

and rapporteur Dr. Gibbens, and the preliminary documents were compiled by Dr. Ahrenfeldt. This book is a record of their findings. The sensible and time-saving policy adopted was to report subjects in the order discussed and to edit contributions without indicating the author. The resulting account thus avoids the usual repetitiveness of such symposia, and forms a readable and well integrated series of essays, which indicate the skill of the editors.

Basically, as one would expect, the book forms an up-to-date summary of sociological theory, including the factors of age, sex, social class, law enforcement, subcultural groupings, and the relationship between internal and external controls of delinquent behaviour. Its great value is that it is international and inter-disciplinary, so that theories developed in one country must run the gauntlet of stringent tests: thus, Italian juvenile crime has decreased despite considerable migration from the rural south; even in Rome the increase is negligible; second generation children of immigrants to Australia have not so far provided the expected excess of delinquents; there is considerably more suicide and less homicide in Denmark than in other (even other Scandinavian) countries, while drunkenness is much more frequent in Helsinki and Oslo than in Copenhagen; Israel and the U.S.S.R. have a relatively high proportion of white-collar crime; immigrant groups contribute more than their proportional share of delinquency in Israel, but less in Canada and Australia. Its shortcoming is that it sometimes attempts too much; for instance, it is not possible within the scope of a small book and a brief conference to summarize national patterns of crime, and the attempt is inevitably superficial even though interesting features emerge.

While there is strong evidence here that much delinquency is learned behaviour, there is much less as to how it may be unlearned. Yet on the whole, the demonstrated importance of cultural factors must indicate possibilities for prevention, and if the reviewer reads the evidence rightly, this prevention will not be brought about by trying to predict at an early date which individuals need correcting, but will be through measures which affect the culture as a whole. One hopes the authors of the recent White Paper on juvenile offenders will read this small but valuable book very carefully.

P. D. SCOTT.

Report on the Work of the Prison Department.
1965. London: H.M.S.O. 1966. Pp. 78. Price 6s. 6d.

Prisons have been very much in the public eye: rising

numbers embarrass the Home Secretary; the Criminal Justice Bill, now before Parliament, introduces a parole system and other measures in an attempt to reduce the complement; security is topical and Lord Mountbatten's Committee has recommended measures to improve it. The present annual blue book enables us to take a cool look at some of the facts. The average population in prison department establishments from 1965 was up again to well over 30,000 (and the 1966 figures look like being higher still). This total includes over 5,000 boys and 157 girls in Borstals, and about one and a half thousand young people in detention centres. The average cost of keeping a prisoner is about £700 p.a. and the total expenditure of the Prison Department between 28 and 29 million pounds.

On a more cheerful note—the number of women and girls in prison has decreased and the Borstal girls have been much less violent. Preventive detention and corrective training sentences continue to be eliminated. There were slightly fewer escapes from secure institutions than the previous year. Recruitment of staff has continued to fall, but the prison medical service has expanded both as regards numbers of doctors and in the qualification and experience of recruits.

Specific mention is made of the growing problem of serious drug addiction in young people, a problem which is no longer mainly confined to London. The usual comments of Governors concerning the deterioration in quality of young offenders is supported by lower scores on the Mannheim Wilkins prediction scales, but they are offset by the reliability and sensitivity shown by those who volunteered for various social services to old people and invalids organized from prison establishments.

A record number of psychiatric reports was furnished by the prison medical service: 9,555 (nearly 3,000 of them in H.M.P. Brixton). The five new remand centres will greatly facilitate the efficient provision of this important diagnostic service. Over a thousand cases were dealt with under section 60 M.H.A., and 141 were transferred to mental hospitals during sentence or trial. Some figures concerning the new Criminal Procedure (Insanity) Act are now available: 22 males and three females were unfit to plead, and three prisoners were found not guilty by reason of insanity.

The general impression is of an increasing awareness of the importance of the medical aspects of prison administration and of the need to co-operate closely with the N.H.S. Possibly the time is ripe to consider medical representation on the Prison Board.

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