

study of the individual delinquent from all angles and points of view" rather than mere insistence upon the precise application of a definite kind of punishment to a definite crime as outlined by statute. Indeed the whole idea of punishment is giving way to the idea of correction and reformation. . . . For criminology is an integral part of psychopathology, crime is a type of abnormal conduct which expresses a failure of proper adjustment at the psychological level."

The first chapters are devoted to the consideration of what are commonly known as the "prison psychoses." These cases belong, of course, to the wider group of what are known as the "psychogenetic" or "situation psychoses," so-called since they are immediately caused by a painful situation in the environment. The study of these cases has been curiously neglected in this country, though much attention has been given to them in Germany, and in America the name of Dr. Glueck is especially associated with careful studies of cases belonging to this category. Perhaps if it had been more generally recognised that many cases presenting a dementia præcox-like clinical picture are liable to occur with severe environmental stress, and to rapidly clear up when the stress is removed, less mistakes in diagnosis would have been made in connection with the war psychoses. Many civil psychoses, which clear up rapidly when removed from their usual environment to a mental hospital, probably belong to the group of the psychogenetic psychoses, and the interest of the subject is by no means limited to those cases which occur in prisoners awaiting trial or undergoing punishment. The discussion of this subject in this volume, together with an excellent description of a number of cases, will be found well worth the attention of all those interested in the study of mental disorder, both from the purely clinical standpoint as well as that of criminology.

A chapter is devoted to the study of "litigious paranoia," and a full and complete consideration is given to the question of the malingeringer, both these subjects being illustrated by descriptions of concrete cases. These subjects contain material of much interest to the psychiatrist, and the psychological problems which they involve are discussed from a modern view-point which will be found helpful and illuminating. The last chapter contains a psycho-analytic study of a case of kleptomania which serves to suggest the value of an intensive individual approach in attempting to understand morbid mental phenomena.

This book may be thoroughly recommended and will well repay careful study, not only from the point of view of criminology, but from its wider implications. It serves to illustrate that insanity is not only a matter of classification, but it is a type of abnormal reaction to life, the significance of which can only be understood by a study of the psychogenetic factors which play a part in its production. H. DEVINE.

Rational Sex Ethics. By W. F. ROBIE, M.D. Boston: Badger. London: Stanley Phillips, 45, Brondesbury Road. Pp. 356. Price 15s.

Sane Sex Life and Sane Sex Living. By H. W. LONG, M.D. Same publishers. Pp. 157. Price 25s.

These two volumes are examples—more favourable examples, it may be added, than might easily be chosen—of the most modern

medical attitude in America towards those sex problems which now seem to be attracting so much attention, medical and lay. They are written from a fairly concordant standpoint, and the author of the first has furnished an introduction for the second volume, but the scope of the two works is entirely different, although both are sold only to professional readers.

Dr. Robie, who is superintendent of a sanatorium for functional nervous disorders, begins with a little autobiography, not, as he remarks, for "the purpose of emphasising my own modest ego," but in order that the reader may be enabled to appreciate that bias and "personal equation" which, in approaching questions of sex, must always be important. The practice, though unusual, seems commendable, and in any case it is characteristic of the author's American directness and simplicity. The book is not a systematic treatise of sexual morality. It is much better described in the sub-title as "A physiological and psychological study of the sex-lives of normal men and women, with suggestions for a rational sex hygiene with reference to actual case-histories." The chief value of the book lies in these histories—many of them quoted or reproduced—of 95 more or less normal persons (61 men and 34 women), while the author also possesses the sexual histories of some 150 additional persons, the majority females. Special attention seems to have been given to masturbation. All but a very small percentage admitted practising or having practised masturbation, or some form of conscious auto-erotism, the women nearly as often as the men, although they indulged in it much less frequently—usually from two to five times a month, about the period of menstruation. This was regarded by many of the women as perfectly normal; they usually abandoned the practice at marriage but seldom before. In accordance with the results found by other recent investigators, Robie finds also that of 500 young people known to him to have masturbated for longer or shorter periods (and many excessively), "none were ever known to have suffered in any way from the results of this habit." To this question the author refers again and again throughout the book. He does not, he tells us, advocate masturbation, and he is aware of its harmfulness in morbidly predisposed subjects, but "I am prepared," he tells us, "to maintain that while, act for act, auto-erotism is as harmless as ordinary promiscuous intercourse—more harmless if account is taken of the venereal danger—there is far greater relief of sexual tension, a more complete orgasm, and infinitely less shame, disgust, and self-condemnation in this practice, provided one knows the actual facts about it."

Taken altogether, however, the author's ethical attitude is unquestionably orthodox and conventional. He has much sensible advice to give on the hygiene of marriage; he rightly insists, as it is now becoming usual to do, on the importance of a knowledge of the art of love to ensure conjugal felicity. He discusses intercourse during pregnancy and approves of it. Although he regards the exercise of birth control as necessary at some time or other for all, he approves of every healthy married couple having from two to twelve children.

While the book is helpfully instructive and written in an engagingly ingenuous manner, its method is not altogether scientifically satisfactory.

