

however, psychiatrists are becoming increasingly involved in the task of assessing and classifying juvenile delinquents and are likely to become even more involved if proposed changes in legislation become established. It is becoming increasingly rare for psychiatrists to find treatable psychiatric conditions complicating the delinquent process in patients referred by the Juvenile Courts. The question can be asked how much of delinquency calls for psychiatric intervention? The Courts have no quick method of screening, and inevitably the psychiatrist is becoming more and more involved in what is essentially a sociological problem. Dr. Downes's book is thus of value to all psychiatrists and serves as a guide towards a greater understanding of social pressures that may become stresses contributing to aberrant behaviour. Contributions by psychiatrists to this field of study are extremely rare and it is no surprise to find that Downes describes an eminent British consultant forensic psychiatrist, Dr. Peter Scott, as a clinical psychologist (p. 116).

JOHN COWIE.

Crime and its Correction. By JOHN P. CONRAD. London: Tavistock Publications. 1965. Pp. 312. Price 50s.

In 1880 E. C. Wines publicized his "State of Prisons and of Child-Saving Institutions in the Civilized World". The present volume is not quite so inclusive as that but follows the same lines, being described as a pilgrimage or reconnaissance of the correctional world hoping to discover innovations and to disseminate their essence and consequences. It fulfils these objectives excellently and provides a most useful review of what the Americans succinctly call "corrections" and what we discursively term the policies of prisons, Borstals, detention centres, approved schools and other related remedial institutions.

Such books must be difficult and perhaps disappointing to write; they demand an immense amount of travelling and patient observation (of interminable kitchens as well as cheerful inmates and harassed officials) and must soon be out of date, only gaining a second historical wind when the writer has long since moved on. We should therefore be very grateful to the Wines and Conrads for their contributions.

Despite the author's reference to the glacial slowness of correctional development, the book is already out of date; in the United Kingdom section there is, for example, no mention of Grendon Hospital Prison, nor of the Rainer Foundation Centre which combines probation "reporting" with communal

activities, sports and individual coaching for backward readers. Some of the advances are however in the direction predicted, for example the Home Office probation studies which are trying to match kinds of probationer with kinds of treatment by kinds of probation officer. However, the real value of the book is not stop-press news as to whether the Joneses are keeping up with the Browns (the author finds their problems excruciatingly similar) but in clear perception of essentials and in objective comment short of sentimentality or cynicism. "Here (in the U.K.), then, is a vast, hard pressed, and physically dilapidated collection of prisons whose managers are painfully attempting to accommodate a few concepts of change within a structure designed for control". Control in fact is a central theme and is described as "the essence of correctional practice as now administered throughout the world". While "control is not a reliable instrument for producing change in behaviour", it may be, the author says, the most important element of the scattered and poorly integrated treatments which are somewhat indiscriminately applied to offenders. "Traditional methods of control cannot be supplanted until a validated theory supports a change"; yet the part which inspired leadership, for example Alexander Paterson in this country or Thorsten Eriksson in Sweden, has played rather belies that statement. In fact, more often than not research and validation of theories in this field do not precede reform but accompany it; by the non-specific enthusiasm and interest which it generates an intuitive step is taken which then stands or falls by its practical usefulness. It is possible that the spirit of enquiry and the rejection of prejudice inseparable from research are, so far, amongst its most valuable products. The wise governor or headmaster should perhaps ensure that there is an active research programme in his establishment which shall make demands on his staff and inmates; all will not be lost if the final report of the investigation is delayed.

P. D. SCOTT.

Recidivism: a Deficiency Disease. By A. W. MACLEOD. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. 1965. Pp. 131. Price not stated.

This is a somewhat frustrating little book, for it sets out to discover "what brings some people into serious conflict with the law, what militates against their reabsorption by the community, and what direction further study and action should take", objectives which are way beyond its capacities. The plan was for a team comprising psychologist, psychiatric social worker and two psychiatrists to work in a Canadian