

disease, and his summary of the relationships between this alleged virus and that of herpes is a well-balanced and judicious one.

As a summary embodying a valuable list of references, the book will be found of considerable assistance in obtaining detailed information rapidly, though it is not, and is not intended to be, a complete account of the subject.

IAN SKOTTOWE.

Studies in the Psychopathology of Crime. By BEN KARPMAN, M.D. Washington, D.C., U.S.A.: The Mimeiform Press, 1933. Pp. xvi + 1042. Large 8vo, 8½ × 11. Price \$12 net, prepaid.

This mighty volume emanates from St. Elizabeth's Hospital, at which institution the author is Psychotherapist. At the outset it must be understood that the book is exactly what its title claims it to be. It is not a treatise on crime in general or on criminals; it simply presents case-studies of certain patients who have come under the observation of the author. Further, it contains only five such case-studies. Whether it is worth while to present such a small number of cases at so great a length is a question to which we shall, later, attempt to supply an answer.

The scheme adopted is to give, for each case, an account of the routine material obtained from the patient at his admission and during his stay in hospital, together with such outside information as could be had. This is followed by the case study proper, as obtained from the patient by means of a more intensive psychogenic approach. Opinions formed by attendants and other patients are given; and in two cases there are most illuminating transcripts of letters written by the patient. Finally, a brief epitome sums up the main factors in the case.

More than half the book is taken up with the patients' own accounts of their cases, accompanied by their comments upon social conditions in general and police methods in particular. Many readers will seize this point, and will ask whether, and to what extent, such material may be relied upon. The dictum that men "may lie" is as true now as when Hobbes expressed it; and criminals are not specially exempt from this characteristic. But it must be remembered that, as Dr. Karpman says, "lies have psychic reasons behind them, have their definite place in the mental life of the individual, and, as a rule, are products of the unconscious". Again, it must be kept in mind that it is the patient's opinions of his environment which are of importance so far as he is concerned. The patient reacts to his emotions irrespective of whether the situation which elicited those emotions was real or imaginary. It is probable that much of the material consists of fantasy. But fantasy plays a large part in the life of the non-criminal member of society. If a fantasy provides energy sufficient to compel the individual to indulge in certain kinds of behaviour, then (again quoting Dr. Karpman) "it is not only a psychic fact, but a fact in every sense of the word".

It would, of course, be impossible to give, within the limits of a review, any detailed account of the individual cases presented to us. But a brief summary of the cases will serve to give an idea of the scope of the book. Case 1 is an example of over-compensation for a deep sense of defeat, accentuated by the manner in which the patient was treated by the legal processes to which he was subjected. Case 2 illustrates a drifter, whose life is one long childhood.

Such persons drift into crime as a matter of course. Their emotional development does not keep pace with the growth of their mental capacities, and they are driven by a perpetual unsatisfied urge. Case 3 is an instance of criminality arising out of homosexual difficulties. Case 4 represents a man drawn into crime by circumstances too powerful for his neurotic personality to oppose successfully. There is also evidence of a strong mother-fixation. And in Case 5 a weakly childhood produced a deep sense of inferiority, and compensatory fantasies induced peculiarities of conduct which gradually passed into criminal behaviour. Although the conditions indicated in the five cases are very far from exhausting the possible causative factors of crime, examples of the described conditions, or combinations of them, occur every day in criminal practice.

One at least of the five patients displays a considerable degree of insight, and gives a really able discussion of the adolescent's gradual progress towards confirmed criminality, and of the varied nature of the views taken of the criminal by other sections of society. All five have much to complain of in the way in which their cases were handled, especially in the early stages. Much of this complaint is, of course, "common form". But there can be little doubt that when once a man has been convicted the dice are weighted against him for the future. His position on release from prison is a very hard one. As Dr. Karpman points out, we require a system of "after-care", and this should not be left to voluntary agencies.

