

private patients. The institution should be close to a town, but possess extensive grounds; it should be of comparatively large size, and should take patients suffering from all forms of mental disorder and mental deficiency. Full equipment and a large staff are required, including, in addition to full-time nurses and occupation officers, a number of visiting assistants and teachers for special subjects. Among occupations involving physical exertion, non-productive occupations including hobbies, sports and physical exercises, appeal to patients more readily than does productive work. Work on the land is usually refused by those who have had no previous inclination for it, but book-binding, printing and other indoor occupations have been introduced. Occupations involving mental work are much more successful. Numerous educational courses have been carried on. Apart from courses in general culture, vocational training is given to enable patients who require it to take up some fresh career after their discharge from hospital.

In Dr. Schreiber's institution resources for occupational therapy on a large scale are lacking; the ordinary institutional occupations in the kitchens, workrooms, gardens and farm have, however, been given closer attention, and an attempt made to adapt these occupations to individual needs. The author discusses the importance of making timely changes in each patient's work and of gradual promotion to more responsible tasks. He lays stress on cooperation between the physician and the occupational departments; the distinction between staff and patients must be minimized and the patient made to feel that all are members of the same community. Other points discussed are the effects of mixing patients of different social standing in the same occupations-group, the question of rewards to patients, and the employment of patients in the homes of the institution officers.

A. WALK.

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## 6. Sociology and Mental Hygiene.

*Psychiatric Considerations on "Souteneurs"* [*Psychiatrisches zur Zuhälterfrage*]. (*Psych.-Neurol. Wochens.*, No. 8, February 25, 1928.) *Raecke, Prof.*

The author points out that the heavy penalties enacted against the "souteneur" or bully should not be applied indiscriminately. The popular conception of a class of dangerous criminals who exercise a brutal tyranny over prostitutes is mistaken. Several psychological types are found in this class, including morons, neurotics and schizophrenics. In many of these the association with prostitutes is more or less accidental and part of their general degradation. Their weakness of will and incapacity for effort prevents them from breaking with their vicious and criminal associates. Fear of being informed against is also a factor in keeping this type of "souteneur" in the power of the prostitutes who need his protection. In these cases it is the man who places himself in

a position of dependence. The more resolute, despotic type of bully is less common; prostitutes are often markedly attached to these men and they are rarely denounced. Nine illustrative cases are described.

A. WALK.

*Morbid Swindling* [*À propos de l'escroquerie morbide*]. (*Fourn. de Neur. et Psychiat.*, November, 1927.) Nyssen, R.

This paper is an account of the case of a degenerate mythomaniac whose numerous lies and swindles were apparently morbid, but in whom there was not, at any time, any disorder of consciousness. The difficulties in these cases when they fall into the hands of the law are discussed.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

*Attempted Murder by a Feeble-minded Individual under the Influence of Suggestion by a Cinematograph Film* [*Tentative Homicide par un Débile sous l'influence d'une suggestion obsédante d'Origine Cinématographique*]. (*L Hyg. Ment.*, December, 1927.) Roubinovich, J., and Schiff, P.

Although the cinema has been held responsible for a large number of crimes, in very few cases has this accusation been substantiated. It is therefore interesting to discover a crime which does appear to belong to this type. The criminal was a feeble-minded boy who tried to commit murder by strangling a woman, and subsequently attempting to stab her, thus recapitulating a scene which, he stated, he had witnessed on the screen.

Unfortunately it was not possible to identify the film which seemed responsible for the act, but in view of the facts in the history of the case, the authors of the article see no reason to doubt the method of origin of the crime.

R. S. GIBSON.

*The Mental Hygiene of Children in the United States* [*L'hygiène mentale de l'enfance aux Etats-Unis*]. (*L'Hyg. Ment.*, September-October, 1927.) Boyer, H.

This article is partly based on the experience of the children's court in Chicago, which has lately celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary. The author emphasizes the great difficulty in classifying psychological types among children, especially among delinquents. He describes the inadequacy of the conception of orthodox intellectualistic psychology and of behaviourism in understanding and dealing with individual children, and attributes the great vogue of the Freudian theories in America to the fact that they necessarily imply individual investigation. He urges the need of discipline in infancy and childhood, the necessity for the eradication of such emotions as jealousy, and the discouragement of day dreaming. He quotes L. B. Holman: "One must remember that to-morrow exists and can only be made agreeable by overcoming to-day's difficulties."

R. S. GIBSON.