

vestigation and treatment. We note that a "reception class" for all boys sentenced to Borstal treatment has been started at Feltham. In this class the boys' mental state is carefully estimated and their life-history is taken. This is eminently a step in the right direction. And it would be but a small extension to create such a class at some suitable prison for all prisoners with sentences of over, say, one year. They could then be drafted, as is done in New York, to whichever prison appeared to be most appropriate for each particular case.

We have also to train our examiners for the future. And in this connection reference is made to the successful post-graduate medical class on crime and punishment held at Birmingham University last summer.

There exists, say the Commissioners, a class of prisoner "whose mentality is not normal, but who cannot be certified either as insane or as mental defectives." No legal provision is made for these persons, although it is obvious that they cannot be treated under the ordinary prison rules. They present a grave problem. But there are many legal and administrative difficulties involved in its solution.

We are informed of many interesting innovations, of concerts, debates, lectures, of greater trust in the "honour" of the inmates, of outside visitors (women and men) for male prisoners, and of more associated labour during the evenings, in the long hours which were formerly spent by prisoners in their closed cells. The Commissioners feel obliged to defend themselves against the charge of "pampering" prisoners, whom, as they point out, it is our duty to restore to civil life as fit as when they were received therefrom. It is not likely that any of our readers will require such a defence to be made. But the idea that the proper treatment of an offender is by means of "the bread of affliction and the water of affliction" still lingers in the minds of some persons, even among our justices and law-makers.

We are pleased to see that the custom, suspended since 1914, of printing extracts from the annual reports of the governors, chaplains, and medical officers of the prisons, has been revived. These officials have spent their working lives among prisoners and have a first-hand knowledge of the problems involved. The fact that such extracts may be published will tend to increase the enthusiasm of these officers, and should add a new life and vigour to their reports.

We have only space to notice the more salient points in this report, but it is throughout full of interesting observations and suggestive comments. And we commend its study to all who are interested in these most vital psychological questions.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

Mental Deficiency (Amentia). By A. F. TREGGOLD, M.D., M.R.C.P., F.R.S.Edin. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1922. Fourth Edition. Demy 8vo. Pp. xx + 570. 31 Plates. Price 21s.

The third edition of this book, published in 1920, was reviewed at length in this Journal (*vide* vol. lxvii, 1921, pp. 52-62). It was there stated that Dr. Treggold's work had for the most part received the seal of universal approval, and this has been borne out by the rapid

exhaustion of that edition and the call for a fourth, which is now available. In this last edition the author has been at great pains to subject it to a thorough revision. The chapters dealing with moral deficiency, criminal assaults, clinical examination, mental tests and diagnosis have been entirely rewritten, and many additions made elsewhere.

As Dr. Tredgold remarks, the literature on this subject has become very extensive, so much so that it is impossible to refer to it all. Mental deficiency can be viewed from so many aspects, and its importance sociologically has been so widely recognised, that one becomes bewildered in the attempt to keep abreast of it unless there is an authoritative and reliable text-book to refer to for guidance, and this Dr. Tredgold supplies. We can with confidence state that as far as the clinical, pathological and psychological side of amentia is concerned, Dr. Tredgold's book can be regarded as the standard work in the English language and respected accordingly.

We do not propose on this occasion to review the edition before us at length, but we feel bound to refer to the author's splendidly written chapter on moral deficiency. Would that it could be widely read and there would be an end to the vapourings regarding sin and crime in relation to free-will and psychic determinism, which, alas, seems to be attracting more adherents. Pure and unadulterated common sense, clearly expressed, is not too often met with in the consideration of psychological problems, and an avalanche of it—like Sir H. Bryan Donkin's outpourings on crime and psycho-analysis (*vide British Medical Journal*, December 2, 1922)—is both purifying and invigorating. We may not altogether agree or enjoy it, but it certainly brings us to a halt, and encourages us to re-examine the foundations upon which we are building before proceeding further.

Dr. Tredgold, in the consideration of the regulation of conduct, proceeds from the basic fact that the instincts form the mainspring and motive force of most, if not all, human conduct. He points out that the free exercise of them would inevitably bring the individual into conflict with superior force and painful reprisals, which makes him realise that not only his personal comfort, but even his life, depends upon his exercising a restraining influence on them. The additions to ordinary intelligence, such as foresight, reason, control, resolution, etc., which go to make up "wisdom," aided by the emotion of fear, not only enables him to restrain his destructive tendencies, but ultimately gives rise to a sense of obligation to do the right and eschew the wrong—in other words, he develops a social and a moral sense. "The sentiment of right crystallises round those things which he is permitted to do, that of wrong round those which are forbidden." It is the development of these higher moral and altruistic qualities of mind which constitutes civilisation in the real sense, and becomes even stronger than wisdom in the matter of behaviour.

In Dr. Tredgold's work there is a breadth of view and clearness of argument betrayed from cover to cover which makes the study of this highly technical and difficult subject a pleasure. To those psychiatrists who specialise in mental deficiency and to the educationalist it

is a comprehensive treatise which should always be at hand, but the greater proportion of it is also of interest to the profession generally, and especially those actively engaged in the care and treatment of the insane, to whom an up-to-date working knowledge of the parallel problem of mental deficiency is of great practical value, and essential to the proper carrying out of some aspects of their work.

J. R. LORD.

The Psychology of the Criminal. By M. HAMBLIN SMITH, M.D.
London: Methuen & Co., Ltd., 1922. Crown 8vo. Pp. 82.
Price 6s. net.

Dr. Hamblin Smith is exceptionally well qualified to write on the psychology of the criminal, as he has had twenty-three years' experience in local and convict prisons, and has made during that time a special study of the delinquent's mind.

Free will has no place in the author's psychology. He is a rigid determinist and views the criminal and his act from this view-point. "We cannot, in such a (scientific) scheme, recognise 'will' apart from individual volition. The phenomena of volition, like all natural phenomena, are subject to natural laws. And the phenomena of volition are always caused by their antecedents, heredity, education, and all the factors of previous experience (of course, the remembrance, or the prospect of the possibility of punishment may be one of the factors in the case)." The decision of the House of Lords in the *McNaughton* case is criticised. The statute of the State of New York which enacts that—"No act done by a person in a state of insanity can be punished as an offence" is preferred. Insanity has never been legally defined. The author tentatively proposes as a working rule the following: "No act done by a person in a state of insanity, or suffering from mental defect, to such a degree as to justify his being placed under care, treatment, and control, can be punished as an offence."

The second chapter deals with the physical examination of the offender, and shows how physical disability may be the antecedent of the criminal state of mind. The mental tests which the author has found most useful in the investigation of the offender's conscious mind are detailed.

A brief account of Freudian psychology is given in the third and fourth chapters. It is shown how repressed complexes arising from mental conflicts are often the sources of criminal acts. Emphasis is laid on the necessity of psycho-analysis in the investigation of the criminal's mind. Many of the author's cases have been benefited by this probing of the unconscious and the bringing to the conscious mind the complex or complexes which have obtained gratification in the particular criminal act. For recovery two conditions are necessary: (1) Desire on the part of the subject for a cure, (2) sufficient time. It is suggested that the places where delinquency can be prevented is in our schools and homes. A plea is made for the study of the unconscious mind by teachers. "It is for him (the teacher) to discover which of the child's tendencies are likely to obtain