

The authors emphasize the dangers attendant upon the use of the statistical meaning of normality (if enough people are sick then they become the normal ones), and point to the greater accomplishment, emotionally, socially and academically, of the deprived youth who manages to remain non-delinquent in comparison to his better favoured non-deprived counterpart.

One wonders whether the fact that in Colorado, as elsewhere, there are good and bad schools as regards the incidence of delinquency, would prove to be, as Professor Morris has shown in the London Tower Hamlets area, independent of the type of residential area and of the social backgrounds of the children.

Finally, the (not very dramatic) relationships between personality factors on the one hand and seriousness, aggressiveness and repetition of offences on the other is worked out.

A great deal of hard work has gone into this book and a great many facts are forthcoming; it is not, as one might expect, an easy book to read, but it adds appreciably to the knowledge of the subject.

P. D. SCOTT.

**Juvenile Homosexual Experience and its Effect on Adult Sexuality.** By ROBERT OLLENDORFF. London and New York: Julian Press. 1966. Pp. 245. Price 50s.

Firm but contradictory assertions in Parliamentary debates and in legal and medical literature show clearly our continuing ignorance of the significance of homosexual experiences at adolescence in the determination of adult sexual orientation. We badly need systematic empirical research (of Kinsey dimensions, but preferably using a prospective method) to relate the sexual events of childhood and adolescence to subsequent marital adjustment. Despite the title, Dr. Ollendorff's work makes no such attempt. He presents a clinical, impressionistic view based upon questioning a varied assortment of selected adult psychiatric patients about their early sexual experiences.

The thesis runs roughly as follows. In our society, feminine difficulty in attaining orgasm, and the young male's susceptibility to homosexuality, are mass phenomena, sometimes said to affect the majority of the population. Nevertheless, both are lapses from the ideal of sexual health which do not occur in the sex-permissive societies described by anthropologists, where growing children are encouraged in uninhibited sexual experimentation. Homosexuality, therefore, is a neurotic illness encouraged by the sex-negating and prohibitive elements of conventional upbringing. Furthermore, if an individual's first orgasms occur in a homosexual context, this is a powerful conditioning

experience favouring chronic disturbance. Dr. Ollendorff produces no new evidence for this second assertion, and hardly discusses the nature of the emotional drive which carries most people on from auto-erotic, perhaps via homo-erotic, to heterosexual orgasms.

Dr. Ollendorff's new evidence consists of recollections by patients which show much the same mass incidence of adolescent homosexual experience by boys as was reported by Kinsey and by Spencer (1959, *J. ment. Sci.*, 105, 393-405) in studies of normal populations. He gives tables of incidence of adolescent homosexual practices admitted to by patients of various diagnostic groups. The validity of these figures is questionable, not only for the reasons stated by the author himself, but also on account of the absence of detail about the criteria used or how the questions were put. He further describes psychodynamic explorations of both psychotic and neurotic patients, illustrated by extensive case histories. He finds that acute exacerbations of illness are often associated with homosexual conflicts, e.g. panic anxiety when repressed desires are activated, or phobias and depression when heterosexual adjustment fails as a result of underlying homosexual tendency. The case histories certainly show how often patients are preoccupied with sexual confusions and conflicts, and how many difficulties they have in conforming to the ideal of heterosexual maturity, but all sorts of interpretations of these observations are possible.

The material can hardly be said to establish the author's contention that the phase of adolescent exploration is of such special aetiological importance.

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### 3. BIOGRAPHY

**Sigmund Freud und die Wiener Universität.** By K. R. ESSLER. Bern: Hans Huber. 1966. Pp. 191. Price DM 25.

The book is a polemic against a publication by the late Professor Gicklhorn, a zoologist, who after the end of the last war took it upon himself to prove that the University of Vienna had been absolutely fair to Freud and that he had only himself to blame for the delay of official recognition. This belated attempt at whitewashing is so feeble that it could have been left unanswered had it not been publicized in the United States. Dr. Eissler, who is the secretary of the Sigmund Freud Archives (New York), took up the cudgels and put the record straight. The author is probably the most knowledgeable student of the history of psychoanalysis today.