

this might place the discharged prisoner in a more favourable position than his law-abiding neighbour. This argument is a specious one, for it is clear that the rehabilitation of a citizen and his return to a life of normal citizenship reacts on the well-being of the community.

These are but a few of the points raised in this most valuable book, which should be read carefully by everyone who enjoys the privileges of citizenship and recognizes the duties which those privileges bring with them.

The list of proposed volumes in The Twentieth Century Library is a long and interesting one, and the Editor is to be congratulated in opening the series with a book of such a high standard and intrinsic worth. G. A. AUDEN.

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**Handbook of Casework and Classification Methods for Offenders.**

Edited by EDGAR A. DOLL, Ph.D., Vineland, N.J. Pp. 30. Price not stated.

This excellent little pamphlet represents the tentative conclusions of a committee appointed by the American Prison Association. Recent advances in penal methods have reached a point at which current procedures may be outlined with some assurance as to their practical value. Ferri's view still remains sound, namely that crime is the result of the reaction of individuals to their environment. But the alteration of environment often presents grave, and sometimes insuperable difficulties. Attention has, therefore, been concentrated upon the study of the individual offender, while not overlooking the social factors involved in the production of crime. The classification and treatment of offenders should be conducted from the point of view of the welfare of society, the rehabilitation of the offender and the problems of institutional administration. Casework must, therefore, be conducted with a view to determine the character of the offender, his attitudes, aptitudes and disabilities, his native and acquired capabilities, and his mental and physical condition. The resulting programme must be formulated in terms of administrative possibility. What should be done must often yield to what can be done; but what should be done to-day becomes what can be done to-morrow. Mutual co-operation of scientific and administrative agencies is essential, and the various ways in which this co-operation is obtainable are discussed. While the correct solution of a particular problem may often be obvious to an experienced administrator, he will never be in a worse position by having the findings of experienced scientific workers at his disposal. The objectives of casework are admirably set forth. The first consideration is the location of the offender in the most suitable housing group of the institution. We then have to face the difficult question of necessary modification of discipline; for disciplinary methods may have a profound effect, for good or ill, upon the individual subjected to them. Adequate consideration of mental and physical health is essential, and the important matter of recreation must not be forgotten. To attain our desired ends, a number of data have to be evaluated. We have to consider the previous history of the offender, his social status, his mental condition, his educational attainments, his occupational abilities, and his religious and moral attitudes. While the last named may be regarded as the special concern of the religious staff of the institution, it is pointed out that the psychologist and psychiatrist may often obtain information of value in this domain. The whole treatment of the offender must be considered from the aspect of his conduct on release. Offenders may be classified in four main

groups—(a) Occasional or accidental offenders, whose offences are due to situational difficulties. The offences may be grave, and may involve long sentences of detention to satisfy public opinion. But these offenders represent the most hopeful group. (b) Recidivists who are more or less confirmed offenders, with anti-social tendencies. (c) Offenders who suffer from mental abnormalities of marked degree, and who, consequently, are proper subjects for custodial or hospital care. (d) The incompetent, whose mental, physical and social assets are at low levels. These cases will always be socially dependent

No one who is directly concerned with the treatment of offenders can afford to neglect the careful study of this little work; and all those whose work or interest brings them into relation with social problems will find much assistance in Dr. Doll's pamphlet, upon which we offer him our hearty congratulations.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

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**The Principles and Practice of Neurology.** By ALEXANDER CANNON, M.D., Ph.D., D.P.M., and E. D. TRANCHELL HAYES, M.D., D.P.M. London: William Heinemann (Medical Books), Ltd., 1934. Price 25s.

It is difficult to understand why this book was ever published. It is badly laid out, and is a curious mixture of the most absurdly elementary statements and redundant technical details.

The first fifty-five pages are written by Dr. Monrad-Krohn, of Oslo, and follow the same lines as his well-known book on the *Clinical Examination of the Nervous System*. This section of the book is well done.

The chapter headings of the second part of the book are no guide to the contents of the respective chapters, and in some cases are grotesque. Chorea and neuralgia come in the chapter headed "Convulsions", and aphasia in a chapter headed "The Fundi in Arterio-sclerosis". The writers cap all these by including hysteria in the chapter headed "Diseases of the Spinal Cord"!

A most striking feature is the omission of a large number of the recent advances in pathology and treatment which one would expect to find in any up-to-date text-book. Under epilepsy we see no mention of myoclonic epilepsy or the affect epilepsy of Bratz, nor of treatment by the ketogenic diet or dehydration. The ætiology of migraine receives a very unsatisfactory discussion. There is no mention of sympathectomy in the treatment of the vasomotor neuroses, or of liver and the amino-acids in the treatment of myasthenia gravis.

In the chapter dealing with intracranial tumours nothing is said of the classification of the gliomata, and despite the promise in the introduction that "the psychiatric aspect of certain of the diseases treated" would receive "more detailed attention than is usual in neurological text-books", the mental symptoms of intracranial tumours are dismissed in a paltry eight lines.

In the chapter devoted to the pituitary gland there are two illustrations of its appearance in dementia præcox. There is no mention of this disease in the text, or of basophile adenoma (Cushing's disease) or of Simmond's disease.

The discussion of aphasia is quite inadequate, and apraxia is not even mentioned. When describing the types of general paralysis, Lissauer's type is omitted.

It must be a terrible shock to the vegetarian fraternity to think that their