The style is careless; the names, even of well-known fellow-countrymen of the author himself, are frequently misspelt; the arrangement of chapters is unsystematic and casual. A considerable amount of space is occupied in summarising the opinions of other authors whose books are fairly well known and accessible. Freud is in this way responsible for a considerable amount of space, but the author shows his usual moderation and practical common-sense in his judgments of psycho-analytic doctrines. He himself has adopted something of the methods of mental analysis, but he is convinced, from his own extensive observations, that while there is much more sexuality in the child than the older writers admitted, the early years of life are not so universally sexual as Freud believes, and thumb-sucking or similar manifestations, while almost general, cannot be regarded as always a sexual manifestation. Nor, though the love of the child for the parent has at times an undoubtedly sexual character, can the "Œdipus-complex" be regarded as universal, for he has witnessed the recovery of neurotics in whom it was never revealed, and on Freudian principles such recovery would be impossible. He also disagrees absolutely with Freud that the fruitful investigation of sex matters in women by ordinary methods is impossible on account of their reticence and dishonesty, and finds on the contrary that when a woman is convinced of its desirability it proves more fruitful than in men. The author's temperate conclusions on these points will be approved by all but the more extreme of Freud's disciples.

Dr. Long's book is misleadingly described by the publisher on the wrapper as "a thoroughly scientific treatment of a subject which has heretofore been treated in a merely empirical manner." The author himself in his first paragraph more truly describes it as "more a heart-to-heart talk between those who have mutual confidences in each other than a technical or strictly scientific treatise." Although only sold to the professional reader it is for the lay reader that it is intended, and it is written throughout in simple language. Like many other doctors nowadays, Dr. Long is frequently consulted by young husbands or wives who are suffering from ignorance or misapprehension concerning the conjugal relation, their difficulties often being complicated and obscured by reticence and timidity. As he was unable to find any manual which dealt simply, and in all the detail necessary for those who are ignorant, with the necessary facts of the art of love and the science of procreation, he wrote a manuscript covering the chief ground, and has been in the habit of handing it over in these cases to be read privately. Being impressed by the advantage of this method for the patient, as well as the saving of time for the physician, he has re-written and enlarged this manuscript. The result is the present volume, "prepared for the sole and express purpose of helping husbands and wives to live sane and wholesome sex-lives—to give them the requisite knowledge for so doing; knowledge of themselves and of each other as sexual beings; the correct ideas regarding such manner of living; to disabuse their minds of wrong sex-teaching, or no teaching at all, of ignorance, or prudery, or carelessness, or lust." Nothing is said of perversions or anomalies, or even of venereal disease, but everything bearing on the ordinary love-life in marriage is clearly set forth and

fully discussed. The advice given is not at every point in accordance with traditional maxims, but it is in accordance with modern scientific knowledge, and usually shows practical sagacity as well. Dr. Long is to be commended for the courage, skill, and sympathy which he has shown in writing a book, almost unique in character, which will certainly prove of immense help to many readers.

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

Experiments in Psychical Research. By JOHN EDGAR COOVER, Assistant Professor of Psychology, Leland Stanford Junior University. Stanford University California, 1917. Pp. 641. Price 4 dollars.

This substantial and important series of studies requires some time to master—all the more since it is furnished with no summary of conclusions—and review notice has thus been unduly delayed. It is supplied with a foreword by Chancellor David Starr Jordan, an introduction by Prof. Frank Angell, and the author is a highly trained and experienced psychologist of judicial temperament. So impressive a piece of work, proceeding from the "Division of Psychical Research" of a noted University, deserves serious consideration. Respectability, though by no means universal belief, has been conferred upon the conclusions put forward by the Society for Psychical Research by the distinguished reputations of some of those who have endorsed those conclusions. But, as Prof. Angell here remarks, "it must be said with the utmost frankness that the mantle of Sir Oliver Lodge's great reputation as a physicist cannot be stretched to cover his work in psychical research, and it is doubtful if Sir William Crooke's authority as a chemist has perceptibly swayed the minds of his colleagues in chemistry towards spiritualistic belief." It is special training in psychology which is necessary for such investigations, a wide acquaintance with motor automatisms and subliminal impressions, a training in the ideational and affective processes underlying belief and conviction, in illusions of perception, and in the value of evidence. The value of the present series of investigations lies largely in the fact that it has been conducted by trained psychologists.

The work falls into five parts (amply illustrated by diagrams, charts, and plates), dealing successively with thought-transference, subliminal impression, mental habit and inductive probability, sound-assimilation, and miscellaneous contributions (pseudo-prophecy, local ghosts, automatic writing, etc.) by Prof. Lillian Martin. There are numerous appendices, and a list of books dealing with the subject in the University library which constitutes a formidable bibliography of over sixty pages.

The problem of thought transference, a mental power by many regarded as proved, is approached by a variety of methods. There is, for instance, the guessing of lotto-block numbers, which in the experiments conducted by Mrs. Henry Sidgwick furnished support for thought-transference. The conditions of the experimentation at Stanford University and the attitude and training of the reagent seemed to promise a like favourable result, but this result was far from ensuing: a thousand experiments indicated that the number of successful guesses