical psychologist (p. 116).

JOHN COWIE.

**Crime and its Correction.** By JOHN P. CONRAD.  
London: Tavistock Publications. 1965. Pp. 312.  
Price 50s.

In 1880 E. C. Wines publicized his "State of Prisons and of Child-Saving Institutions in the Civilized World". The present volume is not quite so inclusive as that but follows the same lines, being described as a pilgrimage or reconnaissance of the correctional world hoping to discover innovations and to disseminate their essence and consequences. It fulfils these objectives excellently and provides a most useful review of what the Americans succinctly call "corrections" and what we discursively term the policies of prisons, Borstals, detention centres, approved schools and other related remedial institutions.

Such books must be difficult and perhaps disappointing to write; they demand an immense amount of travelling and patient observation (of interminable kitchens as well as cheerful inmates and harassed officials) and must soon be out of date, only gaining a second historical wind when the writer has long since moved on. We should therefore be very grateful to the Wines and Conrads for their contributions.

Despite the author's reference to the glacial slowness of correctional development, the book is already out of date; in the United Kingdom section there is, for example, no mention of Grendon Hospital Prison, nor of the Rainer Foundation Centre which combines probation "reporting" with communal

activities, sports and individual coaching for backward readers. Some of the advances are however in the direction predicted, for example the Home Office probation studies which are trying to match kinds of probationer with kinds of treatment by kinds of probation officer. However, the real value of the book is not stop-press news as to whether the Joneses are keeping up with the Browns (the author finds their problems excruciatingly similar) but in clear perception of essentials and in objective comment short of sentimentality or cynicism. "Here (in the U.K.), then, is a vast, hard pressed, and physically dilapidated collection of prisons whose managers are painfully attempting to accommodate a few concepts of change within a structure designed for control". Control in fact is a central theme and is described as "the essence of correctional practice as now administered throughout the world". While "control is not a reliable instrument for producing change in behaviour", it may be, the author says, the most important element of the scattered and poorly integrated treatments which are somewhat indiscriminately applied to offenders. "Traditional methods of control cannot be supplanted until a validated theory supports a change"; yet the part which inspired leadership, for example Alexander Paterson in this country or Thorsten Eriksson in Sweden, has played rather belies that statement. In fact, more often than not research and validation of theories in this field do not precede reform but accompany it; by the non-specific enthusiasm and interest which it generates an intuitive step is taken which then stands or falls by its practical usefulness. It is possible that the spirit of enquiry and the rejection of prejudice inseparable from research are, so far, amongst its most valuable products. The wise governor or headmaster should perhaps ensure that there is an active research programme in his establishment which shall make demands on his staff and inmates; all will not be lost if the final report of the investigation is delayed.

P. D. SCOTT.

**Recidivism: a Deficiency Disease.** By A. W. MACLEOD. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. 1965. Pp. 131. Price not stated.

This is a somewhat frustrating little book, for it sets out to discover "what brings some people into serious conflict with the law, what militates against their reabsorption by the community, and what direction further study and action should take", objectives which are way beyond its capacities. The plan was for a team comprising psychologist, psychiatric social worker and two psychiatrists to work in a Canadian