

In Search of Criminology. By LEON RADZINOWICZ. London: Heinemann, 1961. Pp. 253. Price 25s.

This book sets out the conclusions drawn from a tour of Europe and the United States, made just after the author's appointment as Wolfson Professor of Criminology at the new Institute in Cambridge, to review the state of teaching and research in criminology. The author, with his profound knowledge and feeling for history, shows clearly how each country has developed its particular interpretation of this hybrid subject, with a main emphasis here on police science, there on criminal statistics, social studies, or clinics for psychopaths. Research is poorly supported everywhere; "nineteenths of the existing institutes have no funds worth speaking of which could be devoted to this purpose." England now spends more than any European country on criminal research, but of course lags far behind the United States. Forensic psychiatry is only one of the disciplines discussed; but it seems that wherever it receives special emphasis, as in Holland or Denmark, clinical demands leave little time for the results to be studied and published. Dr. Radzinowicz sets out his own views on how criminology should develop in England. Psychiatrists who are closely enough concerned with the treatment of delinquents to feel that they are at least part-time "criminologists," and all research workers in the field, will find a great deal to interest them in this very readable book, with its many new perspectives.

T. C. N. GIBBENS.

Crime in Our Time. By JOSEPHINE BELL. London: Nicholas Vane, 1962. Pp. 236. Price 21s.

Sir Harold Scott writes that this book is a framework within which to judge various remedies. While the author rightly stresses the bad effects of sensational reporting in perpetuating crime, her statements concerning psychiatry sadly vitiate the framework. For example "hebephrenic group also called dementia simplex." "Drug addiction, including alcoholism, is broadly speaking due to some sort of psychosis, an inferiority complex as a rule."

"Non-capital murder applies to cases where the offender is found suffering from diminished responsibility by reason of circumstances of his own mental or physical state." Neither circumstances nor physical state come into the definition of diminished responsibility, and most murders are non-capital anyway. "Emotional effects of experience might fall into darkness and oblivion, from which they suddenly spring like gushes of tapped oil, and drive the individual to criminal action, cases of this sort can now be found to show diminished responsibility and the charge may even be reduced to one of manslaughter." Apart from the "gushing" description, if diminished responsibility is found, then of course manslaughter *must* be the verdict.

The public is so often misinformed about psychiatric matters that it is particularly unfortunate that such inaccuracies should occur in a popular exposition of an important subject, written with the presumed authority of a well known writer, and a doctor into the bargain.

W. L. NEUSTATTER.

Topical Problems of Psychotherapy. Edited by BERTHOLD STOKVIS. Vol. 2. Basle/New York: S. Karger, 1960. Pp. 197.

This volume, which appeared as a supplement to the *Acta Psychotherapeutica et Psychosomatica*, contains the report of a congress held by the Eastern Group Psychotherapy Society at New York in 1959. The first part of the book consists of a paper by S. H. Foulkes on the application of group concepts to the treatment of the individual in the group, followed by an interesting discussion. Foulkes has been a pioneer of psychoanalytically oriented group therapy in Britain. He combines psychoanalytic with gestalt principles. The group seems to him the ideal object for the study of basic human conflicts and of therapeutic operations. He regards "the network of interactions" between human beings as "the real locus of the process causing both disease and cure." To him, the group situation is the real therapeutic medium,

individual psychotherapy being reserved for special purposes only. He claims nevertheless that his group analytical technique does full justice to the psychodynamics of the individual.

The second part of the book deals with controversial issues, especially that of individual versus group psychotherapy. When group therapy was first introduced, the resistance came from the therapists rather than from the patients. This was not surprising, considering that all therapists had been trained in the treatment of single individuals. The difficulties in reconciling the principles of individual with group treatment are clearly reflected in the papers of this section. Of special interest is the article "Alternate Meetings" by A. L. Kadis who described series of group meetings with the psychotherapist present at every alternate session only.

This book can be strongly recommended to every student and practitioner of group psychotherapy.

E. STENDEL.

Suggestion. By B. STOKVIS and M. PFLANZ. Basle/New York: S. Karger, A.G., 1961. Pp. 259. sFr 35.

This is a well written monograph. The authors are both doctors and use medicine as the starting point in their approach to the subject, but they place it into an anthropo-sociological framework. The authors try to describe the role suggestion played in various societies and also the differing attitudes of various societies to suggestion. In some it was, or is, looked on with suspicion and has to be kept at bay; in others it is fully accepted and considered a positive and constructive factor in social relationships. Although the book is on the whole soberly written the authors allow themselves sometimes wide sweeping generalizations. For example, when discussing the views of Riesman they state: ". . . in the period . . . during the last centuries . . . which was characterized by high birthrates and high mortality rates . . . man was guided predominantly by tradition, . . . he was not expected and did not need to question these traditions. . . . In the last century this type was replaced by the man who was guided from inside. In this period, still showing a high birthrate but a declining mortality, man had created his own inner guiding picture of his life. . . . This inner picture gave him greater stability but also a certain rigidity . . . which made adjustment difficult . . . that such an inner guiding picture can be deceived by suggestion . . . was for him difficult to understand or to accept. . . . Our own time and the future period with its low birthrate and low mortality has, particularly in North America, . . . created a new model of man, the man guided from outside. . . . Not success is decisive but popularity. . . . His symbol is the radar antenna, extremely sensitive to the expectations, wishes and acceptance by the others. And so in the end we arrive at an optimistic view on suggestion, which can no longer be treated as unwanted or illegitimate, but must be seen as a means to tackle life in its inter-human contacts . . . there is no need to look on suggestion as a 'flaw in nature.' It is a meaningful, necessary function and . . . will always remain that."

This kind of speculation makes the book amusing to read but is at times somewhat indiscriminating. Popular psychologists such as Vance Packard are quoted rather uncritically. We have grown to know, have perhaps got used to, a trend of thought in certain writings on popular anthropology which traces human development from its lowliest forms to the highest, letting it culminate mostly in the Middle West, the great cities of the United States. Sexual behaviour has been shown in all its lowlier forms until it reached its latest and highest phase in the United States, and we remember the same argument in relation to the different forms of guilt. Once again we are shown the same trend in relation to suggestion. This time the writers are not Americans, like Margaret Mead, and others. Should we take the views more seriously after all?

The authors define suggestion as . . . "influencing the thinking, feeling, volition or acting of another person on the basis of an interpersonal fundamental interaction which leads to affective resonance while circumventing his rational faculties." They discuss in a very informative, but also critical way other views such of those of psychoanalysis'