All the case-histories give a most lurid and appalling account of the conditions in American prisons and reformatory institutions, and to a less extent in mental hospitals. None knows better than the present reviewer how much discount has to be allowed from stories of this kind. But some of the evils described are the direct and inevitable result of over-crowding, and that such over-crowding exists in American prisons is officially admitted. Another social evil referred to is the widespread disrespect for law in general, which has been produced by the contemptuous evasion of the Volstead Act, and the corruption which has accompanied this. Very interesting details of the traffic in illicit drugs are given, and there is a striking account of the proceedings at "cocaine parties". We also have a good description of the gradual growth of addiction in a drug-taker, and a graphic account of the abstinence symptoms occurring after deprivation of the drug. One patient states, epigrammatically, that "women, gambling and dope" are the three main causative factors in criminality.

No one who is directly concerned with offenders against the law can afford to neglect this book. On almost every page he will find something to provoke thought, and many unanswered questions are indicated in all the five cases. The evil effects of idleness, both in prison and outside, are stressed; the superficial character of newspaper accounts of crime is pointed out; the nomadic habits of certain criminals are illustrated by charts showing the wanderings of one of the cases. One patient maintains that a rightly directed education is the only way in which the "crime problem" can be solved, and urges that physicians should always be selected as governors of prisons. This latter suggestion could only be effective if the governor were relieved of much routine administrative work which now falls upon him.

We have nothing but praise for the enormous industry which must have been employed by Dr. Karpman and his colleagues in the production of this volume. We believe, and Dr. Karpman urges, that the only way in which the phenomena of crime can be successfully studied is by the patient, intensive

investigation of individual cases. The book shows what can be accomplished in this direction. It will be objected that such an elaborate study cannot be conducted in every case, even if our existing prison staffs were vastly increased. But a modest increase in staff would enable something to be done in this way; and the additional expenditure would be amply justified, even on the lowest, the financial, ground. For there can be no doubt that "uninvestigated offenders are the most expensive luxury in which any community can indulge".

The question of the prevention of crime must not be overlooked. Abnormal psychic reactions are but exaggerations of the normal; and underlying neurotic motives, which might have been dealt with earlier, are the true causative factors in many cases of habitual criminality. Many of our neurotics are costly "carriers", and the evils which they produce could be, to some extent, mitigated by well-devised preventive measures.

It only remains to say that the edition is a limited one, and that the book is sold only to members of the legal, medical, and other professions having an interest in social problems.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

Genetic Principles in Medicine and Social Science. By LANCELOT HOGBEN. London: Williams & Norgate, 1932. Pp. 230. Price 15s.

THIS important contribution is especially useful and impressive as a warning against misapplied eugenics. Hogben attempts to separate the wheat from the tares in what we know of human inheritance. In one half of the book he considers how human genetics can best be studied quantitatively; in the other half he inquires how far—with our present knowledge—we may legitimately introduce genetical concepts into social science and politics.

He concludes that we need more research rather than more propaganda, scientific workers rather than legislative interferers, the atmosphere of the laboratory rather than that of the drawing-room, and an emphasis on the medical rather than on the political aspect of the problem.

Unfortunately, eugenics has got a bad name in many quarters. It has become identified at various times with snobberies of various kinds, obstruction to educational progress, anti-feminism, anti-semitism, colour prejudice and other movements, justification for which—if any—certainly does not derive from modern biology.

The very first duty of eugenics is to distinguish carefully between social and organic heredity. The mechanism of the one is education; of the other, sexual reproduction. Too many biological writers have failed to allow sufficiently for the former or have overlooked it altogether.

Hogben suggests that first studies should concern themselves with problems which eliminate, as far as possible, the elements of social heredity and that they should be quantitative. A study, such as that of pedigrees, for example, while it provides useful raw material for genetic analysis, cannot in itself supply crucial evidence.

A splendid opportunity to map human chromosomes and localize human genes is offered by the study of such serological differences as determine the various blood-agglutination groups, and by the correlation of these blood-groups with other conditions that are found to be associated with them. Colour-blindness—found in every twentieth male—affords a similar opportunity of investigating points of reference in the *X* or sex chromosome, being a disease which obeys Nasse's Law and follows that chromosome.