

markedly with the 0.5 per cent of homicide parolees in Pennsylvania who repeat their crime. He next examined three matched groups: hospital patients who made homicidal threats, convicted criminal homicide offenders, and a control group of hospital patients who had no history of homicidal behaviour. The comparisons between the groups are reported to demonstrate that parental brutality, alcoholism, a police arrest record, and arrest for assault were valueless as predictors of homicide. Unfortunately the results are not set out clearly nor the means by which they were obtained, but we are told there was a significantly higher incidence of attempted suicide in the homicide threat group than in either the criminal homicide offender group or the control group. Twelve of the homicide threat group had attempted suicide, in comparison with four of the criminal homicide group. This led the author to conclude that, for those persons who threaten homicide, the absence of suicide attempts indicates a higher risk of actual homicide, whilst prior suicide attempts indicate that the patient is more likely to kill himself than others. The justification for this firm conclusion seems somewhat debatable when it is realized that no evidence is presented to show that the convicted homicide group had threatened homicide or consulted doctors. Nevertheless the notions provide some interesting food for thought.

The remainder of this slim volume consists of anecdotal observations about medico-legal aspects, psychiatric treatment, etc., with a chapter on cultural factors by Margaret Mead. Many of the clinical comments are not applicable to this country, where the homicide problem is of a different order and where firearms are not so readily available.

JOHN GUNN.

SEX OFFENCES

Sexual Deviations in the Criminal Law. By ALEX K. GIGEROFF. London: Oxford University Press for University of Toronto Press. 1968. Pp. x + 218. Price 72s.

This is predominantly a legal study of homosexual, exhibitionistic and paedophilic offences in Canada. When the Government of Ontario established a Forensic Clinic in conjunction with the University of Toronto, research into sexual offences became one of its major objectives. It was recognized that the social and psychiatric aspects of sexual misbehaviour could only be properly examined in the light of the criminal law relating to such behaviour; this the author has done. The result is a book which anyone working in the field of forensic psychiatry in

this country must be familiar with. Luckily Canadian law is basically English law, and the differences which have developed only serve to highlight the legal problems involved in dealing with these sex offenders. The case law is extensively reviewed, for it provides the background information on the law in action. What emerges? That the offence of gross indecency, which usually covers these sexual offences, covers far too wide a spectrum of misbehaviour. That even in the most thorough modern reform of criminal law, that embodied in the American Model Penal Code, sex offences are lumped together in a most indiscriminate way. More operational research is necessary concerning individual offences, and any reform must be linked with facts rather than prejudice. The changes with regard to homosexual offences which followed the Wolfenden Report in Great Britain are discussed as a model for legislative reform, and this situation is contrasted with some Canadian law reforms. This is a valuable book for those involved with these particular offenders.

DENIS LEIGH.

FRENCH FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY

Les Troubles Mentaux; Étude Criminologique.

By GEORGE HEUYER. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France. 1968. Pp. 466. No price stated.

This book bears the title *Mental Disorders, A Study in Criminology*. It is in fact based upon Professor Heuyer's lectures at the Institute of Criminology in Paris. Slanted as the text is towards Article 81 principally, and others including D.16, D.17, etc., of the Penal Code of Procedure in France, it has little relevance to the forensic psychiatry of Great Britain except insofar as there are superficial resemblances between the topics under scrutiny. Nevertheless there is much of interest to be gleaned, and the text makes easy and fluent reading.

In introducing his study Dr. Heuyer at once presents his readers with an apparent paradox in the sphere of the psychoanalytical approach to the psychopathology of crime. In passing, it is a shade disappointing once again to detect this emphasis on psychoanalysis as being one of the 'eternal verities' of psychological medicine. Whilst supporting the thesis that the Freudian approach is of value in the elucidation of criminal motives, the author proceeds to declare categorically that from a therapeutic point of view psychoanalysis has become commercial and illusory in its results. As applied to forensic psychiatry, he states that it is analogous to the activities of the cockerel which thinks it has created sunrise by its matutinal crowing.

Many of us would disagree with the Freudian concept as applied to crime, and indeed would not give the proverbial obolus for this technique as applied to such of the homicidal gentry who have made headline news and to whom Dumas referred when he wrote of the 'aristocracy of the rope'.

However, the text-book continues to pursue, chapter by chapter, the orthodox lines laid down as pertaining to descriptive psychiatry with some references to nosology, each discrete topic being completed by a short forensic commentary. Subsequently a departure from the customary routine displayed by text-books is contained in special chapters devoted to the criminological problems of juveniles and young adults, recidivism and crimes committed by women-folk, with especial reference to prostitution and shoplifting.

Furthermore, there is included a most interesting study of road accident fatalities, a subject indifferently treated to the point of complete neglect in Great Britain. Statistics are provided appertaining to the state of the driver apropos of fatigue, alcoholic ingestion and other inadequacies, the condition of the vehicles and the ages of the drivers.

A further interesting and admirable piece of writing surveys the matter of witnesses and the value of their evidence in the administration of justice.

The book concludes with some remarks in more or less general terms on homicide and suicide, fugues, thefts, indecent exposure and rape, with a final review of the legislation commencing with the law of 30 June, 1838.

To sum up, this study is a model of elegance and descriptive excellence. Whilst it cannot add much to our knowledge of a very difficult and controversial subject, it does in succinct form collate all that is at present within our ken. Naturally, as for example when discussing chromosomal anomalies, no minutiae can be presented, yet as a pithy précis of a vast and vexed topic it must rank as a piece of valuable literature of this decade.

H. C. BECCLE.

PSYCHODRAMA IN GREEK

The Psychoanalytic Psychodrama. By J. MANTONAKIS. Athens. 1968. No price stated.

In the Department of Athens University Medical School, Aeginition Hospital, Dr. John Mantonakis and his collaborators have been using psychoanalytic psychodrama as a therapeutic technique since February 1966. Developed in France by Lebovici as a modification of Moreno's well-known methods, psychoanalytic psychodrama mirrors certain stages of an orthodox Freudian analysis.

The book is written in Greek, with summaries in French and English and a predominantly French bibliography. It is in three parts, dealing with the history of Moreno's psychodrama, the theory and technique of individual and group psychoanalytic psychodrama, and an analysis of some individual therapeutic sessions.

A. J. OLDHAM.